European Marine Board Expert Working Group

***Research for Marine Renewable Energy***

**Terms of Reference**

***November 2020***

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## 1. Background and Rationale

**Background**

The negative impacts of climate change, and the role played by carbon emissions as human-made drivers of that change, are high on political agendas. There is an urgent and immediate need to significantly reduce carbon emissions and to move towards a carbon neutral society, as was highlighted in EMB's Science Commentary 2 (European Marine Board, 2017) and many other publications. This need has also been highlighted by the EU under the New Green Deal, and their Roadmap to Towards a New Blue Economy.

Renewable energy sources hold the potential to supply energy to a world with ever-growing populations and increasing industrialisation. Marine sources of renewable energy are typically less mature and less well-established than those on land, although offshore wind could now be considered mature, but still represent an attractive area for growth. The marine research community needs to provide a solid knowledge base and evidence to support sustainable and responsible growth in this sector. The impacts of marine renewable energy systems throughout their lifetimes, from site identification and installation to operation and decommissioning, need to be understood and appropriately managed.

In the context of this publication, the term marine renewable energy refers to energy production that makes use of marine resources and/or marine space. This includes (but is not limited to) for example offshore wind, wave, tidal, thermal and salinity gradients, and marine biomass sources (Borthwick, 2016). We also include the power-to-X systems to maximize the use of marine resources. The term Power-to-X systems refers to technologies that allow the transformation of electricity into synthetic gases (e.g. hydrogen or methane) and liquids[1]. Moreover, issues of increasing importance such as marine renewable energy storage could also to be considered.

In October 2010, the Marine Board - ESF[2] Vision Document 1 "Marine Renewable Energy" (Le Boulluec et al., 2010) recommended:

- Coordinated research and targeted funding across relevant sectors and programmes, with particular attention to cost-efficient energy production and environmental monitoring protocols;
- Improved coordination between industry needs and research efforts;
- A comprehensive mapping of Marine Renewable Energy resources in Europe;
- Appropriate education, training and outreach mechanisms and focused third-level training opportunities to provide the required skilled workforce;
- Supportive European policy on Marine Renewable Energy; and
- A governance framework relying on sound research and based on enabling and aligned policies, key supporting infrastructures, and the positioning of Maritime Spatial Planning at the core of the sustainable development of Marine Renewable Energy in Europe.

[1] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52018DC0773&from=EN
[2] Since 1 January 2017 European Marine Board IVZW

Ten years on, this sector has undergone significant growth and change. Over 90% of the total global installed offshore wind capacity is in Europe. While wind is currently one of the most commercially-deployed marine renewable energy systems, a few examples of tidal- and other systems are in development (European Commission, 2020b). It is estimated that "2.2GW of tidal stream and 423MW of wave energy could be deployed in Europe by 2030" (COGEA & WavEC, 2018). The ETIPOcean[3] Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (ETIPOcean, 2020) and Ocean Energy Europe (Ocean Energy Europe, 2020) give the industrial and technical perspective of the research and development needs. Therefore the role of this proposed working group will be to highlight the corresponding marine science needs.

Given the ever increasing and conflicting demands for marine space, particularly in Europe, there is also growing interest in multi-use of space, and the co-location of marine renewable energy installations with other activities e.g. aquaculture or use of the space as a Marine Protected Area (MPA). This provides an additional aspect that should be fully researched to understand the implications, impacts and trade-offs. The potential ecological impacts of marine renewable energy projects, either in isolation or cumulative, have resulted in significant delays in the consenting of offshore wind farms. The ecological constraints to marine renewables targets as part of the 'green recovery' will become increasingly important considerations in the future as the pace of development accelerates.

In terms of policy, the EU's ambitious Green Deal[4] presented in 2019, which leads on from the 2015 Paris Agreement[5], aims to have "net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050". The deal specifically notes that the European Commission will explore "ways to manage maritime space more sustainably, notably to help tap into the growing potential of offshore renewable energy". In line with these plans, in the second half of 2020, the EU held a public consultation on the possibility of revising the current EU Directive on the promotion of use of energy from renewable sources[6], to increase the 2030 greenhouse gas reduction target from 40% to at least 50-55% compared with 1990 levels. Following this the European Commission published a dedicated offshore renewable strategy (European Commission, 2020a) in November 2020 which assesses the potential contribution of offshore renewable energy and propose ways to support the long-term sustainable development of this sector[7].

