



3rd Natura 2000 marine biogeographical Seminar for the Mediterranean

12-13 March 2024, Marseille



Co-founded by the
European Union



MAIN ITEMS IN THE AGENDA

Biodiversity strategy for 2030:
policy context for the marine seminar and biogeographical process

Protected area targets

Conservation status targets

Session 1 – Role of Natura 2000 sites and other MPAs in marine restoration

Session 2 – Strict protection in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions

Session 3 – Renewable energy and marine conservation

MEDAC invited by DG ENVIRONMENT as part of Members of the Marine Expert Group

The Natura 2000 biogeographical process was launched in 2011 by the European Commission.

The objective of the process is to promote knowledge exchange, networking, and cooperation on Natura 2000 related issues considering that the responsibility for implementing Natura 2000 lies with the Member States at a biogeographical region level.



Transnational exchanges and coherent management at biogeographical region level since Member States in each region are likely to face similar challenges.



In addition, they also stimulate engagement with and involvement of **other key stakeholders** and expert networks, including civil society and economic operators.

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

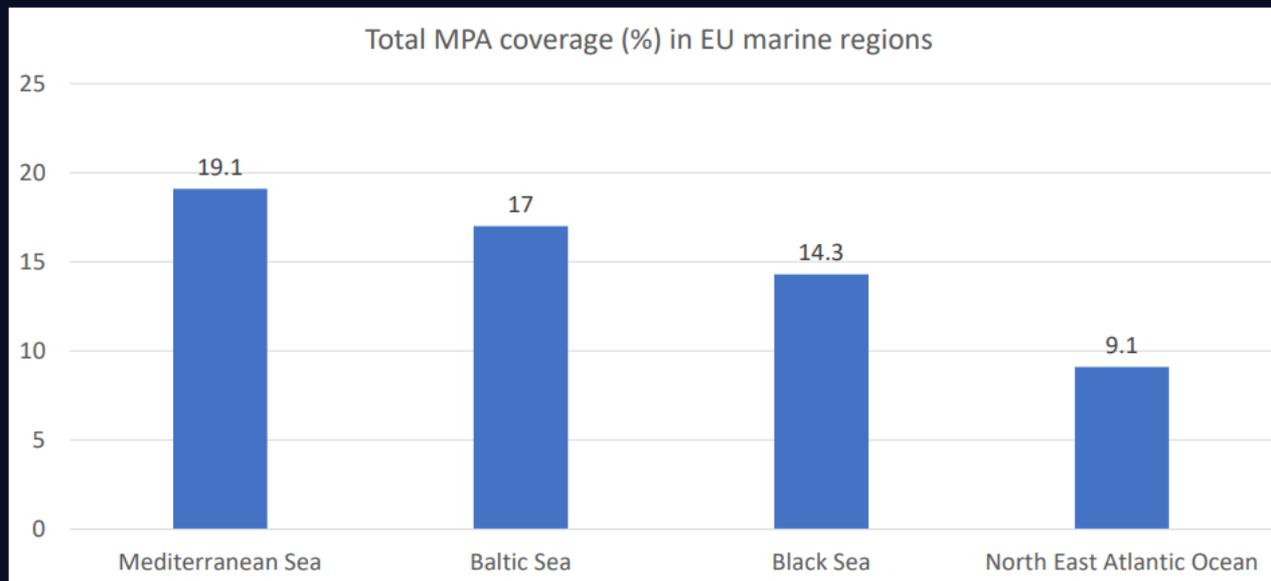
In 2020, the European Commission adopted the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

- **Protected areas:** legally protect at least 30% [...] of the sea in the EU, of which at least one third (10% of land and 10% of sea) to be under strict protection. Effectively manage all MPA, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitor them appropriately.
- **Conservation status:** ensure that at least 30% of species and habitats covered by the Birds and Habitats Directives not currently in favourable status are in that category or show a strong positive trend, as well as ensure no deterioration in conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species.

These targets are not legally binding and do not replace the legal obligations that Member States have under the Birds and Habitats Directives. Rather, they represent a political agreement for action to drive their delivery and help stop and reverse biodiversity loss.

