



United Nations  
Environment  
Programme



UNEP/BUR/36/4  
20 February 1990

Original: ENGLISH

---

**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties  
to the Convention for the protection of the  
Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its  
related protocols

Cairo, 19-20 February 1990

Report of the Meeting of the Bureau  
of the Contracting Parties to the Convention  
for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution  
and its related protocols

---

UNEP  
Athens, 1990

### Opening of the Meeting

1. The Meeting was called to order by H.E. Mr. A. Ebeid, President of the Bureau. H.E. Mr. I. Butini, Vice-President (Italy), Mr. V. Mandl, Vice-President (EEC), and Mr. A. Demetropoulos, Rapporteur (Cyprus) were present. Three members of the Bureau were accompanied by advisers. Mr. I. Dharat acted as Secretary of the meeting. The list of participants is contained in Annex I to this report.

2. In his opening remarks, the president welcomed the participants on behalf of the Egyptian Government and pledged Egypt's support to mobilize the resources of the Mediterranean Basin for a better future. He also briefed the meeting on the Paris meeting convened in December 1989 on the World Bank initiative for the Mediterranean. He informed the meeting that a mission from the World Bank and the European Investment Bank is in Cairo as a follow up of the Paris Meeting. He wished the meeting a successful conclusion.

### Agenda Item 1 - Adoption of the Agenda

3. The agenda suggested by the Secretariat (UNEP/BUR/36/1) and annotated in document (UNEP/BUR/36/2) was adopted.

### Agenda Item 2 - Progress report by the Co-ordinator

4. The Co-ordinator, Mr. A. Manos extended to the participants the greetings of Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP. He introduced the progress report contained in document UNEP/BUR/36/3 and Add.1 on the activities carried out since the Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Athens, 3-6 October 1989). He provided additional information on recent developments. As concerns the Adriatic initiative, the meeting convened in Athens in December 1989 had proposed an overall programme for the area. Further meetings were held between Italy and Yugoslavia in Rome and Split.

5. In view of the useful co-operation established with the World Bank and the European Investment Bank, the Co-ordinator suggested that an approach might be made by the president to the Islamic Development Bank and the African Development Bank to finance projects for environmental protection in their member States that were bordering on the Mediterranean. A Secretariat paper on this issue was distributed.

6. As concerns the joint meeting of the Scientific and Technical and the Socio-Economic Committee (Athens, 28 May - 1 June 1990), he pointed out that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Directors of the Regional Activity Centres, are of the opinion that a joint meeting this year is enough to cover the items of these two Committees, instead of having two concurrent meetings, which also will save considerable resources.

7. The Co-ordinator informed the Bureau that the Secretariat has been informed by the Department of Economic Affairs of the Palestinian Liberation Organization in Tunis that the "State of Palestine is willing to join the Contracting Parties and is requesting an application for admission to Mediterranean Action Plan".

The Co-ordinator pointed out that the UNEP Secretariat is in consultation with U.N. Headquarters for guidance on this issue. The Bureau will be informed of any development during its next meeting.

8. The Co-ordinator also informed the meeting that a Japanese delegation has visited the UNEP Office in Athens and discussed various issues related to the preparation of the International Conference on the protection of the Japanese inland sea to be convened in Japan during August 1990. An invitation was extended to UNEP and to the Co-ordinating Unit to attend this meeting and to give the experience of UNEP/MAP in this regard.

9. The Co-ordinator briefed the meeting on the latest accident off the coast of Morocco (Khark 5) and requested the views of the Bureau on a possible technical mission to review the Centre's communication capabilities.

10. As regards the Tunis Centre on protected areas SPA/RAC, the Secretariat has not yet received the final reply of the Tunisian Government on the draft agreement between UNEP and Tunisia on the status of the Centre, a matter of concern because it would delay the implementation of the activities approved by the last meeting of the Contracting Parties. The Co-ordinator pinpointed some of the problems encountered by the Centre in relation to the status of foreign experts, financial transfer and the appointment of a full-time Director of the Centre. He expressed the hope that the situation will be clarified and a suitable solution will be found soon. In the meantime the expert from IUCN will be operating from Athens as of April 1990.

11. The Co-ordinator asked the Bureau to take note that the recently revised salary scale for UN General Service staff at all United Nations Offices in Greece, as well as the current promotion review, will result in some additional costs to be met from programme savings.

12. The Vice-President from Italy expressed his thanks to the Government of Egypt and informed the Bureau on the development concerning the "Adriatic Initiative". He said that the Italian/Yugoslav Joint Commission for the protection of the Adriatic met in Split on 12-13 February 1990. The main issues discussed were:

- the general plan for the Adriatic
- monitoring system of Mediterranean pollution
- global mathematical model
- urban wastes
- oil wastes
- recovery of areas hit by the pollution
- the role of EEC, EIB, World Bank, intergovernmental credit lines and other financial aspects.