The EU's Recovery Plan[8] post COVID-19 also specifically refers to the need for investment in offshore renewable energy as a key sector for developing Europe's future and supporting economic recovery.

Another aspects to take into consideration is the relevance of enhanced regional cooperation (R&I and along the whole value chain) and cross-border projects that can contribute to further integration of the energy that is being generated offshore. A clear understanding of the state of the art and

[3] https://www.etipocean.eu/
[4] https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en
[5] https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/paris_en
[6] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018L2001
[7] https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/renewable-energy/eu-strategy-offshore-renewable-energy_en
[8] https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/recovery-plan-europe_en

recommendations for development on this topic will be relevant to achieve the EU Green Deal aims of "net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050".

More generally, this topic links with initiatives such as the Horizon Europe's Mission on Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coasts and Inland Waterways[9], the Mission on Adaptation to Climate change including societal transformation[10], European Partnerships for Clean Energy Transition and for a climate neutral, sustainable and productive Blue Economy[11], and the EU Biodiversity Strategy[12]. The topic also links with the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development[13], and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)[14], especially SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 14 (life below water).

**Rationale for the Working Group**

The topic of research for marine renewable energy was proposed by Ifremer and a concept note was tabled by EMB Chair Gilles Lericolais in an open call for new topics ahead of the EMB Spring Plenary Meeting 2020. Prior to this meeting, delegates and alternates were invited to vote on the full list of proposed topics, and during the Spring 2020 Science Session, the top 5 topics were discussed. This topic was listed amongst the top 5 and at the meeting the attending delegates and alternates voted in favour of this topic.

The concept note highlights that ocean technologies have reached a critical juncture and are entering the demonstration phase with pilot farms and plants to be put in the water. It is important at this stage, especially in light of the EU's Green Deal and the future EU Strategy for Offshore Renewable Energy ambitions, to identify the gaps and needs in marine scientific research for marine renewable energy, and to produce a set of recommendations on aspects of its environmental impacts. This requires a collective effort from across all disciplines including: physics, marine biology, ecology, geology, geophysics, social sciences, and engineering where members of the EMB possess expertise.

Following this topic proposal and selection, this Terms of Reference document was developed for approval at the EMB Autumn Plenary Meeting 2020.

## 2. Working Group Objectives

An EMB activity on marine renewable energy would seek to provide an update on status and recommendations related to this topic since the 2010 EMB Vision Document 2, to highlight the current knowledge and research gaps in marine science, including in relation to the impact of marine renewable energy systems on marine ecosystems, and to consider future implications as this sector continues to mature. In particular, it would highlight key research needs and opportunities in support of the EU's Green Deal and the future EU Strategy for Offshore Renewable Energy ambitions of

[9] https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme/mission-area-healthy-oceans-seas-coastal-and-inland-waters_en
[10] https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme/mission-area-adaptation-climate-change-including-societal-transformation_en
[11] https://www.era-learn.eu/partnerships-in-a-nutshell/r-i-partnerships/european-partnerships-under-horizon-europe/partnerships-under-preparation/candidates-for-european-partnerships
[12] https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy/index_en.htm
[13] https://oceandecade.org/
[14] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs

achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and provide a scientific perspective to planned large-scale expansions in for example EU offshore wind installations.

Specific objectives could include but are not limited to:

- Providing an overview of current offshore renewable energy systems, their relative maturity, and their existing and foreseen carbon emission reduction potential, taking into consideration other work done in this field;
- Considering the potential impacts of marine renewable energy systems on marine ecosystems and biodiversity throughout their lifetime from design, installation (including nature-based solutions) and site selection to decommissioning, and highlighting knowledge gaps and research needs;
- Highlighting the role of marine research infrastructures (e.g. research vessels and autonomous systems) in advancing energy research and innovation;
- Exploring current policy and governance approaches applied in Europe, including the Renewable Energy Directive II, the Habitats Directive, Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA's) and Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), 2030 Climate and Energy Framework, Renewable Energy Directive, Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP), Water Framework Directive (WFD), EU Recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, and highlighting opportunities for consolidation and standardization;
- Identifying major conflicts associated with marine renewable energy systems that can arise and where trade-offs will have to be considered, as well as opportunities such as multi-use of marine space;
- Considering the human dimension including socio-economic factors, training and capacity building needs, and public perception, to ensure a just transition in energy;
- Assessing the effects of climate change on the availability of marine renewable energy potential; and
- Where appropriate, proposing updates to the recommendations presented in EMB Vision Document 2.

