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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

Paphos, Cyprus, 16-17 July 1991

**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**

Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting was called to order by H.E. Mr. I. Butini, Vice-President of the Bureau, who was chairing in the absence of H.E. Mr. A. Ebeid, President of the Bureau. Mr. A. Abdel Latif, representing Mr. A. Ebeid, Mr. J. Vaccarezza, representing Mr. V. Mandl, Vice-President of the Bureau (EEC), Mr. A. Demetropoulos, Rapporteur (Cyprus) were present. Two members of the Bureau were accompanied by advisers. Mr. L. Jeftic, Officer-in-charge of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), represented the Secretariat. Mr. I. Dharat, Programme Officer of MAP, acted as Secretary of the meeting. The list of participants is contained in Annex I to this report.

2. In his opening statement, the President welcomed the members of the Bureau. The representative of Egypt conveyed to the meeting the best regards of Dr. A. Ebeid and his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. The representative of the EEC conveyed to the meeting the apologies of Mr. V. Mandl, Vice-President for not being able to attend the meeting and also his wishes for the success of the meeting.

Agenda Item 1 - Adoption of the Agenda

3. The meeting adopted the provisional agenda suggested by the Secretariat and contained in document UNEP/BUR/39/1.

Agenda Item 2 - Progress report by the Co-ordinator on the implementation of the 1990-1991 approved programme and budget

4. Mr. L. Jeftic, Officer-in-Charge of MAP introduced the progress report contained in document UNEP/BUR/34/3 on the activities carried out since the last meeting of the Bureau (Brussels, 9-10 April 1991).

He provided additional information on recent developments.

5. The Officer-in-Charge informed the meeting that preparation for the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Cairo, 8-11 October 1991) is in progress.

6. As regards co-operation with Black Sea countries, he pointed out that a response to the Secretariat's proposal to invite the Black Sea countries to the Cairo meeting has been received from only three Contracting Parties (EEC, Morocco and Monaco). The Secretariat, with the approval of the Bureau, will proceed in inviting the Black Sea countries to attend the Cairo meeting as observers.

7. He welcomed the recent news in regard to the signing of the Adriatic Declaration by Albania, Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia and the EEC.

8. As regards the Mediterranean report to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, he informed the meeting that the report was transmitted to UNCED Secretariat in June 1991.

9. He briefed the meeting about the consultations with the representatives of the World Bank which discussed the progress in the implementation of the joint programme on future co-operative projects with the World Bank and the European Investment Bank.

10. Mr. Jeftic described the critical financial situation of MAP due to the late payment of contributions. He pointed out that no single Contracting Party, except Albania, has paid its 1991 contribution. He urged all Contracting Parties to speed up the payments of their 1991 contributions as well as outstanding arrears.

11. Finally, he referred to paragraph 78 of the progress report in relation to waiving Lebanon from paying its outstanding arrears due to its special political and economic circumstances. He suggested that the Bureau could recommend to the Cairo meeting a suggestion to that effect.

12. During the ensuing general discussion, the members of the Bureau expressed their views on many of the issues raised in the progress report and by the Officer-in-Charge of MAP.

13. As regards the "Adriatic Initiative", the representative of Italy informed the meeting that on 13 July 1991, at Ancona, Italy, the Foreign Ministers of Albania, Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia and the Member of the Commission of the European Communities signed the "Adriatic Sea Declaration", which establishes a scheme of environmental co-operation at the sub-regional level. The Bureau and the Secretariat welcomed this positive development, took note of the Declaration and decided to attach it as Annex II to its report.

14. As regards the Venice Centre, mentioned in paragraph 14 of the Progress Report (UNEP/BUR/39/3), the representative of Italy pointed out that the legal procedures of establishment of the Centre are in progress. He informed the meeting that a similar initiative is being considered to establish a scientific research centre in co-operation with UNESCO and UNIDO.

15. The Italian representative announced the establishment at Palermo of a "Remote Sensing Centre for the Mediterranean" connected with a network of other operative centres in Italy, proposing to consider further co-operation with the MAP as well as with the Contracting Parties. In this connection, the representative of Egypt briefed the meeting on the "Egyptian Centre for Remote Sensing" and he proposed establishing close co-operation between the Italian and the Egyptian Centres in implementing regional projects in this regard.

16. The Bureau decided that the issue of remote sensing be considered under a sub-item entitled "Remote Sensing and other new techniques relevant to monitoring" under the Monitoring chapter of the agenda of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

17. The representative of the EEC underlined the difficulties which the Contracting Parties will face in the October meeting when examining the text on transboundary movement of hazardous wastes in the Mediterranean, and requested the Secretariat's view on a future programme for this issue. The Secretariat informed the meeting that a Secretariat paper will be presented to the Cairo meeting on this issue, to be prepared in co-operation with the Non-Governmental Organization Greenpeace, as requested by the joint meeting of the two standing committees. The Secretariat envisages that the Cairo meeting will request the convening of a meeting of experts in 1992 to review this paper which will be based on existing international conventions on the subject, in particular, the Basel Convention.

