

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting was opened by Mr. L. Jeftic, Deputy Co-ordinator, of MAP. He welcomed all participants and expressed on behalf of the meeting a special welcome to Mr. M. Raimondi, Director of the newly established Environment Remote Sensing Regional Activity Centre (ERS/RAC), who was attending for the first time the RACs meeting. Mr. Jeftic informed the meeting of the regrets of Mr. B. Glass, Director of BP/RAC and Mr. D. Drocourt, Director of the Secretariat for 100 Historic Sites for not being able to participate in the meeting due to health problems. The list of participants is attached as an Annex to this report.

2. Furthermore, he apologized for the absence of interpretation due to a decision of the last meeting of the Contracting Parties (Antalya, October 1993) to reduce costs.

3. Mr. Raimondi, Director of ERS/RAC thanked all participants for giving him the opportunity to attend the meeting. He expressed his readiness to cooperate with MEDU and all the RAC centres and make available the experience and expertise of his Centre.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

4. The meeting adopted the Provisional Agenda contained in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.79/1.

Agenda item 3: Progress report by the Deputy Co-ordinator on the implementation of MAP activities since the Antalya Meeting (12-15 October 1993)

5. The Deputy Co-ordinator informed the meeting of the developments occurred during the last few days concerning the convening of the meeting of the Bureau. He pointed out that the meeting of the Bureau was scheduled for 2-3 February 1994 in Ankara. However, due to financial constraints, UNEP HQs decided to postpone the meeting until contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund are received. After the intervention of the President of the Bureau, H.E. Mr. Riza Akçali, Minister of the Environment of Turkey, UNEP Hqs agreed to give clearance for convening the meeting as scheduled with a request that the issue of "Slow/non-paying of contributions" be considered by the Bureau. He added that UNEP agreed to give a loan of US \$ 1,000,000.- to the Mediterranean Action Plan to cover 6 months' salaries and 2 months' operating costs.

6. Mr. I. Dharat, Senior Programme Officer at MED Unit briefed the meeting on the legal issues related to the Offshore and Hazardous Wastes protocols as well as on the liability and compensation. He pointed out that the Secretariat, after consultation with Spain, intends to propose to the forthcoming meeting of the Bureau to convene the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Offshore Protocol in Spain for four days, during the month of December 1994, to be immediately preceded by a short meeting of experts (two days).

As regards the Hazardous Wastes Protocol, he pointed out that the Second Meeting of Experts will be held in Rome, Italy, during April 1994. It will be partially hosted by an Italian NGO under the auspices of the relevant Italian Governmental authorities. Moreover, the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Hazardous Wastes draft protocol is scheduled to be convened in Spain in conjunction with the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (April/May 1995).

Finally, the Secretariat is planning to prepare a draft appropriate procedure for the determination of liability and compensation for damages from the pollution of the marine environment in conformity with Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention.

7. Mr. L. Jetic pointed that in accordance with a decision of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Cairo, October 1991), the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Offshore Protocol will deal with two issues: (i) the Offshore draft protocol and (ii) the amendments to the Dumping and LBS Protocols in order to include the banning of incineration at sea, banning of dumping of industrial wastes and the precautionary approach.

Agenda item 4: Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP)

8. The issue of non-implementation of activities scheduled for the last quarter of 1993, in particular in relation to some CAMP projects, due to lack of financial resources, was discussed and it was the opinion of the meeting that priority should be given to those on-going CAMP projects and start preparation for new projects pending the payment of contributions to the MTF. The Bureau of the Contracting Parties should be consulted of this situation.

9. Mr. L. Jetic introduced the three CAMP projects under his responsibility:

Albania CAMP

He briefed the meeting on the CAMP for Albania and pointed out that the relative Agreement was signed by the Government of Albania and UNEP/MAP in September 1993. Most of the RACs and MEDU started the implementation of most of the activities. As in other CAMPs the implementation of most of the activities was slowed down by the delay in provision of funds. Donors consultation meeting convened by the Prime Minister of Albania, Mr. Meksi, and organized by UNDP will be held on 18-19 January 1994 in Tirana. It is expected that possibilities of cooperation

and additional funding of CAMP Albania will be decided during this meeting. All RACs are requested to submit by 13 of January their views and proposals for the cooperation with the World Bank and other programmes in Albania which could be a basis for discussion during the coming meeting.

Kastela Bay CAMP

Presentation of final results for the Croatian authorities, institutions and experts will be held on 3 and 4 February 1994 in Split, Croatia. Presentation of final work for international institutions will be held in April 1994 in Split, Croatia.