He also informed that the Albanian side expressed their willingness to participate in the "Adriatic Initiative" and suggested to negotiate a new agreement among the four countries concerned thus requesting that the role of MAP be strengthened in this connection.

13. With regard to the Adriatic, the Bureau agreed on the usefulness of the action taken to extend the "Adriatic Initiative" to Albania and Greece through bilateral and other contacts and invited UNEP to continue its supporting role to the initiative on the technical and scientific level and also on the organizational and financial level.

14. The Vice-President from the EEC expressed his thanks to the Egyptian Government for hosting the Bureau meeting in Cairo and for organizing a field trip to Ismailia to observe how they combat oil pollution in that area. He expressed the full support of the EEC to the "Adriatic Initiative" which he described as important, necessary and urgent which aims at protecting the Adriatic Sea, the common heritage of not only the countries bordering the sea but also all of Europe.

15. He informed the meeting that a Conference on Environmental Management in the Mediterranean Basin will be convened in Cyprus from 26 to 28 April 1990. The Conference will be organized by the EEC with the objective that all Mediterranean countries would exchange their experience in the area of pollution control, legal and administrative measures to combat pollution. He emphasized three priority areas, namely, the regulation framework, management of waste water and elimination of solid urban and industrial wastes.

16. The Vice-President from Italy informed the Bureau on further developments concerning the Italian suggestion to extend the coordination of MAP activities to the Black Sea, for which support had been expressed by Romania, Bulgaria and the USSR. In principle Spain raised no objection, but will provide a full assessment after knowing the views of the Bureau. The Vice-President from the EEC considered it appropriate to reinforce co-operation in that area, welcomed the initiative and was ready to examine specific measures for a better co-operation. This initiative was also supported by the President from Egypt and the Rapporteur from Cyprus.

17. The Bureau thanked the Vice-President from Italy for the information provided and agreed on the usefulness of the action undertaken. It invited the two Vice-Presidents to continue exploratory contacts to determine the prospects of a closer co-operation in the environmental field at the regional and sub-regional levels.

18. The Bureau further invited the Secretariat to provide on request information on the formal and methodological aspects that may clarify an eventual participation of the Black Sea coastal States in the Action Plan.

19. In response to a query from the Italian representative, the Co-ordinator provided information on the present status of the Regional Activity Centres (RAC). He felt that with their existing staffing and budget they were providing efficient service to the Contracting Parties.

20. The Rapporteur from Cyprus, pointed out that his experience with the RAC Centres has been very fruitful. As for the Joint Meeting of the two technical committees, he expressed the view that their work is interrelated. He also supported the proposal of evaluation mission of the communication system of the Regional Centre in Malta.

21. The Representative of Italy while accepting the evaluation mission of the communication capabilities of the Malta Centre stressed that IMO should be the Organization to provide the consultant due to its experience in this field and that the Secretariat requests the Director of the Centre to make concrete proposals regarding upgrading the Centre communication capabilities.

22. At the end of the discussion of this Agenda Item the Bureau took note of the Progress Report contained in document UNEP/BUR/36/3 and Add.1 and of the supplementary oral comments provided by the Co-ordinator.

Agenda Item 3 - Implementation of the 1990-1991 approved programme and budget

23. The Bureau had before it document UNEP/BUR/36/3 and Add.1. The Co-ordinator presented the item by stating that when this item was proposed MAP was in a difficult financial situation. However, the financial situation has improved dramatically since the payment of the arrears from Italy and other contributions.

24. The Co-ordinator briefed the meeting on the status of the ongoing four country pilot projects namely, Kastela Bay, Izmir Bay, the Syrian coast and Rhodes and on the two designated pilot projects under preparation: in Egypt (Fuka) and in Tunisia (Sfax). He also referred to the EEC MEDSPA Programme and suggested that a closer co-operation with MAP in relation with the activities it financed would be desirable.

25. The Representative of Egypt emphasized the importance of matching developments with environment which is the main theme of the 1992 Conference. He pointed out the importance of the Fuka pilot projects in this regard.

26. The EEC representative pointed out that co-ordination is needed between national authorities vis-à-vis the country pilot projects and the need to apply environmental impact assessments in order to guarantee that these projects are in accordance with environmental rules and they can attract financial assistance. He briefed the meeting on the structure of the MEDSPA programme which had the objective of supporting integrated planning projects.

Agenda Item 4 - Date and place of the next meeting of the Bureau`

27. On an invitation from the Vice-President from Italy, the Bureau decided that its next meeting would be held in Rome on 6-7 September 1990.

28. The Vice-President from the EEC proposed that the third meeting (Spring 1991) be held in Brussels. The meeting accepted this invitation. The date of the Meeting will be confirmed during the next meeting of the Bureau.

