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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	BlueMed Initiative - Information from the Presidency

BLUEMED is an initiative to coordinate research and innovation activities to support a new sustainable approach to manage and exploit the potential of the Mediterranean Sea marine and maritime sectors.

This initiative, led by Italy, has been jointly developed among Cyprus, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain. This process has also been facilitated and supported by several Directorate Generals of the European Commission, namely, Research & Innovation, MARE, and JRC.

BLUEMED will address the relevant challenges of the Mediterranean area towards its economic, environmental and societal sustainability, i.e. creating new “blue” jobs in the EU Mediterranean Member States, promoting social cohesion, improving the environmental status and the wellbeing of the citizens. BLUEMED is aimed at providing knowledge of the socio-economical and ecological systems in the Mediterranean Sea, while providing a new generation of innovative solutions for the development of new markets and instruments for policy makers.

BLUEMED calls for a coordination of marine and maritime research and innovation activities and for creation of synergies between regional, national and EU investments, avoiding duplication and reducing fragmentation.

A “Vision” and a “Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda” have been recently defined and agreed among the involved Member States, with the goal of paving the way for a long-term “blue” strategic plan to integrate policy-industry-research and society towards a sustainable prosperous Mediterranean Sea.