## 3. Deliverables

The output of this working group is proposed to be a Future Science Brief (FSB). The FSB should highlight policy-relevant recommendations and should be based on existing academic publications, which already provide a comprehensive overview and review the state of the art. FSBs are typically around 30-40 pages, concise and policy-focused. It is noted that if suitable publications do not already exist on which to base this document, then an FSB cannot provide the requisite level of detail and a Position Paper will have to be considered.

A peer review process with a minimum of two external reviewers (selected from proposals by the working group members and the EMB delegates) will be organized by the European Marine Board Secretariat. In accordance with European Marine Board procedures, the document will also require approval by the European Marine Board member organizations prior to publication.

The impact of the publication will be achieved *via* a targeted dissemination strategy as described below. Working Group members will be required to make suggestions on how to reach end-user contacts and to contribute to the dissemination. Promotion of the document may include dedicated presentations at stakeholder events. Working Group members will also be asked to notify the Secretariat of any dissemination activities or observed uptake / impact for up to two years following publication, for impact reporting.

A full outline of the decision-making procedure and system for working group operations is outlined in Annex 2.

## 4. Target Audience and Expected Impact

Working Groups are the primary foresight and priority-setting tools of the European Marine Board. The expected outcome is that the recommendations of the resulting policy document influence future research strategies and programmes at both national and European level. Therefore, the EMB document target audience is in the first instance those who determine and set research agendas, including research funding organisations, programme managers and science policy advisors/developers both at the national and European level.

The recommendations and perspectives delivered through EMB policy documents can also influence and drive broader marine and maritime policies, beyond the research realm. This publication should also inform national and European developments in the marine renewable energy sector.

In relation to this particular publication, it may also be appropriate to target a wider audience who is concerned with the environmental and social impacts of marine renewable energy, as well as with marine renewable energy regulation.

The key recommendations are intended to inform the international marine and maritime community of the current state of knowledge in marine renewable energy and its impacts on marine and social ecosystems, and provide scientific background for future priority areas and developments in research and policy. This should help to strengthen the sector by stimulating cross-, inter- and trans-disciplinary collaboration based on a common position and understanding.

## 5. Working Group Composition and Operation

**Working Group Chair and co-Chair**

The WG Chair and Co-Chair represent the Working Group and take responsibility for its deliverables.

***Profile***

The WG Chairs should be experienced marine scientists, practitioners, engineers and/or technologists in the field of marine renewable energy. It is important that the Chair and co-Chair have a big picture approach to ensure a focused and balanced view on the marine renewable energy system and its impacts on marine ecosystems, and that they fully commit to facilitating the writing of this document.

***Selection process***

The EMB Secretariat will issue a call for nominations for WG members to the EMB Member Organizations. Members may directly propose a chair in their nomination on the basis of her/his recognized expertise and leading role in the field, at European or international levels. The Working Group (WG) Chair will then be selected by the EMB Secretariat and EMB Chair, in consultation with the ExCom. The WG co-Chair will be selected by the WG Chair with help from the Secretariat.

***Roles and responsibilities of WG Chair***

The WG Chair and co-Chair are responsible for ensuring the scientific quality of the Working Group outputs and its timely delivery according to the WG Terms of Reference and as agreed at the kick-off meeting. The WG Chairs provide scientific leadership and motivation, and drive the WG activities with the support of a dedicated European Marine Board Science Officer who acts in the capacity of WG facilitator.

The WG Chairs (lead Chair primarily and co-Chair when the lead Chair is not available):

- Chair WG meetings;
- Coordinate the scientific contributions to the document draft according to the objectives defined at the kick-off meeting;
- Maintain an overview of the content and quality of the various inputs and request additional expertise if necessary;
- Ensure timely delivery of the WG document; and
- Enhance the document's strategic impact by promoting WG activities and the output.

The meeting Chairs will be crucial to effectively moderate discussions and deliver meeting outputs.