Izmir Bay CAMP

Presentation conference of the results of this project was held in Izmir on 29-30 October 1993, and the report of the Conference was sent to all RAC directors (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.76/1).

10. Mr. I. Dharat introduced the three CAMP projects under his responsibility:

Rhodes CAMP

He informed the meeting that the financial assistance of the European Investment Bank (EIB) allocated to this project was received end July 1993, seven months after the signature of the agreement between UNEP/MAP and the Bank, in January 1993, and has caused delays in starting the implementation of the project.

MAP/PAP/Greek National Co-ordinator consultation meeting was held in Athens, on 10-11 January 1994, with a view to discussing with the Greek experts, consultants and institutions, the terms of reference for the six PAP activities cleared by the Bank.

As regards the other activities, he urged and expressed the hope that MED POL, SPA/RAC and the Secretariat for 100 Historic Sites would present soon their proposals on the activities under their responsibilities.

Based on the previous work of PAP/RAC experts in Rhodes on historic sites, Mr. Pavasovic offered, if necessary, to help in the formulation of the activity on historic sites.

SPA/RAC Director informed the meeting that the activity under SPA/RAC responsibility, already started by a mission of expert in 1993, will be continued in collaboration with IUCN, and a mission was already planned by the end of January 1994.

Fuka-Matrouh CAMP

He briefed the meeting on the latest missions relevant to this project, in connection with climatic changes, BP and GIS as well as conservation of marine turtles. He pointed out that complaints have been expressed by the Egyptian authorities in relation to the delay in implementing some of the activities. The MED Unit informed them that the shortage of financial resources was the main reason for these delays. An updated on-site report for the Fuka-Matrouh Area/November 1993, was distributed to all RACs during the meeting. Mr.I. Dharat added that in 1994, priority would be given to this project as an on-going activity.

Sfax CAMP

He informed the meeting that the Agreement relative to the Sfax CAMP project will be signed by UNEP/MAP and the Tunisian Government in Tunis on 24 January 1994. Priority would be given in 1994 to this project as an on-going project.

11. Mr. F.S. Civili, First Officer/Marine Scientist introduced the CAMP projects under his responsibility:

Algeria CAMP

He informed the meeting that a letter had been sent before the Antalya Meeting to the Algerian Government to ask to re-confirm the interest of the country in the launching of CAMP programme. To date no answer was received by the Secretariat.

Morocco CAMP

He informed the meeting that, although the preparatory phase was proceeding very slowly, the Government of Morocco had reiterated their interest in launching the CAMP and that the on-site report, to be used for the preparation of a draft programme, was being completed.

Syria CAMP

He reminded that the Syrian CAMP had been formally extended in Antalya until the end of 1994, to allow a number of activities to be completed. In particular, Blue Plan, REMPEC, SPA and 100 Historic Sites activities should be further implemented within the possibilities of the funds available. It was, however, decided to organize the final comprehensive presentation of the CAMP results and achievements in September 1994 (possibly 12-14), which meant that the final report of each individual component had to be prepared and sent to the Secretariat by the end of June 1994.

12. At the end of the presentation statements of all CAMP projects, brief exchange of views took place during which the Directors of the Centres gave a brief explanation on activities undertaken by their centres vis-à-vis the various CAMP projects.

13. Mr. A. Hoballah of the BP/RAC pointed out that the BP Centre has in its agenda additional ideas concerning the CAMP project for Rhodes, if additional financial sources would be available under the EIB agreement. In response, he was informed that in case a listed activity was not implemented, a proposal could be forwarded to the EIB to cover the BP suggestion. He pointed out that a BP mission concerning the Syrian project will take place early in April 1994, with a view to finalizing BP activities in the Syrian CAMP during June 1994.

14. As regards the Rhodes project, Mr. A. Pavasovic, Director of PAP/RAC pointed out that the experience of working with the EIB through this project has shown that the Bank is very keen to produce good results through this project. The comments received from the Bank on the first few reports produced under this project have shown a high technical and professional level, a matter which require from our part to be very careful and up to the level of expectations. The cooperation with the Bank in this project is a testing area for our future relations with EIB. He proposed that MAP should reconsider its position regarding post CAMP relations with Mediterranean countries hosting CAMP projects. He emphasized that there was a need for MAP to be involved in order to help these countries after the official completion of the projects with a view, among others, to following the implementation of the project results.