Protected area targets

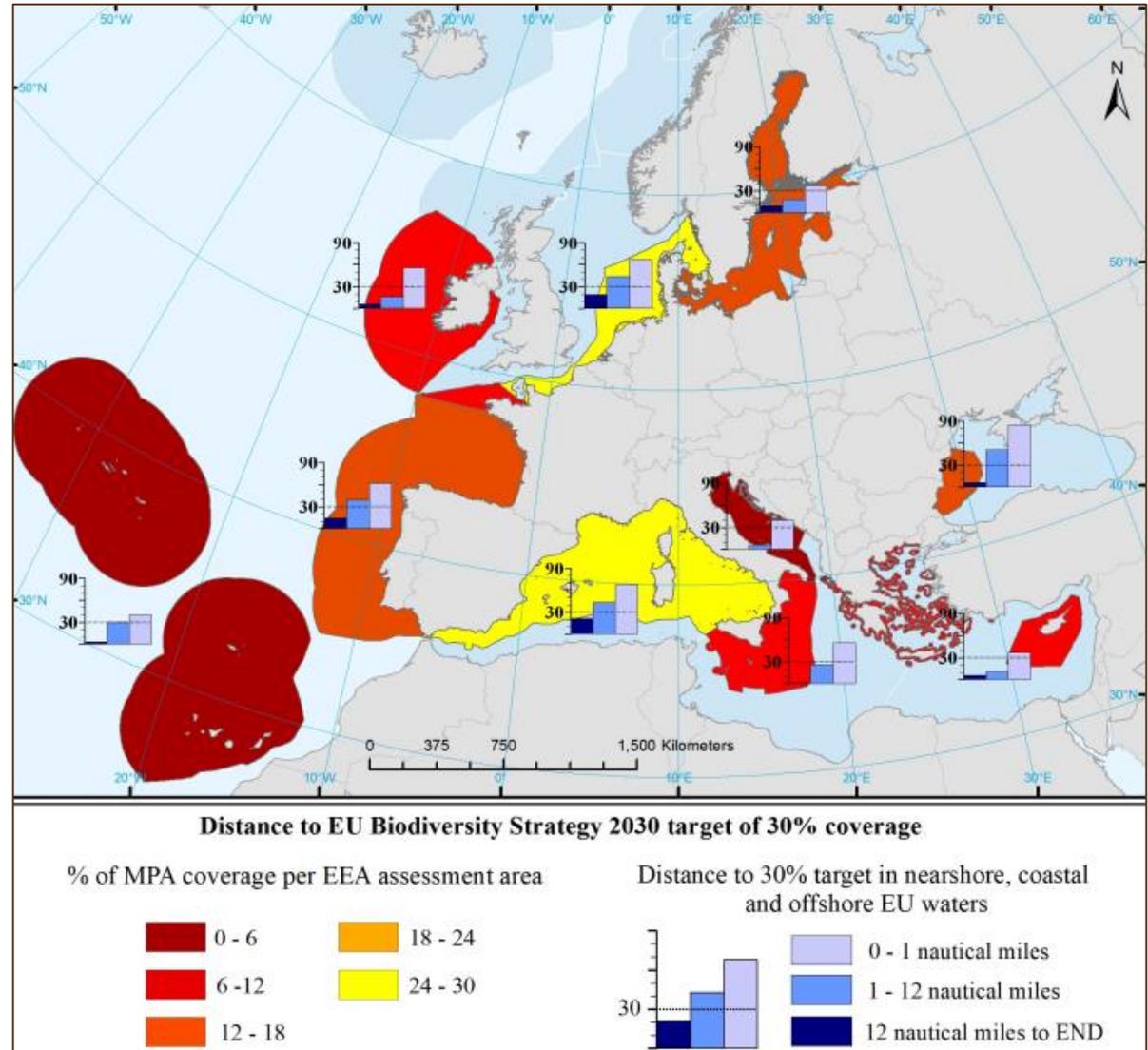
Overview coverage of MPAs per marine region – baseline before pledge process



Based on Natura 2000 data reported by December 2020 and Nationally designated areas
March 2021 – will be updated summer 2024

Protected area targets

Distance to the EU Biodiversity Strategy 30% coverage target for each Marine Protected Area (MPA), assessment marine region and sub-region and for each buffer zone.
(Key: EEA)



