The Mediterranean subject to multiple forms of pollution

Air Pollution

- Insufficient contribution to the overall objectives of reducing CO₂ emissions (produces around 2 Gt of CO₂ = 5% world emissions)
- Up to over 100 µg/m³ in some Med areas
- World average (39.6 µg of PM₂.₅ m⁻³)
- EU average (14.2 µg of PM₂.₅ m⁻³)

Soil, Water and Sea Pollution

- The Med is one of the world's most affected regions. 50% of marine litter on the seabed is plastic.
- Concentration of microplastics on the surface of the Med Sea exceeds the maximum threshold and reaches more than 64 million floating particles per km²
- 49% of coastal water bodies in Mediterranean do not achieve good environmental status
- 184 million tonnes of solid waste/year (i.e. 370kg/capita/year, with low recycling rates)
- Presence of "emerging contaminants" with poorly understood life cycles and impacts, potentially toxic and not treatable by conventional wastewater treatment plants (pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, flame retardants, plastic additives, etc.)
- Noise pollution at sea is a danger for some species, such as cetaceans
- Pollution due mainly to heavy metals combined with the continuous discharge of treated and untreated wastewater, effluents from the production and processing of metals, energy production, treatment and production of pulp and paper, chemical industry, intensive farming and aquaculture

To consult the full report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean and its information sources: www.planbleu.org/soed