15. Mr. J.C. Sainlos, Director of REMPEC pointed out that Syria is one of the priority countries in the list of his Centre. When necessary REMPEC will prepare a report on Syria reflecting the state of the situation.

16. Mr. M. Saied, Director of SPA/RAC pointed out that since the date of the signature of the Albanian CAMP, SPA/RAC accomplished a mission to Albania (6-8 December 1993), mainly aimed at defining the objectives and the workplan of the activity under its responsibility.

Furthermore, as regards the Izmir CAMP and within the framework of the implementation of activity "Study of the protection criteria and measures for the Tuzla migratory birds nesting area", SPA/RAC undertook a mission of experts to the site on 21-24 June 1993, in collaboration with the competent national and local authorities (Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Forestry).

The main achievements of the study were presented at the meeting on the presentation of the results of the CAMP for the Bay of Izmir (Izmir, Turkey, 29-30 September 1993). The final report was available in November 1993.

As regards the Fuka-Matrouh CAMP project, he briefed the meeting on the main activities realized by RAC/SPA within the framework of the project.

New CAMP projects

17. Mr. L. Jeftic, stated that the last meeting of the Contracting Parties approved three new CAMP projects (Israel, Lebanon and Malta). Contacts with the respective countries have started with a view to preparing the draft list of activities to be incorporated in the agreements to be signed by MAP and the relevant authorities in these countries.

Agenda item 5: Preparation of an Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean region

a. Meeting of experts on Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean

18. Mr. I. Dharat introduced this agenda item by stating that, in accordance with the decision of the last meeting of the Contracting Parties and the informal consultation with the Tunisian authorities, the meeting of Mediterranean governments' designated experts to review a draft Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean region is planned to be hosted and convened in Tunisia during the month of May 1994. It will be considered as a first preparatory meeting for the November 1994 Conference on "Mediterranean 21".

b. Conference "Mediterranean 21"

19. He further informed the meeting that an invitation was received by fax on 5 January 1994, from H.E. Mr. Mohamed Mehdi Mlika, Minister of the Environment of Tunisia, informing MAP on the forthcoming Conference and its principle objectives namely,

- the objective assessment of the ecological situation of the region;
- the defining of the main lines of a sustainable development programme for the region (Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean);
- the defining of an appropriate mechanism to ensure the better follow-up of commitments taken by coastal countries for the protection of the Mediterranean sea;
- an amendment proposition for the improvement of the Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols.

In his invitation the Minister expressed his thanks to MAP as well as the representative of the Executive Director of UNEP for their support and their promise of assistance to Tunisia for the organization of the Conference..

To this effect, the Minister invited MAP to the first meeting of the small steering committee, which will be held at the headquarters of the Ministry of the Environment in Tunis, on 24 January 1994. He pointed out that Tunisia is counting on the material and financial support for the success of the conference.

20. Mr. Saied, Director SPA/RAC briefed the meeting on the preparatory steps being undertaken by the Tunisian Government for convening the steering committee as well as the two preparatory meetings. He pointed out that the steering Committee will be composed of representatives from the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SPA/RAC and a representative from MAP. It will convene its first meeting in Tunis on 24 January 1994. As regards the two preparatory meetings, one will be held during May 1994 and the second prior to the Conference which will be held during the first week of November 1994, in Tunis.

21. A general exchange of views took place on this agenda item during which some participants were of the opinion that the first meeting of experts which is a MAP meeting, should concentrate on the main item of identifying an Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean. In the meantime, the Conference in November, as a Tunisian Conference, with the participation of representatives from Mediterranean countries, could deal with the other issues as stipulated in the above-mentioned letter of the Minister of Environment of Tunisia to the Mediterranean Action Plan.

22. It was also pointed out that the legal issue of the revision of the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols will be dealt with by a separate MAP meeting of Mediterranean legal experts scheduled tentatively to be hosted and convened in Spain during the month of September 1994.

23. The Director of SPA/RAC emphasized that in his opinion as he was involved in the informal consultation between MAP and Tunisia, that the two preparatory meetings will discuss all the issues indicated in the letter of invitation addressed to MAP by the Minister of Environment of Tunisia. Moreover, he pointed out that all technical details would be clarified during the first meeting of the steering Committee and he emphasized that the presence of MAP in the preparation for the November 1994 Conference is important to reinforce the objective of the Conference.

