Dear publisher, editors and reviewers,

With this cover letter, we would like to give you more information regarding our submission entitled "Using a qualitative and quantitative validation methodology to evaluate a drone detection system" to the Special Issue of the IMEKO journal. As you may know, this is an extended version of our ISMCR 2018 conference paper "Qualitative and quantitative validation of drone detection systems". We would therefore like to indicate the main differentiating aspects between the two papers:

- In order to enhance the readability and to focus the paper on the validation methodology and less on the aspect of drone detection itself, the sections of previous work on drone detection and the discussion on the SafeShore project have been integrated. We feel that this will render the paper more generically useable and would make it more interesting for a wider audience.
- An extensive discussion on quantitative and qualitative operational validation methodologies has been added.
- The conceptual overview of the proposed methodology is now much more illustrated with graphics that couldn't be included in the conference paper
- A completely new section discussing the conceptual differences of the proposed methodology to the state of the art is included. We feel that this will greatly improve the scientific relevance of the paper
- In the validation section, an extra discussion and graphic is included to better show the performance of the method during an actual validation trial.

We do want to anticipate one potential question / observation by reviewers: the paper does not include any actual test results of the drone detection system. This is done on purpose, as these results are considered classified information by the European Commission. Indeed, as the SafeShore system is intended to become a part of a maritime border protection system, its strengths and weaknesses cannot be publicly advertised. We consider that this is not a major issue, as the subject of this paper is the proposed validation technology, not the system under test itself (in this case the SafeShore detector).

We hope that these improvements will make the paper valid for publication into your esteemed journal and thank you in advance for the time and effort you spend in reviewing this submission.

With Kind Regards,

Daniela Doroftei (corresponding author)