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Background

The European Union Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) was adopted by the European Parliament on 17 April 2014. The text of the Directive as adopted by the European Parliament, including an English version, is available on their [website](#). It is intended that the Directive will be presented for adoption to the General Affairs formation of the Council of the European Union, representing the governments of the individual European Union Member States, on 23 July 2014.

Once finally adopted, Member States must transpose the Directive into their national legislation and nominate the Competent Authority in charge of the implementation of MSP by 2016. Member States must also draw up their national maritime spatial plans by 2021.

The Member States will be free to tailor the content of the national maritime spatial plans and strategies to their specific economic, social and environmental priorities, their national sectorial policy objectives and their legal traditions, but must respect the minimum requirements of the Directive. Cooperation on planning across borders is an essential part of the Directive.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the current text of the MSP Directive and use it as a background document for discussions where needed.