24. The BP representative pointed out that BP/RAC would like to contribute to Mediterranean Agenda 21 by sending a detailed outline of its long-term strategy structured on:

- systemic and prospective analysis and the Mediterranean Observatory - MEDO as a decision-making tools towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean;
- analysis of key dimensions (demographic, geopolitics, environment policies, etc);
- review of hypothesis and trend and alternative analysis through four main entries (socio-economic, water, soil and biodiversity) and key dimensions;
- introduction and study of the concepts of reversibility and irreversibility of policies and actions as well as the concept of environment carrying capacity for sustainable development.

Agenda item 6: Revision of the Convention and its related Protocols

25. Mr. L. Jeftic informed the meeting that the Secretariat will propose to the forthcoming meeting of the Bureau to convene the meeting of experts to review the Convention and its related protocols, in Spain during the month of September 1994.

26. In reply to an enquiry from the SPA/RAC Director, the Deputy Coordinator pointed out that the MED Unit expects to receive concrete proposals from the SPA/RAC for amendments to the SPA Protocol which will be reviewed by the Athens office and be sent to the Contracting Parties for their comments. These comments will be reviewed by SPA/RAC for final presentation of the amendments to the Secretariat, for submission to the Experts' meeting in September 1994.

Agenda item 7: MED POL Phase-III

27. Mr L. Jeftic, by introducing this agenda item, recalled the activities carried out during the last few years which led to the new ideas and principles of MED POL - PHASE III, among which the X ICSEM/IOC/UNEP Workshop on pollution held in Perpignan in 1990, the numerous meetings on data analysis held by the secretariat at which Mediterranean and outside experts were invited to attend and lately the evaluation exercise of the whole MED POL programme presented at the Antalya Meeting. He reminded that the basic principles of MED POL - PHASE III were approved at the Antalya Meeting and that the final programme proposal would have to be produced for the Joint Committees Meeting of 1994. He also recalled that the Government of Turkey had agreed to partly support a meeting to be held in Izmir, probably in April 1994, at which experts should review a first draft of the MED POL - PHASE III programme.

Agenda item 8: Workplan of the Environmental Remote Sensing Regional Activity Centre (ERS/RAC)

28. Mr. Raimondi, in introducing the structure and the over-all tasks of his Centre, recalled that a list of the areas of possible cooperation with the other RACs in the framework of MAP had been sent to the secretariat and distributed at the Meeting. He felt confident that numerous were the activities to which ERS/RAC could provide an important contribution. As a result, the meeting agreed that each RAC Director would have, during the days of the meeting, a working session with Mr Raimondi to identify projects of immediate interest and possible early realization.

In addition Mr. Raimondi stressed that, in parallel to specific projects of national or sub-regional relevance to implement within the framework of MAP, ERS/RAC would be ready to prepare a programme of regional coverage on selected macrodynamics of the coastal areas using the support of time series satellite data with the final objective of creating a dynamic system useful to monitor the evolutions in the entire basin. The Meeting agreed that the project would be of immediate as well as long-term interest to the entire MAP and that it should be further developed.

Agenda item 9: "Mediterranean Environment/Development Observatory" - cooperation with the Regional Activity Centres

29. Mr. A. Hoballah (BP/RAC) introduced this agenda item and informed the meeting that he would like to emphasize at the beginning that it was not the intention of the BP Centre to duplicate activities being undertaken by other MAP centres. BP merely needed the inputs of the RACs in order to establish a more objective and coherent status of the Mediterranean environment and development context and integrating those inputs in a wider social, economic and policy analysis. This overall analysis and dynamic picture could in return serve as a framework for other activities being implemented by other Centres and for Mediterranean decision-makers. We should consider this approach as an excellent opportunity for strengthening cooperation among MAP Centres. Secondly, as indicated by its title and in conformity with BP approach and strategy, the Mediterranean Observatory - MEDO would look for improving understanding of situations and trends related to the overall relations between environment and development as well as providing decision-makers with objective and reliable information for proper orientation of their policies and actions towards sustainable development. Observatory outputs would constitute key inputs for the systemic and prospective approach that needs to be directed towards sustainable development as an alternative or even a normative scenario in the Mediterranean. Thirdly, after the joint seminar organized in April 1993, by BP/RAC and EEC, and attended by several Mediterranean countries, PAP/RAC and SPA/RAC, it was decided to focus MEDO activities on four main subjects that should be considered as a "grille de lecture" of interactions between environment and development. These four subjects are: socio-economy, water, soil, biodiversity.