18. As regards the outstanding contributions of Lebanon the Bureau unanimously decided to recommend to the October meeting of the Contracting Parties to waive Lebanon from paying its outstanding arrears up to the end of 1990.

19. The representative of Cyprus proposed that a formula should be found to assure the speedy payment of contributions to M.T.F.

20. The representative of the EEC stressed the need that UNEP should send, at the beginning of each calendar year, a letter to all Contracting Parties indicating their financial obligations, and pointed out the need to shorten the period of transfer of funds within U.N. system.

21. The Officer-in-charge of MAP confirmed that reminder letters will be sent from UNEP Headquarters on January/February of each year with the precise financial obligations of each Contracting Party.

22. The Bureau requested the Secretariat, in sending the report of this meeting to the Contracting Parties, to urge them to fulfill their financial commitments before the Cairo meeting of the Contracting Parties.

23. The Bureau took note of the decision of the 16th Session of the Governing Council of UNEP to extend the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) through 31 December 1993.

24. At the end of the discussion of this agenda item the Bureau took note of the progress report contained in document UNEP/BUR/39/3 and of the supplementary oral comments provided by the Officer-in-Charge of MAP.

Agenda Item 3 - Recommendations and programme budget for 1992-1993
biennium

25. The Officer-in-charge introduced document UNEP/BUR/39/4 and UNEP/BUR/39/4/Add.1 concerning the report of the financial experts on the impact of inflation rates and exchange rate fluctuations on MAP budget. He explained the methodology used in the preparation of the document by the experts and the main recommendations of the exercise.

26. After an in-depth discussion on the basis of documents "Report of the financial experts on the impact of inflation rates and exchange rate fluctuations on MAP budget" (UNEP/BUR/39/4) and the "Report of the meeting of experts on the impact of inflation rates and exchange rate fluctuations on MAP budget" (UNEP/BUR/39/4/Add.1), as well as the relevant paragraphs of the Report of the Joint Meeting of the two standing Committees (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.25/5), the Bureau considers it appropriate to suggest that the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties establishes in due time an Ad-Hoc working group with a view to reporting to the Plenary on this subject.

Accordingly and in view of financial implications, the Bureau considered that it is not necessary to have a meeting of financial experts (UNEP/BUR/38/5, paragraph 31), nor a Committee of the Whole during the Seventh Ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Agenda Item 4 - Provisional agenda of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties

27. The Officer-in-charge of MAP, Mr. L. Jetic, introduced the provisional agenda of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in Cairo, Egypt from 8 to 11 October 1991, contained in document UNEP/BUR/39/5. After minor amendments, the Bureau approved the proposed provisional agenda as contained in Annex III to this report.

Agenda Item 5 - Other business

28. Mr. L. Jetic informed the meeting that the Secretariat has received two communications from Libya and Syria in relation to the vacancy post of the Co-ordinator of MAP. The Libyan communication is in support of the post to be filled in by a national from the countries of the South, while the Syrian communication is in support of the candidacy of Dr. El Mohamady Eid from Egypt. Both communications were transmitted promptly to the Office of Dr. M. Tolba. The Bureau took note of this information.

29. The representative of Italy informed the meeting that his country intends to host the next Mediterranean Conference on Water in Rome during May 1992 and proposed to put it under the auspices of MAP. The first Conference was held in Algeria in 1990. Since the subject is of interest to all Mediterranean countries, the Bureau welcomed this initiative.

Agenda Item 6 - Adoption of the report of the meeting

30. The participants adopted the report of the meeting on Wednesday 17 July 1991.

Annex I

List of Participants

Liste des Participants

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THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION
PLAN

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Annex II

ADRIATIC SEA DECLARATION

The High Political Representatives
of the
Republic of Albania
Hellenic Republic
Republic of Italy
Federative Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia
and the Representative of the Commission of
the European Communities

Recalling the principles of the UN Charter on peaceful and co-operative relations among Nations and recognizing the importance of the UNGA Resolution 44/228 on Environment and Development;

Bearing in mind the valuable work of the UN Economic Commission for Europe in the field of environmental protection and the principles adopted on May 16, 1990 in the Bergen Ministerial Declaration on sustainable development in the ECE region, in preparation of the UNCED 1992;

Stressing the important role of UNEP and its Regional Seas Programme;

Reaffirming the principles of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols as well as the commitments undertaken in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan;

Welcoming the recommendations adopted at the 6th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the above-said Barcelona Convention to promote sub-regional cooperation for the environmental protection of the Adriatic Sea and of its coasts.