General information collected by MS

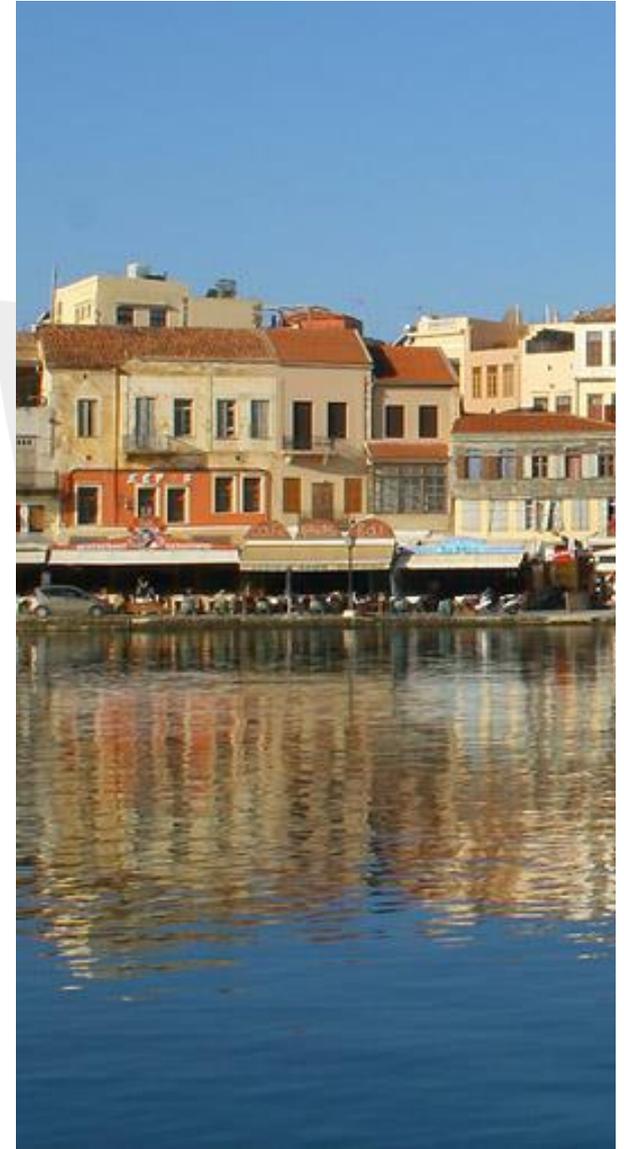
- Protected areas extent per biogeographical/marine region (current and expected area by 2030)
- OECMs extent per biogeographical/marine region (current and expected by 2030)
- Area under strict protection per biogeographical/marine region (current and expected by 2030)
- Explanation of the coherence of the network
- Existing nationally designated areas reported in NatDA which should be counted toward the 30% target
 - Per designation type or individual sites
- **Existing OECMs reported in CDDA should be counted toward the 30% target**
 - None reported
- Existing nationally designated areas or Natura 2000 sites which should be counted towards the 10% strict target
 - Per designation type or individual sites.

Conservation status – marine habitats in the Mediterranean Sea

- In the Mediterranean, all marine habitats are in unfavourable conservation status, none of the trends are positive
- Deterioration of status even for habitats well covered by the network Natura 2000 – effectiveness of measures?

Main pressures on habitats in the Mediterranean:

1. Urbanisation
2. Fishing and aquaculture
3. Transport and pollution



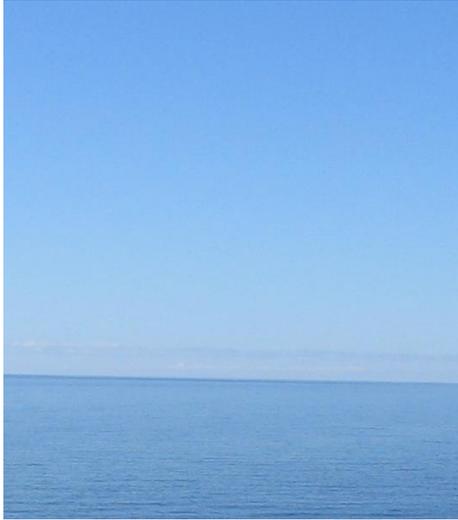


Conservation status – marine species (HD – Habitat Directive) in the Mediterranean Sea