**Working Group Members**

A working group of no more than 12 members, including the Chair and co-Chair, is proposed.

The WG experts should comprise European scientists (mostly from EMB member organizations), practitioners and technologists who are participating in leading networks and/or research groups across different research relevant domains (e.g. marine biology, marine ecology, marine chemistry, physics, geology, geophysics, social sciences, engineering, hydrodynamics, hydrography, maritime safety, maritime law, and marine policy).

***Profile and selection process***

WG Members may be drawn *inter alia* from EMB member organizations, national research institutes and universities as well as relevant European projects and initiatives, industry and non-profit organizations. A call for nominations will be issued by the EMB Secretariat to EMB Member Organizations. WG Members are selected from the resulting pool of experts by the WG Chair(s), supported by the EMB Secretariat. The EMB Secretariat will work together with the WG Chair/co-Chair to select the WG members and ensure an appropriate balance of expertise and experience within the working group. The Secretariat also endeavours to facilitate WG diversity, including gender, diversity and geographic balance. Non-selection of some nominated candidates is therefore normal, and bears no relation to the scientific excellence of those candidates not selected.

***Roles and responsibilities of WG Members***

WG Members are responsible for ensuring the scientific quality of their inputs and their timely delivery according to the WG Terms of Reference.

WG Members:

- Prepare for and attend the WG meetings;
- Submit written contributions in a timely manner as agreed at the kick-off meeting;
- Guide and adhere to the high-level strategic objectives of the publication;
- Promote the resulting publication at national level and European levels; and
- -Feed back information on dissemination activities and opportunities, impact and uptake to the EMB Secretariat.

**Engaging the wider community**

During the course of the WG, members may invite a selection of stakeholders or observers from the wider community including science, industry, policy makers and funders.

In this instance, interaction with relevant International and European initiatives, industry and professional bodies also working in this field should be explored. Specifically, Ocean Energy Europe (OEE)[15], Mission Innovation[16], Wind Europe[17], the ICES working group on marine renewable energy[18], the proposed Horizon European Partnership for Blue Economy and Clean Energy Transition[19], and other actors and working groups in this space may be consulted or otherwise engaged during this activity. The working group should also engage with ongoing projects (e.g. Interreg, Horizon 2020 etc.) operating in this space, to ensure that the recommendations provided by this document are complimentary and aligned with other ongoing work.

**EMB Facilitation of the Working Group**

The EMB Executive Director is the *ex officio* WG manager. She nominates one or two Secretariat officers to support and facilitate the Working Group.

The EMB Secretariat will coordinate this activity with the Chair and co-Chair. A dedicated EMB Science Officer will act in the capacity of facilitator and other EMB Secretariat staff may be involved depending on the specific topic for each Working Group activity.

For this WG the facilitator is: Paula Kellett, EMB Science Officer

**General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) policy for EMB WGs**

Personal data for EMB working group members and those involved in other EMB core activities is used for internal communication with the activity as well as external communication of the EMB activity via publications, the EMB website and EMB social media outlets.

[15] https://www.oceanenergy-europe.eu/
[16] http://mission-innovation.net/
[17] https://windeurope.org/
[18] https://www.ices.dk/community/groups/Pages/WGMRE.aspx
[19] https://www.era-learn.eu/partnerships-in-a-nutshell/r-i-partnerships/european-partnerships-under-horizon-europe/partnerships-under-preparation/candidates-for-european-partnerships

For any new EMB activities, consent is sought at the kick-off of the activity to cover all relevant use and storage of personal data. It is anticipated that the subjects would also be added to the EMB mailing list, and thus their data would continue to be stored and used beyond the end of the activity, unless consent is later withdrawn. A template consent form can be found in Annex 1. After a period of 2 years, unless requested otherwise, we will keep data in our database for future contact.

Reviewers are also contacted within the context of EMB activities. The template email they receive already clearly outlines their right to act that their input remains anonymous, in which case the reviewer would simply be listed as "Anonymous". The reviewer will be informed of how and where their personal data will be stored. The consent of the reviewer will also be specifically sought for their personal data to be used outside of any activities directly relating to their role as reviewer, using the template text included in this document.