Recalling also the role of CSCE for environmental co-operation in Europe and in particular the conclusions of the Conference on the Mediterranean held at Palma de Mallorca from 24 September to 19 October 1990;

Welcoming the adoption in Nicosia on 28 April 1990 of the Charter on the Euro-Mediterranean co-operation concerning the environment in the Mediterranean basin by the Environment Ministers of the riparian States and by the Commissioner for the Environment of the European Communities;

Mindful of the provisions concerning the environment in the Declaration of Intent on the "Adriatic Initiative", issued at Umag on September 17, 1989, which established a cooperative scheme for the environmental protection of the Adriatic Sea, open to all the Adriatic coastal States;

Concerned about the persistent threats to the ecological balance of the Adriatic Sea;

Aware of their responsibilities for the environmental sound management of the respective coasts and territorial waters and for the environmental sustainable development in the region;

Prompted by their interest for the environmental protection of the sea and for the sustainable development in the Adriatic region, which is conducive to a new climate of understanding between all States of the region;

Resolved to promote co-operation both at bilateral and multilateral level in view to protect the Adriatic environment against pollution and to enhance sustainable development in the region;

Stressing the need to apply the precautionary principle to protect the environment of the Adriatic Sea and to avoid potentially damaging impacts from all sources of pollution and especially from vessels, taking into consideration the I.M.O. regulations on the matter;

Welcoming the supportive role played by the MAP Co-ordinating Unit as well as the financial support which may be expected - where appropriate - from bilateral agreements, the programmes of the EC and the facilities offered by all relevant International Financial Institutions, in particular
the World Bank
the European Investment Bank
and the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development;

HEREBY DECLARE THEIR FIRM DETERMINATION TO:

1. Co-operate to the environmental protection of the Adriatic Sea and to the preservation of its ecological balance;
2. Prepare joint comprehensive regional programmes for the reduction of pollution in order to preserve and restore a sound ecological balance in the Adriatic marine environment;
3. Design and implement National Plans containing relevant decisions, regulations and programmes for the prevention and the reduction of pollution (especially inputs from agriculture, industry and urban settlements) in order to protect marine eco-system and to assure sustainable utilization of natural resources;
4. Promote scientific co-operation and research for the development and use of cleaner technologies by appropriate supportive measures, including the transfer of knowledge and technology regarding the environment, through multilateral and bilateral agreements and commercial mechanisms;

5. Apply the precautionary principle, i. e. take effective action to avoid potentially damaging impacts of hazardous substances and toxic wastes when there is reason to assume that certain damage or harmful effects on the marine eco-systems, in particular in ecologically sensitive areas, are likely to be caused by such substances;
6. Extend and strengthen programmes of monitoring and exchange of information, in order to improve the assessment of the present and future state of the Adriatic marine environment and to encourage the co-operation between relevant national and international Agencies;
7. Develop comprehensive programmes in nature conservation, inter alia, through the establishment of protected areas representing the various Adriatic eco-systems and their flora and fauna;
8. Encourage the development of environmental co-operation at local and regional level including the participation of institutions, industries, enterprises and other relevant non-governmental organizations;
9. Explore the possibilities of enlarging the co-operation of the Participating Parties in other fields of common interest, considering also the existing and ongoing regional experiences in the matter;
10. Meet at regular intervals, at an appropriate level, to assess the progress made in the implementation of all agreed measures to protect the environment of the Adriatic Sea and to decide on further concerted action.

for the Republic of Albania

for the Hellenic Republic

for the Republic of Italy

for the Federative Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia

for the Commission of the European Communities

Ancona, July 13, 1991

Annex III

Provisional Agenda of the Seventh Ordinary
Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention
for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution
and its related protocols

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Rules of procedure
3. Election of officers
4. Adoption of the Agenda and organization of work
5. Credentials of representatives
6. Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan in 1990-1991
7. *Proposed decisions with respective budgetary allocation for the 1992-1993 biennium for adoption and the contribution of the Contracting Parties to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) for the 1992-1993 biennium:*
 - A. Implementation of the Barcelona Convention
 - 7.1. Programme approval through decision-making meetings
 - 7.2. Programme co-ordination
 - 7.3. Legal component
 - 7.4. Monitoring of marine pollution in the Mediterranean
 - 7.5. Information
 - B. Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Dumping Protocol
 - 7.6. Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Dumping Protocol
 - C. Implementation of the Protocol on Emergencies
 - 7.7. Prevention and combating pollution from ships
 - (a) Protocol on Emergencies
 - (b) Port reception facilities
 - D. Implementation of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Historic Sites
 - 7.8. Protection of the common Mediterranean heritage
 - (a) Specially Protected Areas
 - (b) Preservation of Historic Sites

E. Environmentally Sound Management of the Mediterranean Coastal Zones

7.9. Environmentally sound management of the Mediterranean coastal zones

- (a) Prospective analysis of the relationship between Environment and Development (Blue Plan)
- (b) Coastal planning and management (Priority Actions Programme)
- (c) Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP)

- 8. Date and place of the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties
- 9. Other business
- 10. Adoption of the report
- 11. Closure of the meeting