Background

At EWG OWR 15-2020, an overview of the establishment of the EUROWA Network has been presented, including the text of the EUROWA Charter that has been signed by 10 leading European organisations.

The Network formalises European cooperation in the field of oiled wildlife response and under the name EUROWA (EURopean Oiled Wildlife Assistance), the signatories of the Charter aim to:

- Enhance professionalism in oiled wildlife emergency response and management across Europe through the establishment of a growing network of organisations that work closely together according to agreed standards of good practice.
- Encourage national and international partnerships of the network with governments and governmental agencies, to ensure that professional wildlife response becomes embedded and supported by a professional, authority-led emergency response system both in preparedness (pre-spill investments) and response (structural integration).
- Realise the 24/7 availability of an international team of professional EUROWA responders to assist in challenging scenarios that are unfolding beyond the response capacity of in-country network partners.

The Governance Committee of the Network is chaired by Ms. Vanessa Ryan (WWF-Finland), and Mr. Sascha Regmann (ProBird-Germany), resp. Chair and Vice-Chair.

At the most recent Governance Committee meeting (26th August), a work programme (1 July 2020–31 December 2022) was agreed. A considerable part of this Work Programme will be delivered by the EU funded project EUROWA-2.

The main categories of the work programme are as follows:

A. GOVERNANCE & NETWORK MANAGEMENT
B. 24/7 READINESS
C. EQUIPMENT
D. TRAINING
E. EXERCISES
F. ACCREDITATION
G. STANDARDS
Sea Alarm will share some details of the work plan at EWG OWR 16-2020.

**Action requested**

The Meeting is invited to **take note** of these developments and **discuss** how EUROWA could strengthen the objectives of the EWG OWR and HELCOM Respone Working Group.