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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

Paris, 30-31 January 1995

NON-PAPER ON A MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAMME OF ACTION



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



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PHASE II

Draft programme of activities (1995-2005)

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The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), approved in the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection of the Mediterranean held by the Executive Director of the UNEP between the 28th of January and the 4th of February of 1976, has been the first important step towards the integrated planning of the development and management of the resources of the Mediterranean Basin.

It is recognised that the Barcelona Convention with its related protocols is the appropriate legal framework for the protection of the Mediterranean.

The approval of this programme of activities is proposed for 1995-2005 and will be coordinated by the Coordinating Unit. It has been drawn up sorting the activities into two groups:

- I. **Activities towards the sustainable development of the Mediterranean Basin and which are part of the MAP; and**
- II. **Activities which are derived directly from the application of the Convention of Barcelona and its protocols.**

I. ACTIVITIES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BASIN

The activities selected are grouped into 9 subjects: water, wastes, coastal areas, agriculture, industry and energy, transport, tourism, participation and information. All of these come from the "Agenda MED 21" and will be under the supervision of the Commission of MAP for Sustainable Development.

The following activities are proposed for each subject.

1. Integrated Water Management

Water is the basic element for life and development, and is moreover in Mediterranean countries a scarce and badly distributed resource. Its integrated management is therefore essential in order to move towards sustainable development.

- 1.1 The creation of a **Working Group on the Integrated Management of Water** is proposed for December 1996.

The group will have the following mandate:

- (a) promote the preparation of national legislation on the integrated management of water;
- (b) assess the surface and subterranean water resources;
- (c) assess current demand and for the next 20 years;
- (d) propose measures and techniques for the sustainable use of water in its different functions - agricultural, urban and industrial; and
- (e) promote the setting-up of qualitative and quantitative monitoring systems for water resources.

- 1.2 Establish treatment plants for "residual" waters in municipalities of more than 50,000 inhabitants.

2. Waste Management

- 2.1 Draw up and approve national plans for the environmental management of urban waste (December 1998).
- 2.2 Set up controlled disposal or treatment plants in coastal cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants (December 1999).
- 2.3 Define a Mediterranean strategy on the management of toxic and hazardous waste.
- 2.4 Draw up and approve national plans for reducing the production of hazardous waste.
- 2.5 Draw up and approve national plans for environmental management of hazardous waste.
- 2.6 Set up at least one safe deposit and one treatment plant for hazardous waste in every Mediterranean country (December 1999).
- 2.7 Invite all parties to ratify the Basel Convention.
- 2.8 Prohibit the exportation of hazardous wastes and other wastes, including radioactive waste, to developing countries.
- 2.9 Ratify the protocol on transboundary movements of hazardous wastes.
- 2.10 Draw up a methodological guide for an ecologically rational management of urban waste.
- 2.11 Draw up a methodological guide for an ecologically rational management of hazardous waste.

3. Integrated Management of Coastal Areas

- 3.1 Increase participation in the programme for Coastal Areas Management, inviting those responsible at national, regional and local levels to take part in and, if they wish, to coordinate the pertinent bodies and bilateral and multilateral programmes to support the programme.
- 3.2 Continue projects on integrated management in coastal areas in pilot zones, defined by the Contracting Parties, one zone in each country (December 1999).
- 3.3 Prepare a geographical database of the coastal zone (December 2005).

4. Agriculture

- 4.1 Collaborate with and support the programmes and activities of the FAO on sustainable agriculture and rural development.
- 4.2 Take part in and support the International Action Programme of the FAO on Water and Sustainable Agricultural Development, creating a regional or sub-regional Mediterranean strategy.
- 4.3 Support and participate in the FAO programme on the sustainable use of fertilizers and pesticides, giving information and applying the codes of practice on fertilizers and pesticides and promoting integrated management practices on plagues (FAO/IPM).
- 4.4 Adopt and cooperate in the application of the new Convention on Desertification and its regional annexes for Africa and for the Northern Mediterranean.
- 4.5 Adopt the procedure of evaluating the environmental impact for the irrigation of a surface area of more than 10,000 hectares.
- 4.6 **Creation of a Working Group on the Sustainable Development of Agriculture**, with the following mandate and calendar:
 - (a) organise, in collaboration with the FAO and the EC, a seminar on each one of the proposed measures: 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 (December 1997);
 - (b) assess the water resources used in agriculture (December 1996);
 - (c) assess the quantities and types of pesticides used in Mediterranean countries (December 1996). Identify sensitive areas (December 1998);
 - (d) assess the quantities and types of fertilizers used in Mediterranean countries (December 1996). Identify sensitive areas (December 1998);
 - (e) define and adopt the best environmental practices (BEP) in the use of pesticides, with a view to reducing and eliminating toxic, persistent and bio-accumulable substances (especially organohalogen substances) (December 1998); and
 - (f) define and adopt the BEPs in the use of fertilizers in order to reduce and eliminate soil and aquiferous soil pollution in sensitive coastal areas (December 1998).
- 4.7 Develop, in an area chosen by each country and in collaboration with the appropriate national and international institutions, pilot projects on sustainable agricultural development (December 2005).