Agenda Item 5 - Other business

29. With regard to the intersessional meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) for environmental co-operation in the Mediterranean (Palma de Mallorca, 24 September - 19 October 1990), the Bureau expressed the advisability of participating -through its President - as an observer in the work of that meeting.

Agenda Item 6 - Adoption of the report of the meeting

30. The Bureau adopted its report on 20 February 1990.

31. In adopting the report the Bureau expressed its appreciation to the Government of Egypt for hosting its meeting in Cairo and for the facilities and hospitality it had provided.

UNEP/BUR/36/4

Annex I

page 1

Annex I  
List of Participants

EGYPT  
EGYPTE

President of the Bureau  
H.E. Mr. Atef M. Ebeid  
Minister of Cabinet Affairs  
Minister of State for Administrative  
Development and Minister in charge  
of the Environment  
Egyptian Environmental Affairs  
Agency (EEAA)  
11, Hassan Sabry Street  
Zamalek  
Cairo  
Egypt

Tel. No.: 355 0164  
Tlx No.: 93794 WAZRA UN  
Fax No.: 342 0768

ITALY  
ITALIE

Vice-President  
H.E. Mr. Ivo Butini  
Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Piazzale della Farnesina 1  
Rome  
Italy

Tel. No.: 369 11  
Tlx No.: 43-610429 MEEENG I  
Fax No.: 369 13644

UNEP/BUR/36/4

Annex I

page 2

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY  
COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE  
EUROPEENNE

Vice-President

Mr. Vladimiro Mandl

Chef de Division

Direction Générale de l'Environnement,

Protection Civile et de la Sécurité

nucléaire

Commission des Communautés Européennes

200, rue de la Loi

1049 Bruxelles

Belgique

Tel. No.: (32) 2 235 42 49

Tlx No.: 46-21877 COMEU B

Fax No.: (32) 2 236 06 26

CYPRUS  
CHYPRE

Rapporteur

Mr. Andreas D. Demetropoulos

Director

Department of Fisheries

Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources

13, Aeolou Str.

Nicosia

Cyprus

Tel. No.: 303 279

Tlx No.: 605-4660 MINAGRI CY

Fax No.: (2) 365755



UNEP/BUR/36/4

Annex I

page 3

Advisers

EGYPT  
EGYPTE

Mr. Elmohamady Eid  
Chairman  
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)  
11, Hassan Sabry Street  
Zamalek  
Cairo, Egypt

Tel. No.: 355 0164  
Tlx No.: 93794 WAZRA UN  
Fax No.: 342 0768

Ms Hoda Hanafi  
Egyptian Environmental Affairs  
Agency (EEAA)  
11, Hassan Sabry Street  
Zamalek  
Cairo  
Egypt

Tel. No.: 355 0164  
Tlx No.: 93794 WAZRA UN  
Fax No.: 342 0768

ITALY  
ITALIE

Mr. Paolo Casardi  
Consigliere  
Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
Piazzale della Farnesina 1  
Rome, Italy

Tel. No.: 396 6339

UNEP/BUR/36/4

Annex I

page 4

Tlx No.: 43-610429 MEEENG I

Fax No.: 369 13644

Mr. Antonio Tarelli

Consigliere

Direzione Generale Degli Affari

Economici

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

Piazzale della Farnesina 1

Rome, Italy

Tel. No.: 396 6339

Tlx No.: 43-610429 MEEENG I

Fax No.: 369 13644

Ms Patrizia Marchitelli

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

Piazzale della Farnesina 1

Rome, Italy

Tel. No.: 396 6339

Tlx No.: 43-610429 MEEENG I

Fax No.: 369 13644

UNEP/BUR/36/4

Annex I

page 5

Ms Monica Avvisati  
Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
Piazzale della Farnesina 1  
Rome, Italy

Tel. No.: 396 6339  
Tlx No.: 43-610429 MEEENG I  
Fax No.: 369 13644

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY  
COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE  
EUROPEENNE

nucléaire

Mr. Jacques Vaccarezza  
Administrateur Principal  
Direction Générale de l'Environnement,  
Protection Civile et de la Sécurité

Commission des Communautés Européennes  
200, rue de la Loi  
1049 Bruxelles, Belgique

Tel. No.: (32) 2 235 51 08  
Tlx No.: 46-21877 COMEU B  
Fax No.: (32) 2 236 06 26

Co-ordinating Unit for  
the Mediterranean Action  
Plan

Mr. Aldo Manos  
Co-ordinator

Mr. Ibrahim Dharat  
Programme Officer

UNEP/BUR/36/4

Annex I

page 6

P.O. Box 18019  
48, Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue  
116 10 Athens, Greece

Tel. No.: 7244536  
Tlx No.: 22-2611 MEDU GR  
Fax No.: 7291160