The EMB privacy policy contains information about our compliance with GDPR (EU data protection law). In this document you can find how to send us a request to let you access your data that we have collected, request us to delete your data, correct any inaccuracies or restrict our processing of your data. You have the right to lodge a complaint about the way we handle your data with the Belgian Data Protection Authority or you can contact us at info@marineboard.eu for more information or concerns.

## 6. Mode of Operation

The establishment of a Working Group is for a limited duration and the group will be disbanded by the Board when it has fulfilled its mandate. European Marine Board Working Groups are facilitated by the European Marine Board Secretariat. Working Group members and Chairs are not financially supported by the European Marine Board (unless an extraordinary contribution is secured by one or more European Marine Board Member Organizations) but it is foreseen that their participation would be funded by their institutions or the member that proposed them.

The work programme for the Working Group will consist of:

- One to three meetings depending on the output selected (remote meetings via video conference or in-person, to be considered by the working group);
- Writing assignments;
- Regular email and video interactions;
- Facilitation of the WG by the European Marine Board Secretariat;
- External peer review (normally at least 2 reviewers which includes at least one European and one International reviewer);
- Coordination of the report writing to publication standards by the WG Chair/co-Chair; and
- Final editing of the report in preparation of the publication by the European Marine Board Secretariat and WG Chair /co-Chair.

Support from the European Marine Board:

- The EMB will arrange meetings and provide organizational support for both in-person and online WG meetings;

- The EMB will cover the costs of all catering associated with in-person WG meetings, including a WG dinner. Travel costs for WG participants are not covered by the EMB Secretariat, but normally covered by the nominating EMB Member Organization or by the participant's own institution (if these are different);
- The EMB will cover the costs of publication and dissemination (to relevant stakeholders) of the document; and
- Members of the EMB Secretariat will attend each meeting, write and disseminate meeting minutes, and will maintain regular dialogue with the WG Chair and co-Chair to ensure timely delivery of the document.

## References

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## 7. Indicative Timetable

The WG activities are foreseen to start in Spring 2021. The duration of the activities is expected to be between 1 to 1.5 years, assuming that the output will be a Future Science Brief. This will include 1-3 meetings (either in-person or online, as agreed by the group). The final document is foreseen to be published in Spring 2022, and can include a dedicated launch event (tbc) and electronic and hard copy dissemination to relevant stakeholders. The European Marine Board conduct impact reporting based on feedback from WG members and wider stakeholders for a period of up to 2 years following publication.

An indicative timetable for a Future Science Brief and order of activities is presented below.

| Tasks (2020-2022) | 2020 | | 2021 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2022 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | D | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | J | F | M | A | M |
| **Approval of ToR by EMB member organizations** | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Nominations and expert selection** | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Appointment of WG co-Chairs** | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **WG member list confirmed, invitations and planning for kick-off meeting** | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Kick-off meeting**<br>▪ present expertise<br>▪ discussion of ToR<br>▪ objectives and scope of the WG<br>▪ discussion and agreement on table of contents and work plan<br>▪ allocation of writing assignments<br>▪ consideration of dissemination and communication opportunities | | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Drafting of content** (with remote meetings between EMB, Chair and co-authors as necessary) | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | |
| **WG Meeting 2** | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | |
| **Finalize (text and illustrations)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | |
| **Approval of publication by WG members and EMB delegates** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | |
| **External review and revisions** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | |
| **Design of the publication** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | |
| **Publication and news release, followed by dissemination and uptake /impact tracking** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ |

**Annex 1: Consent form for Core Activities**

EMB holds personal data for anyone involved in core EMB activities, including Working Groups.

The following personal data may be held by the EMB Secretariat:

- Name
- Title
- Job title
- Areas of expertise and research interests
- Previously held roles
- Institute
- Country
- Institutional email address
- Institutional postal address
- Institutional telephone number
  Photographs
- Video

This information is stored in a secure spreadsheet and folder locations, and only EMB Secretariat staff have access to this.