- In the Mediterranean, only two species (HD) are in favourable conservation status
- Main issue is the lack of knowledge
- No change/deterioration of status is more frequent for species not well covered by Natura 2000 network
- For species well covered by the Natura 2000 network, the status has remained favourable or is improving

Main pressures on species in the Mediterranean

1. Fishing and aquaculture
2. Urbanisation
3. Transport

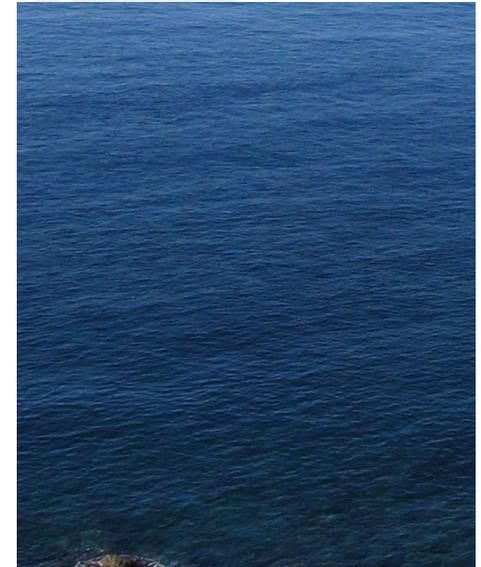


Conservation measures for marine habitats and species in the Mediterranean Sea

- Measures both inside and outside Natura 2000
- 60% of the necessary measures for habitats and 57% of measures for species are still not taken in the Mediterranean Sea
- Conservation status is not improving for many habitats/species – this may indicate that key measures have not yet been taken

Expected measures for the pledges?

- New or improved measures inside and outside Natura 2000 capable of reversing the negative trends
- The role of conservation measures in Natura 2000 sites – ensuring their effective management
- Synergies with the MSFD programmes of measures and measures implemented through regional sea conventions
- Measures in the marine action plan
- (Restoration measures under the Nature restoration law)



Session 1 – Role of Natura 2000 sites and other MPAs in marine restoration

Session 2 – Strict protection in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions

Session 3 – Renewable energy and marine conservation



Discussion in groups

About the Session 3 – Renewable energy and marine conservation

The importance of strategic planning

- Conflicts are best avoided through good strategic and integrated planning.
- Maritime spatial plans must integrate nature protection/restoration, energy, fisheries and all other uses of the sea.
- Strategic planning of renewables through sensitivity mapping

Revised Renewable Energy Directive

- Renewable Energy Directive: the EU sets its path towards a renewable energy future – **minimum binding target of 42.5% share by 2030**, and an aspiration to reach 45%.
- **More strategic approach to spatial planning, including Renewable Acceleration Areas (RAAs) by 21 February 2026** (also option for Dedicated Infrastructure Areas). These are areas particularly suitable for certain renewable energy technologies the deployment of which is not expected to have significant environmental impact. **Projects in RAAs can benefit from simplified permitting procedures.**
- **RAAs exclude** Natura 2000, national protected areas, major bird and marine mammal migratory routes, other areas identified on the basis of sensitivity maps.

