

The EU's Atlantic Strategy and next steps for Irish Sea stakeholders

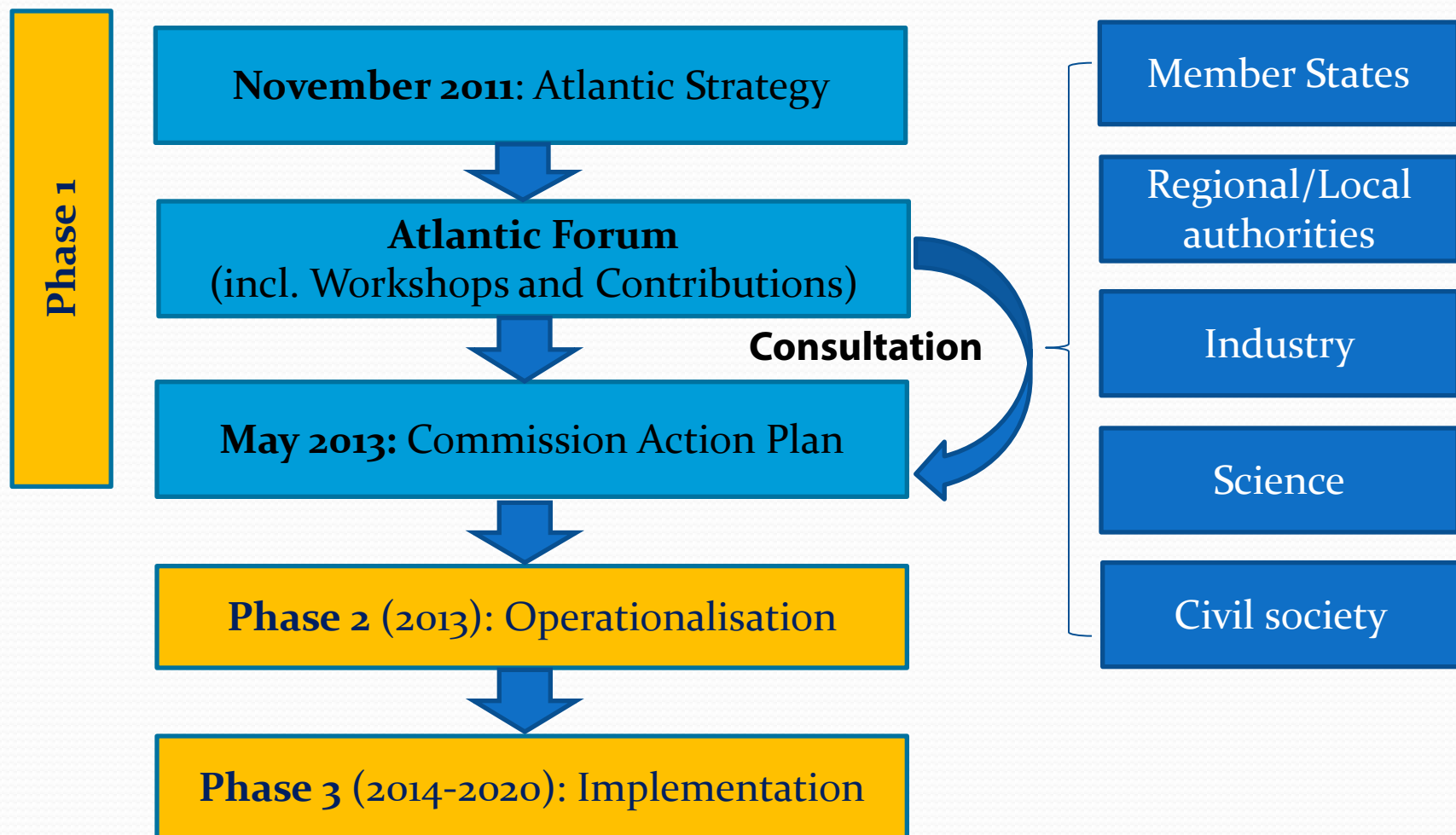
Glasgow – May 21, 2013

Cllr. Paul O'DONOGHUE
Committee of the Regions
Atlantic Forum Leadership Group

Content of Presentation

- *Developing the Action Plan*
- *Priorities of the Action Plan*
- *Issues still to be further developed*
- *Making the Action Plan a Reality*
- *Irish Sea Maritime Platform – potential role*

Developing the Action Plan



Atlantic Strategy - Priorities

The European Commission communication (Nov 2011) set out five thematic challenges/opportunities:

- - ***Implementing the Ecosystem Approach;***
- - ***Reducing Europe's Carbon Footprint;***
- - ***Sustainable Exploitation of the Atlantic Seafloor's Natural Resources;***
- - ***Responding to Threats and Emergencies; and***
- - ***Socially Inclusive Growth***

Action Plan - Priorities

Action Plan – Adopted on May 13, 2013

Priority 1 – Entrepreneurship and Innovation:

- increasing the capacity to innovate through **Research and Technology**;
- improving **Training, Skills and Education** in traditional industries and emerging sectors;
- supporting the reform of the **Common Fisheries Policy** and revitalising the **Aquaculture**

Action Plan - Priorities

Priority 2 - Marine and Coastal Environment:

- reinforce **Safety and Security**;
- develop a **European Atlantic Ocean Observing and Predictive Capability**;
- develop tools to address **Global Climate Change**;
- efforts to achieve **Good Environmental Status** of Atlantic waters;
- assess the social and economic value of the Atlantic's **Ecosystems and Biodiversity**;

Action Plan - Priorities

Priority 2 - Marine and Coastal Environment (cont'd):

- to contribute to Member States' **Maritime Spatial Planning** and coastal management processes;
- develop a better understanding of **Mining for Minerals**;
- lay the foundations for a high-value-added European **Marine Biotechnology** industry;
- consider ways to accelerate **Offshore Renewable Energy** deployment ;

Action Plan - Priorities

Priority 3 – Improving Accessibility - Connectivity

- developing ports as hubs of the blue economy.