5. Industry and Energy

- 5.1 Promote the knowledge and use of the best available techniques and/or best environmental practices in order to:
 - (a) improve the use of resources - water, soil and energy;
 - (b) reduce emissions of contaminants into the atmosphere or water; and
 - (c) minimize the generation of waste.
- 5.2 Adopt EIA procedure for the new industries which could seriously affect the environment (December 1997).
- 5.3 Prepare a report on the best available techniques and the best environmental practices, indicating their availability, cost and results in the following five industrial sectors:
 - (a) production of energy from fossil fuels (December 1996);
 - (b) paper pulp and the paper industry (December 1996);
 - (c) leather-curing (December 1997);
 - (d) surface treatment of metals (December 1997); and
 - (e) agricultural food industry - wine, beer, fruit juice, extraction of vegetable oils. vegetable preserves (December 1998).
- 5.4 Facilitate the development, adaption, distribution, access and use of the best available techniques including clean technology, in the chosen sectors, in collaboration with the appropriate national and international organisations (December 1999).
- 5.5 Set up treatment plants for industrial waste water, with a load equivalent to a population of ten million people (December 1999).

6. Transport

- 6.1 Invite the Contracting Parties, who have not yet done so, to ratify the MARPOL Convention.
- 6.2 Adopt EIA procedure for the authorisation for new transport infrastructures, sea, land or air (December 1997).
- 6.3 Fit the main Mediterranean ports with the appropriate installations for the application of the MARPOL Convention (December 1999).
- 6.4 Set up and increase help and observance systems for navigation.

7. Tourism

- 7.1 Prepare a long-term strategy for the sustainable development of tourism in the Mediterranean Basin (December 1998).
- 7.2 Carry out an inventory of tourism resources of each country and implement a methodology to assess the tourism capacity of each area.
- 7.3 Estimate the evolution of the demand in tourism.
- 7.4 Adopt EIA procedure for the authorisation for new touristic infrastructures.
- 7.5 Carry out studies on the environmental impact of already existing tourist facilities.
- 7.6 Prepare and adopt the *Charter on Mediterranean Tourism* (December 1997).

8. Participation

The Contracting Parties invite the Coordinating Unit to:

- (a) increase the cooperation or request the support, according to procedure, of the bodies and programmes of the United Nations, of the European Union, of the Multilateral Financial Institutions and of other donor organisations;
- (b) take into account the follow-up procedure (EC, MAP, multilateral financial institutions and other donor organisations) constituted within the scope of the "Declaration sur la coopération euroméditerranéenne pour l'environnement dans le bassin méditerranéen", approved in Cairo in 1992; and
- (c) continue and reinforce participation and cooperation with non-governmental organisations, particularly in the field of public awareness, information on the environment and sustainable development.

9. Information

- 9.1 Increase communication of information on the environment and the Plan of Action for the Mediterranean with governments and national and international institutions and promote greater public awareness on these questions.
- 9.2 Promote Mediterranean campaigns of information and promotion of awareness based on simultaneous national activities, for example "Mediterranean Week".

II. ACTIVITIES WHICH COME DIRECTLY FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION OF BARCELONA AND ITS PROTOCOLS

1. Frame Convention

- 1.1 Ratify as soon as possible the amendments to the Convention approved in the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of Barcelona in 1995.
- 1.2 Provide the Secretariat with a report on the measures adopted in the application of the Convention and of the protocols which are parties, before the meeting of 1997.
- 1.3 Request the Executive Director of UNEP to call a Conference of Plenipotentiaries in 1996 to approve the legal texts which remain pending, if such is the case.

2. Dumping Protocol

- 2.1 Ratify as soon as possible the amendments to the protocol, approved in the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Barcelona in 1995.
- 2.2 Provide the Secretariat with reports on the permits, the quantities and qualities of dredged material dumped into the sea and of other authorised substances (December 1996).
- 2.3 Request the Secretariat to prepare guidelines on the dumping of dredged material (December 1997).

3. Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Cases of Emergency

- 3.1 Approve the code of practice on the use of dispersants.

4. Land-Based Sources Protocol

- 4.1 Ratify the amendments to the protocol approved in the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of Barcelona in 1995.
- 4.2 Apply the 13 specific measures adopted and notify the Secretariat.
- 4.3 Reduce and gradually eliminate between now and the year 2005, the discharges in marine environment of toxic, persistent and bio-accumulable substances, listed in the protocol, in particular organohalogen compounds which have those characteristics, giving priority to widespread and industrial sources.
- 4.4 Assess the most important sources of sea contamination.
- 4.5 Adopt a common methodology for estimating contributions through the atmosphere.

5. Specially Protected Areas Protocol

- 5.1 Ratify the new protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Species approved in the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of Barcelona 1995.
- 5.2 Prepare a geographical database of protected areas.
- 5.3 Draw up and approve management plans for important protected Mediterranean areas.
- 5.4 Apply the action plans on monk seals, marine turtles and marine mammals.
- 5.5 Prepare and approve Mediterranean strategy for the conservation of biodiversity.
- 5.6 Prepare national strategies for the conservation of biodiversity.

6. Offshore Activities Protocol

- 6.1 Ratify the new protocol on Offshore Activities approved in the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Madrid 1994.
- 6.2 Report to the Secretariat on the permits given for exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons.

7. MED POL Programme

- 7.1 Participate actively in the third phase of the Pollution Monitoring Programme in order to be able to set up a homogeneous system for the quality of the environment and assess the contribution of contaminants in the sea.
- 7.2 Evaluate the direct contributions of contaminants to the sea.
- 7.3 Define and adopt a strategy and a methodology to evaluate and estimate contributions through rivers and the atmosphere.
- 7.4 Request that the Secretariat prepares an assessment of the state of the marine environment for the 10th Meeting of the Contracting Parties.