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Chairperson
SEA Focal Point

13th May 2021

Subject: SEA Environmental Report of the Euro-MED Interreg Programme 2021-2027

ERA welcomes the opportunity to comment on the SEA Environmental Report of the Interreg Euro-Med Programme 2021-2027, dated March 2021, which the Authority received by email on 30th March, 2021.

The Interreg Euro-MED Programme is a strategic level document that brings together various objectives and actions which are intended to (or contribute) to have a positive effect on the environment. Due to its scope and nature, ERA considers that the resulting environmental impacts of the Programme are likely to be indirect and depend mainly on the focus, purpose and nature of the proposals coming forward at a later stage, and how these proposals are taken forward in subsequent plans/policies and project-level decisions. Therefore, ERA is of the opinion that the Programme should support plans and projects which include suitable environmental safeguards in order to:

- (i) prioritise the reuse and conversion of already existing and committed developed land, so as to ensure that undeveloped land should not be the first option/preference for new development; and
- (ii) avoid and effectively mitigate potentially significant adverse impacts on the environment, including the region's unique natural environment, wildlife and its landscape.

In this regard, ERA notes the conclusions in the Environmental Report for the Interreg Euro-MED Programme and considers that its recommendations should be taken into account in the following stages of the programme and its implementation.

Yours sincerely,



Perit Michelle Piccinino
Chief Executive Officer
Environment and Resources Authority