It was very important to point out that BP/RAC and MEDO would not be Centres specialized on these subjects. As these subjects are very technical, BP cannot cover extensively these subjects and a selective approach has to be followed (data, indications, analysis, status and trends).

Moreover, BP/RAC is developing, within MEDO, a Documentation Unit that is working in several directions (ref. to document distributed in French) and mainly:

- collection and analysis of institutional and administrative information;
- informative watch;
- guide on sustainable development information sources;
- Mediterranean documentation network.

He insisted on the fact that cooperation with MAP Centres is badly needed and specifically with MED POL and PAP on water, with PAP on soil, with SPA on biodiversity and with ERS on data and information.

He informed the meeting that, for the time being, a three-year project was signed with EEC and we have to prove to the EEC and the Mediterranean countries that MAP can build up a useful Mediterranean observatory.

30. During the discussion the BP representative distributed four documents to clarify more the objectives and structure of the observatory and he requested comments on these documents:

- a. Mediterranean Environment and Development Observatory - presentation document;
- b. Compendium of BP reports for information and reference;
- c. Document on environmental topics(soil, biodiversity and water), which needs to be commented and completed by each Centre and MEDU as a basis for upgrading cooperation;
- d. Presentation on Documentation Unit within BP/RAC.

Finally, he ended his statement by pointing out that by the end of the three-year project, BP would be able to give a proper picture on the status of the environment in the Mediterranean basin as a whole.

31. After the presentation of the Mediterranean Environment and Development Observatory a discussion followed focusing on ways and means of cooperation between MEDO and the various MAP components. In addition, a number of questions were raised on the feasibility of the whole programme, on possible risks of interference with the roles and responsibilities of other RACs and on the long-term outputs of the programme.

32. As a result of the discussion, the following points were unanimously agreed upon by the meeting:

- the implementation of the Observatory should be based on the full cooperation between all the RACs;
- each RAC has and should continue to have its specificity and its prerogatives;
- the exchange of data from the RACs to MEDO should be fully reversible and
- all the short- and the long-term outputs of MEDO are and should remain a MAP product.

Agenda item 10: Preparation of the Joint Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Socio-Economic Committee

33. After a brief discussion, the meeting decided to convene the Joint Meeting during the period from 12-16 December 1994 and therefore the RACs inputs should be sent to Athens by 15 September 1994.

34. It was also agreed that the Regional Activity Centres should observe the style used for the progress report of the Executive Director to the Antalya Meeting and the MED Unit will provide the RACs with indications of the budgetary distribution.

Agenda item 11: Global Environmental Facility (GEF)

35. Mr. L. Jetic introduced this agenda item by briefing the meeting on the possibilities of benefiting from GEF and in particular, he pinpointed two topics which might be legible for assistance under GEF:

- biodiversity;
- coastal areas management programme (CAMP)

36. As for CAMPs a project for an individual CAMP could be prepared, or a project for a group of network of CAMPs could also be prepared. He emphasized that in order for these projects to be accepted, their outputs should be new and can be used in other parts of the world.

37. He also referred to the small grants for NGOs under GEF which could be used by the Centre to advise relevant NGOs on how to benefit from this offer. As the situation in regard to the restructuring of GEF, is still not clear after the Cartagena (Colombia) meeting of last December 1993, he suggested that the meeting may express its desire to benefit from the GEF facility and entrust the Coordinating Unit to further explore how MAP can benefit from this facility.

38. During the brief discussion, other proposals for benefiting from GEF were introduced such as:

- broader CAMP projects which go in implementation furthermore than the preparation of studies;
- selection of topics with broader perspective to be applied to all CAMP projects (methodology, guidelines..);
- follow-up of projects (soil erosion);
- projects on the protection of protected areas in cases of accidents;
- monitoring by satellite of ozone layer and its effects on living species and in particular on human health;
- monitoring of effects of fires in the Mediterranean by satellite, which will enable Mediterranean countries to control and plan the evolution of the situation in the region.

Agenda item 12: Closing of the Umbrella project and the preparation of new project documents

39. Closing of the Umbrella project. The RAC directors were informed by Mr. C. Marx on the necessary documents required to close a project in line with UN rules and regulations. The documents requested from the directors are as follows:

- terminal report for the activities implemented during the period 1990-1993;
- outputs and list of outputs (3 copies);
- list and status of non expendable equipment purchased under the project with

- UNEP administered funds with a proposal on its future use (transfer to new projects, disposal, transfer to participating institutions etc...);
- final financial statement covering the period 1990-1993, certified by an outside auditor.

