

Introduction

At their Eighth Ordinary Meeting (Antalya, 12-15 October 1993), the Contracting Parties accepted the offer of Spain and decided to convene the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the draft Protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution resulting from the exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the sea-bed and its sub-soil, in Madrid, Spain, October 1994, to be immediately preceded by a fourth meeting of Mediterranean experts, to be convened at the same place (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.3/5).

At its last meeting (Rabat, 8-9 June 1994), the Bureau of the Contracting Parties decided that the fourth meeting of experts be convened in Madrid, 11-12 October 1994, and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, also in Madrid, 13-14 October 1994 (UNEP/BUR/44/4).

During the third meeting of experts (Cairo, October 1991), the government experts thoroughly reviewed the draft Offshore Protocol. Few reservations in relation to specific articles were made. Controversial articles were placed within brackets and in some cases alternative texts were presented.

Agenda Item 1 - Opening of the Meeting

The Meeting will be opened at 09.00 hours on Tuesday, 11 October 1994, at the Palacio de Congresos de Madrid (Paseo de la Castellana, 99, 28046 Madrid, tel: 337 81 00 - 337 81 01, telex: 47678PECME, fax: 597 10 94).

Agenda Item 2 - Rules of procedure

The Rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its related protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) will apply *mutatis mutandis* to this meeting.

Agenda Item 3 - Election of officers

In accordance with Rule 20 of the Rules of procedure, the meeting shall elect from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties a Chairman, two vice-chairmen and a Rapporteur.

Agenda Item 4 - Adoption of the Agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat has been distributed as document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.81/1 and its annotation is contained in the present document. A proposed timetable is annexed to the present document. It is envisaged that a small drafting group will be established. The working languages of the meeting will be English and French.

Agenda Item 5 - Review of the draft offshore protocol

The meeting will have before it the last version of draft offshore protocol contained in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.81/3. The representative of the Secretariat will present the draft Protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution resulting from exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the sea-bed and its sub-sol.

The meeting is expected to review only the issues still pending in the draft protocol and agree on a common text to be submitted to the Conference of plenipotentiaries scheduled to be convened on 13-14 October 1994 in Madrid. Where no agreement can be reached alternative texts will be left in brackets for further negotiation by the Conference of the plenipotentiaries.

Agenda Item 6 - Other business

The meeting may consider any other matters relevant to the offshore protocol.

Agenda Item 7 - Adoption of the report of the meeting

A draft report of the meeting will be submitted to the participants for adoption.

Agenda Item 8 - Closure of the meeting

The meeting is expected to close by 18.30 hours on Wednesday, 12 October 1994.

ANNEXSuggested timetable

Date	Session	Agenda item
Tuesday, 11 October	Morning (9:30 - 12:30)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Afternoon (14:30 - 17:30)	5 (concluded), 6
Wednesday, 12 October	Morning (9:30 - 12:30)	Free (to prepare the report of the meeting)
	Afternoon (14:30 - 18:30)	7, 8

Coffee break: 11:00
16:00