EMB may:

- Contact you regarding the EMB activity that you are directly involved with
- Contact you regarding other EMB activities
- Add you to the EMB stakeholder mailing list
- Make your name, institution and country publically available on the EMB website, in EMB communications, e.g. presentations regarding the activity you are involved in, and in EMB publications
- Take your photograph during EMB activities and use these pictures in publications, on the EMB website and on EMB social media outlets
- Take video footage during EMB activities and use these pictures in publications, on the EMB website and on EMB social media outlets

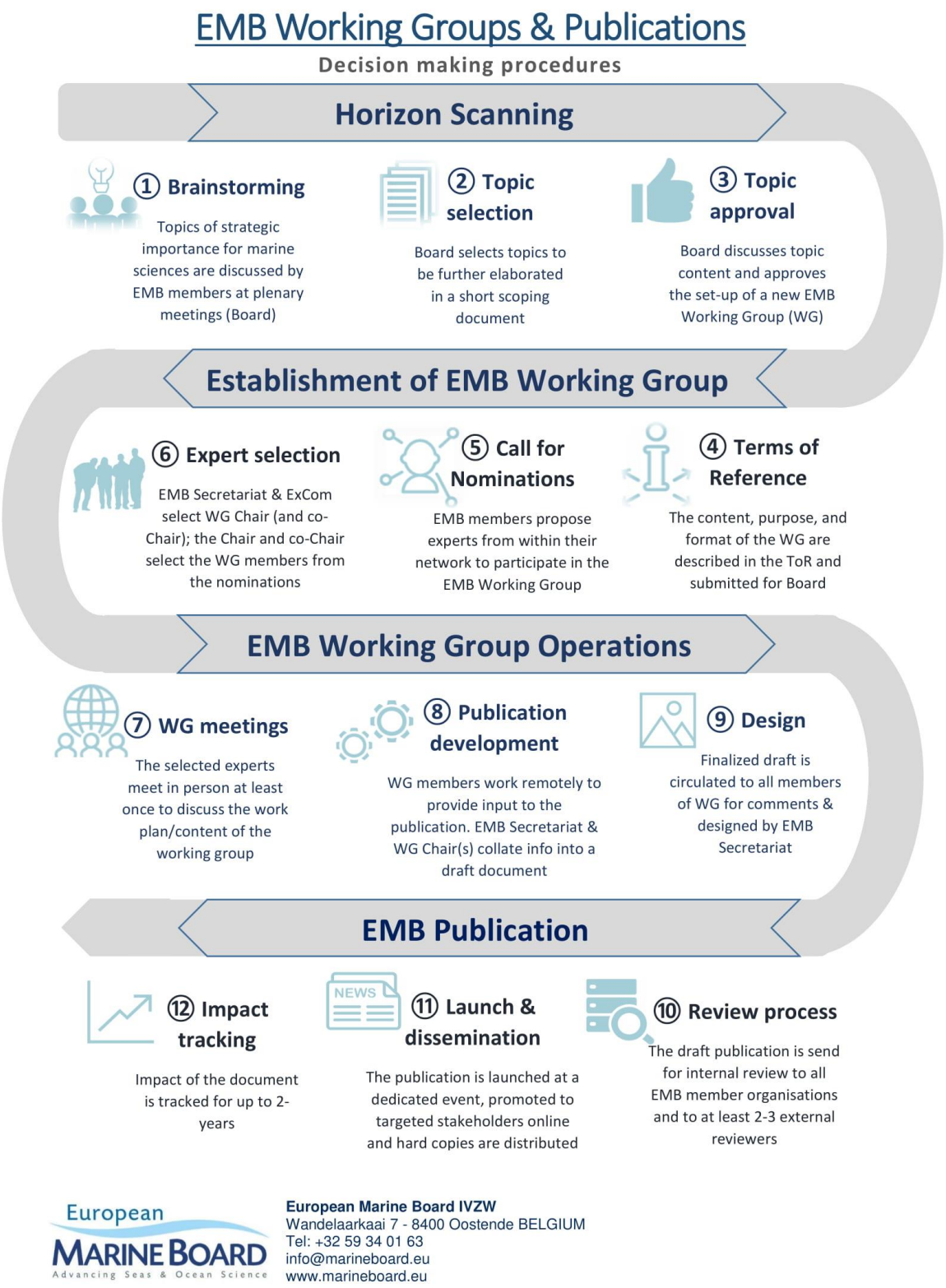
The data held may be reviewed and revised by the subject, and consent for any or all of the above may be withdrawn at any time.

☐ Please tick this box to confirm that you understand the above, and that you give EMB permission to obtain, use and store your personal data as outlined above.

Name:

Date:

**Annex 2: Decision Making Procedure**

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