≠ The RAC directors should submit the necessary information by April 1994.

40. The RAC directors expressed their wish to have the present Umbrella project extended into 1994, in order to be able to reflect the rephasal of 1993 funds for activities not completed in that year and/or for activities not funded in 1993, due to the lack of funds in the MTF and rephased in 1994, in accordance with the decision of the Contracting Parties (Annex VI in doc. UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.3/5).

41. It was decided to inform UNEP Headquarters of this request. However, in case the decision was negative, the revision 1 of each individual new project would reflect the rephasal of such activities (subject to availability of funds and approval by UNEP/MEDU).

42. Preparation of new project documents. The meeting was reminded that UNEP Headquarters instruction was to close the present Umbrella project, discontinue the use of M.O.U. and open new projects reflecting the procedures and framework used in project documents before 1989.

43. The Director of REMPEC pointed out that pending the approval of the new project, there was no legal instrument to cover the present period due to the non extension of the present Umbrella project and its relevant Memorandum of Understanding, with all the consequences attached to this situation.

44. Concerning cash advance, the RAC directors were informed to make the usual cash advance request on the basis of the allocation approved for 6 months' salaries and 2 months' operating costs, pending the reception of additional funds.

45. The representative of BP/RAC requested the use of funds allocated for data by the Contracting Parties within CAMP budget for the Observatory for the treatment of data. The Deputy Co-ordinator informed him that no such funds were expected to be allocated to BP/RAC.

46. The topic of the inclusion of EIB funds for the Rhodes CAMP in the new project document was also raised.

47. The Director of PAP/RAC invited the Secretariat to consider measures to be adopted in order to allow the immediate start of PAP related activities in CAMP Rhodes supported by EIB funds.

Agenda item 13: Any other matter

48. The Director of REMPEC raised the issue of the division of responsibilities between the MED Unit (MED POL) and his Centre with regard to the Dumping Protocol. Mr. L. Jetic agreed that the subject could be reviewed and promised to look into it shortly.

49. The new draft of the MAP Brochure was given to all RAC directors and it was agreed that comments and concrete proposals for amendments should be sent back to the MED Unit by Friday 21 January 1994.

50. A short discussion was held on the preparation of MAP Technical Report Series and it was agreed that after the necessary clearance by the MED Unit they could be produced entirely by the respective RACs.

51. The Deputy C-ordinator pointed out that as of 1 anuary 1994, all UNEP meeting documents to be produced by MEDU and the Regional Activity Centres of MAP should use new mastheads which were received from Nairobi in hard copy in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. Ms. J. Moreno is preparing the new design of cover pages, using new mastheads in electronic form and at present are available in English and French, while in Arabic and Spanish will be available in the near future. All RAC directros were provided during the meeting with sample design of the cover page with the new mastheads on diskettes.

52. Mr. Aksel informed the meeting on the existing E-Mail communication between MED Unit and REMPEC, and he referred to the recent MED Unit request to other RACs on the utilisation of this facility as of 1994. All the RACs were provided with the necessary software, manuals, and guidelines. Technical assistance should be obtained from the national telecommunication authorities and further support would also be provided by MED Unit.

53. Mr. Aksel briefed the meeting on the successful use of desktop mapping systems, and/or geographic information systems at MEDU Unit, BP/RAC, and PAP/RAC. He pointed out that MED Unit did support the use of such systems, and invited SPA/RAC and REMPEC (who were already provided with the necessary facilities) to increase their efforts, on this topic.

54. Mr. Pavasovic informed the participants that he intended to retire as from 31 March 1994. While informing the meeting of such decision he expressed his sincere thanks to all the RAC directors and to the MED Unit staff and to the representatives of the U.N. Agencies with whom he had excellent working and personal relations and which were the key to the achievements of his Centre.

55. Mr. L. Jetic, in the name of the Co-ordinating Unit and all participants, expressed deep appreciation for the work Mr. Pavasovic had carried out as Director of PAP/RAC which had substantially contributed not only to the large success of the PAP programme but which had contributed to the success and expansion of the Action Plan as a whole. It was unanimously decided that Mr. Pavasovic would be invited to attend the next Joint Committee Meeting.

Agenda item 14: Adoption of the report of the meeting

56. The meeting adopted its report on Friday, 14 January 1994.

Agenda item 15: Closure of the meeting

57. The meeting was closed on Friday, 14 January 1994, at 11.30 hours.

ANNEX

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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