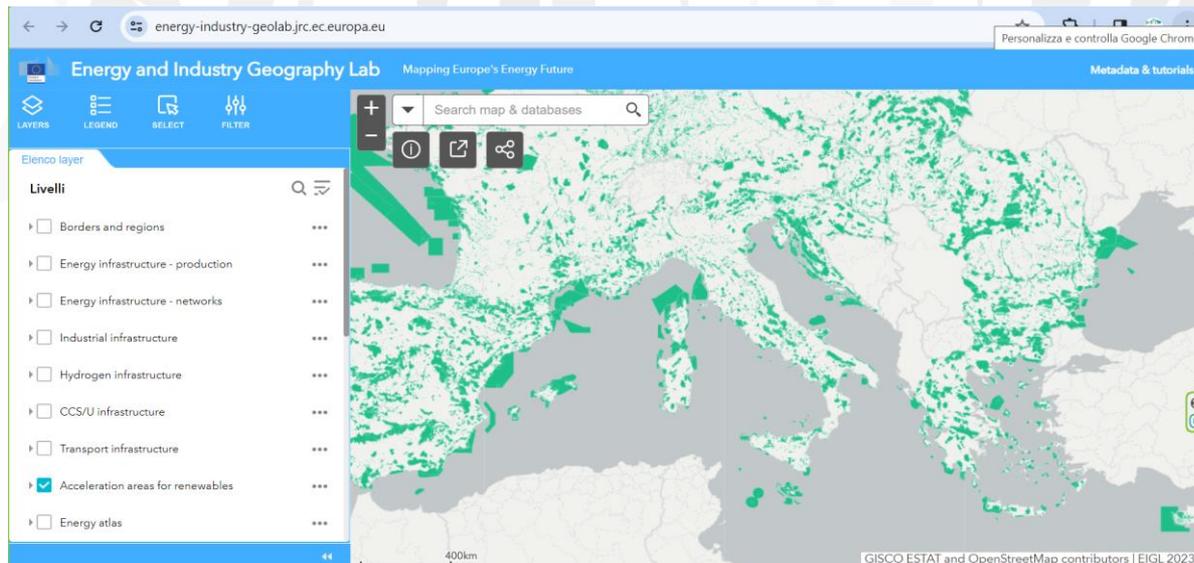


Identification of RE acceleration areas for wind and solar

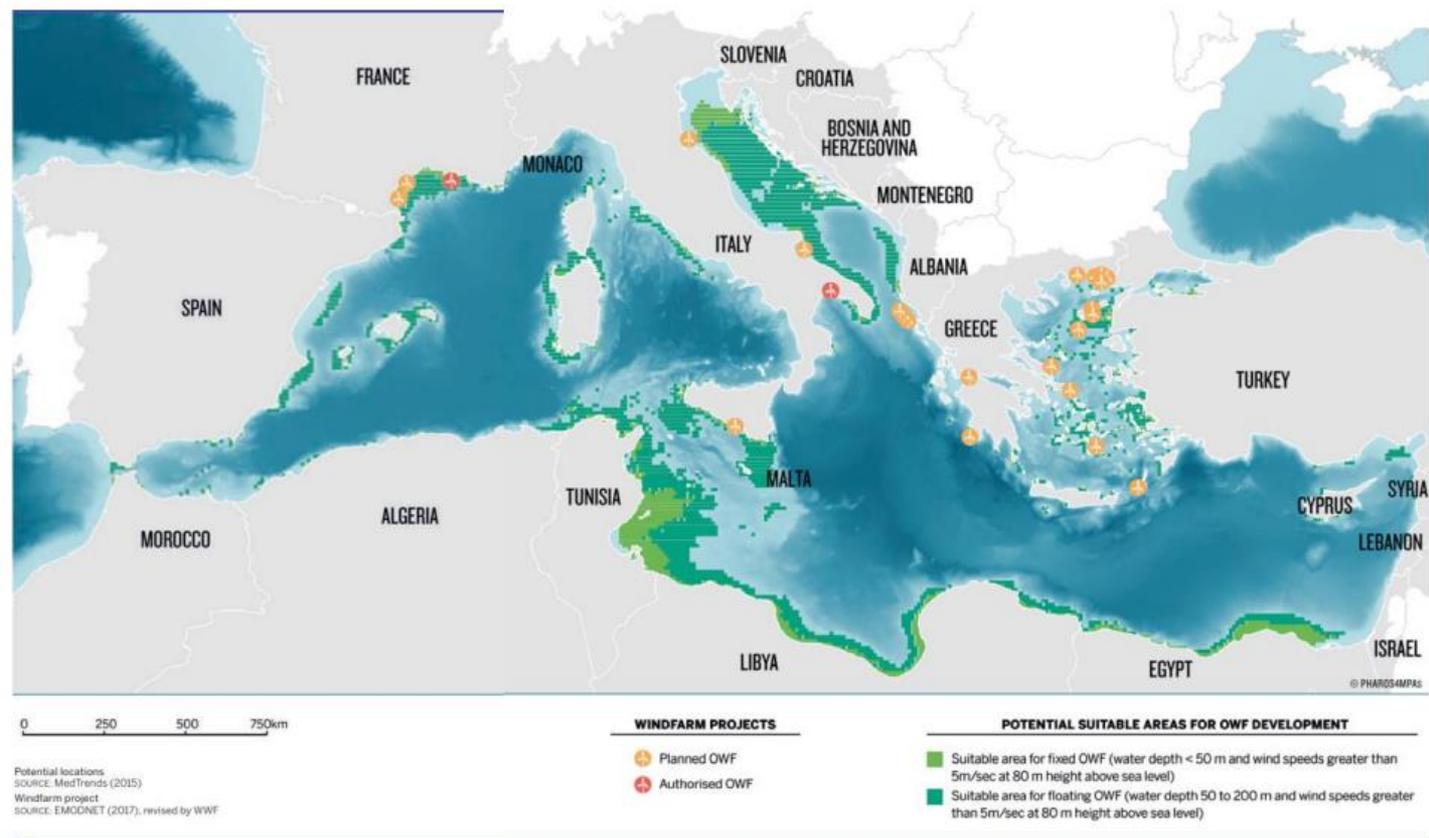
- EIGL tool has been expanded and is embedded in the permitting recommendation of REPowerEU
- EIGL is intended as an instrument to support planning choices by national and regional authorities who may not otherwise have immediate access to relevant datasets