Priority 4 - Inclusive and Sustainable Development:

- enhancing the **Health, Social Inclusion and Well-Being** of coastal populations;
- combat seasonality and improve prospects for SMEs through diversification of **Marine Tourism**.

Action Plan – Further Discussion

- **Funding** –how will the priority actions be funded?
- **Governance** – what structures will be required to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan?
 - *Need to promote the Action Plan (Phase 2 - 2013)*
 - *Drive Implementation forward (Phase 3 – 2014-2020)*
- **Assessment** – how exactly can we measure progress and review the Action Plan as appropriate?

Action Plan - Governance

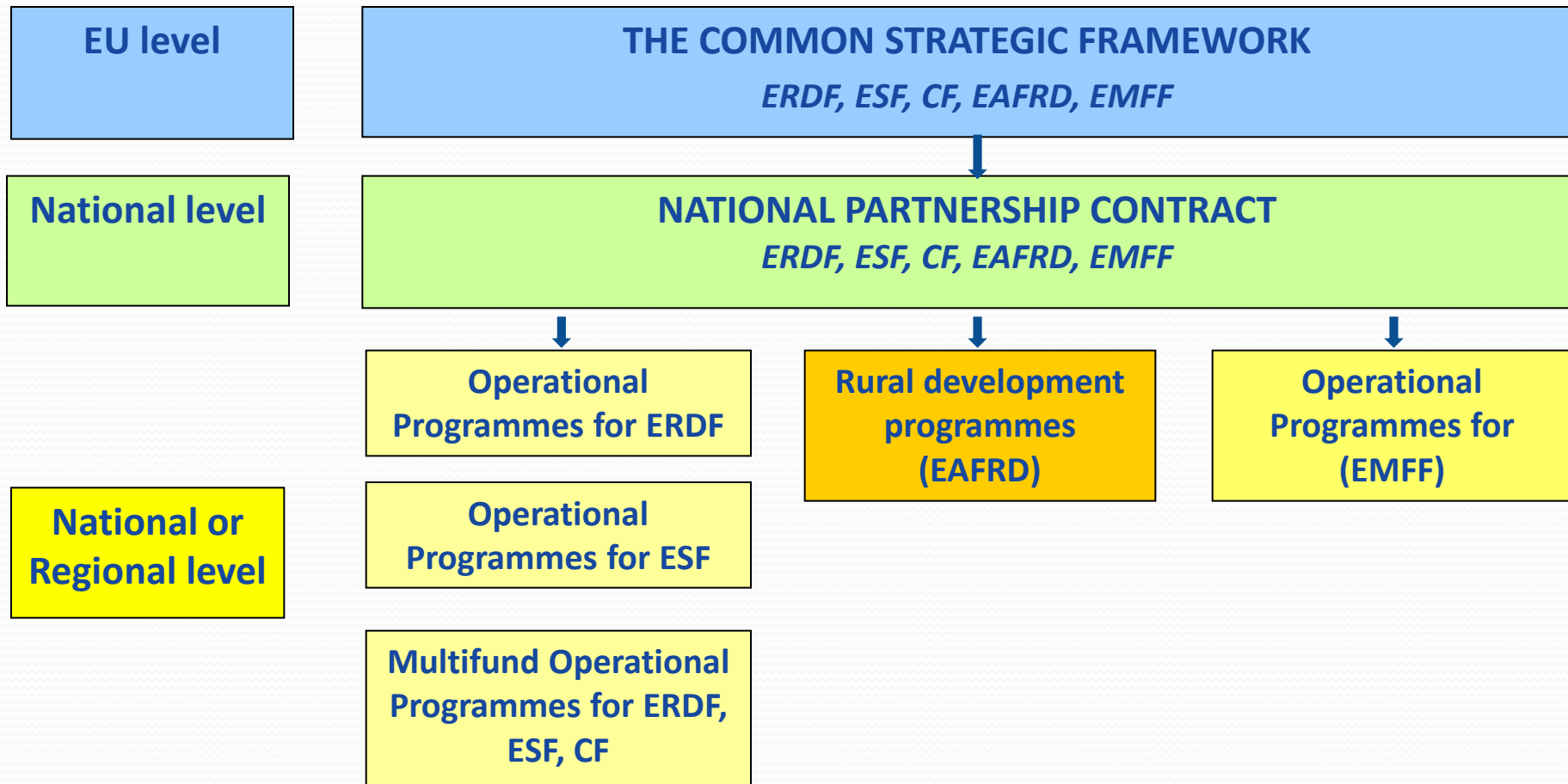
- **High Level Group**

- provide political commitment;
- raise awareness of the Action Plan and its objectives;
- promote private sector buy-in;
- evaluate and assess implementation progress

- **Implementation Assistance Mechanism**

- practical guidance to potential project promoters;
- liaise with managing authorities of EU funding programmes;
- identify potential funding sources for projects

Programming Framework



Potential Role for ISMF?

- Participate in **various consultation exercises** that Managing Authorities will hold on the future EU funds;
- Help to **raise awareness of the Action Plan** among as many stakeholders as possible;
- **Track governance structures** as they emerge – possible need for NCPs
- Preparations **to make concrete project proposals** that relate to the Action Plan;
- Consider **mapping the current level of EU funded project activity** in IS area - assist in establishing baseline information, capitalise on project outcomes, maximise benefits, synergies and resource efficiencies.