ACCELERATION AREAS FOR RENEWABLES

joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/energy-and-industry-geography-lab_en



The Mediterranean context



Source: WWF-France (2019). Safeguarding marine protected areas in the growing Mediterranean blue economy. Recommendations for the offshore wind energy sector. PHAROS4MPAs project. 68 pages



FIGURE 3. Potential areas suitable for OWF development, and planned and authorized OWF projects in the Mediterranean Sea

Participation to the Discussion in groups

Exchange of knowledge (i.e. GFCM and other initiatives)

Bridge for collaboration (MSP)



**MEDITERRANEAN
ADVISORY COUNCIL**



The role of MEDAC includes the preparation of advice on fisheries management and socio-economic aspects in support of the fisheries sector in the Mediterranean, to be submitted to the Member States and the European institutions in order to facilitate the achievement of the objectives of the Common Fishery Policy (CFP – Reg. EU 1380/2013).



From 2022 also the organizations representing or having direct or indirect economic interests linked to the **use of the marine environment or maritime space** other than commercial fishing, aquaculture or the processing, marketing, distribution and retail of seafood
EC DEL REG-IEH/2022/294 of 9 Dec 2021



2023
advices and letters



The MEDAC workplan on the key topics is annually agreed with EC and approved by MEDAC members

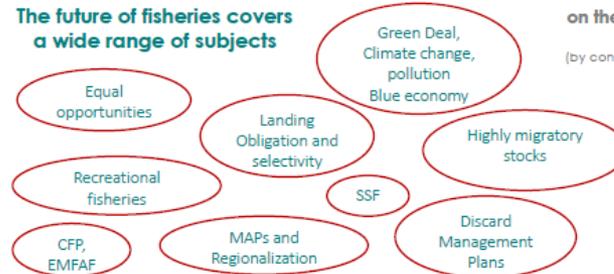
MEDAC advice on Fishing Opportunities 2024	
MEDAC advice on equal opportunities in the fishery sector	
Joint AC letter on abalchander input	
Letter of Virginus Stravinsky to all ACs: soundtable discussion on December 7	
MEDAC reply letter to DG MARE on the Adriatic Sea MREcosystem-approach	
And others letters and advice since 2010	 www.med-ac.eu

46 MEDAC members
5 Working Groups and 5 Focus Groups
WGs: CFP, large pelagics, Recreational Fisheries, SSF, socioeconomic impact, Green Deal
FGs: Adriatic Sea, West Med, Strait of Sicily, Equal opportunities, East Med

Executive Committee

Shared advice on the future of fishery in the Mediterranean
(by consensus or by majority including minority statements)

The future of fisheries covers a wide range of subjects



Publication Advice and Letters (2010-2021)

Further info
www.med-ac.eu
segreteria@med-ac.eu



MEDAC

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C O U N C I L

For further info
segreteria@med-ac.eu



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