



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



UNEP/BUR/53/5
13 January 1999

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
Protocols

● Athina, 16-17 November 1998

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 PROTOCOLS**

The sentence in paragraph 14 starting with:

“.....which extends from the Libyan Coast to 35.5° North”.

should read as follows:

“.....which extends from the Libyan Coast to 32.5° North”.

Introduction

1. The Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols was held in Tripoli (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), at El-Mahary Hotel, on 16 November 1998.

Participation

2. The Meeting was presided by H.E. Mr. Mohamed Mehdi Mlika, Minister for the Environment and Land Planning (Tunisia). Also present were H.E. Mr. Mubarek Elshamekh, Secretary of Housing and Utilities, (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), H.E. Mr. Theodoros Koliopoulos, Deputy Minister for the Environment (Greece), H.E. Mr. Bernard Fautrier, Minister Plenipotentiary responsible for international cooperation and for the environment and development (Monaco), Ms. Margita Mastrovic, Senior Advisor, State Directorate for the Protection of Nature and the Environment, Office for the Adriatic (Croatia), and Ms Kumru Adanali, Acting Head Foreign Relations Department, Ministry of Environment (Turkey).

3. Mr. Lucien Chabason, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and Mr. Ibrahim Dharat, Senior Programme Officer at the Mediterranean Action Plan represented the Secretariat.

4. The opening ceremony was attended by the Mediterranean Ambassadors accredited to Libya as well as the representatives of UN organizations in Tripoli. The ceremony was also attended by the Ambassador of Burkina Faso, current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and the Ambassador of Austria, current President of the European Union

5. The full list of participants is contained in **Annex I** to this report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

6. H.E. Mr. M. Mlika, President of the Bureau, welcomed all participants. He expressed particular thanks to the Great Jamahiriya for the warm hospitality extended to the Bureau Members and the Secretariat. He also thanked the members of the Bureau and especially the Ministers, who despite their heavy schedules were able to attend this Meeting, thus showing their interest in protecting the Mediterranean and maintaining it as a forum for peace and sustainable development. He also thanked the Coordinating Unit for the preparation of this Meeting.

7. He further referred to the Fourth Meeting of the MCSD and to the important work on sustainable development priorities of the region, as well as to the future implementation of the Commission's recommendations. He expressed his wish that the Bureau should discuss this issue as well as the proposal to elaborate the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) each time that a theme is finalised at the level of the MCSD (for example: water demand management - coastal zone management, etc). He mentioned that these projects should form an integral part of MAP in order to facilitate funding. Referring to GEF, he informed the Bureau that further support has been requested from the Contracting Parties. As for SAP, he mentioned the support for its

funding and the need for financial support for the preparation of the SAP on biological diversity.

8. The President then referred to the ratification of MAP legal instruments by Monaco and Tunisia and invited all Contracting Parties to speed up the ratification procedure.

9. He finally congratulated the Coordinating Unit for its efforts to seek additional funding and urged those Contracting Parties which have not yet paid their contributions to the MTF to do so, adding that however small these contributions may be, they nonetheless show our commitment to ensuring sustainable development in our region. He also stressed that MAP in its restructured form, which is oriented towards sustainable development, constitutes an important basis for all countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region which are an example of how the Rio "Agenda 21" can be implemented. He concluded by noting that it was important to strengthen and consolidate what has already been achieved, for the benefit of future generations.

10. In his statement, H. E. Mr. Mubarek Elshamekh, Secretary of Housing and Utilities of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, welcomed all participants and expressed his country's pleasure at hosting the Meeting of the Bureau. He conveyed a warm message of welcome to participants from the Libyan leader, who expressed the hope that the meeting would be a success so that for the Mediterranean Sea may become both peaceful and secure.

11. He also expressed his deep appreciation and thanks to the President of the Bureau, H.E. Mr. M. Mlika, for his ongoing work to promote MAP at international fora on behalf of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

12. H.E. Mr. Elshamekh extended his thanks to the MAP Secretariat and pointed out that the Jamahiriya closely followed all MAP activities and programmes with great interest, and will continue to make use of these programmes. In particular, he thanked MAP, its regional Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) in Tunis and the relevant non-governmental organisations for their survey of the Libyan coast aimed at evaluating the marine turtle population. In this context, he hoped that the recommendations contained in the report of the survey would be taken into account with a view to assisting Libya in putting these recommendations into effect.

13. With regard to MAP collaboration with international financial programmes, he advocated that Libya should be considered within the cooperation programmes of MAP, GEF and METAP. He informed the Meeting that his country is making every effort to ratify the amendments to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols and to adhere to the new protocols recently signed. Regarding contributions to the MTF, he stated that his country has always fulfilled its obligations.

14. He expressed his hope for cooperation with the members of the Bureau in establishing a protected area within his country's territorial waters, in the Gulf of Serte, which extends from the Libyan coast to 35.5° North. He went on to say that the existence of military fleets in the Mediterranean basin does not only represent an environmental danger, but also threatens its peace and security.

15. Finally, he informed the Meeting that the Libyan people are being exposed to unjust arbitrary measures, especially concerning external credits, which makes it difficult to purchase the equipment required to rectify the deterioration of the environment and public health. The imposition of such measures is no longer justified, especially when the whole world, with the exception of very few countries, has supported Libya.

16. In his welcoming statement, Mr. L. Chabason, MAP Coordinator, thanked the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for hosting the Bureau Meeting and for the excellent preparation and the generous hospitality extended to all participants. He acknowledged with thanks the recent payments by Libya of a good sum of its unpaid contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund.

17. The Coordinator also expressed his thanks to the President of the Bureau for his efforts in favour of MAP and the Mediterranean.

18. He welcomed the presence of the Mediterranean Ambassadors and other guests.

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

19. The Meeting adopted the following agenda on the basis of the Provisional Agenda contained in document UNEP/BUR/53/1:

- *Opening of the Meeting*
- *Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and organisation of work*
- *Progress report by the Coordinator on activities carried out since the last meeting of the Bureau, including draft recommendations on specific activities (March - November 1998)*
- *MAP Information Strategy*
- *MAP cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations*
- *Date and place of the next meeting of the Bureau*
- *Any other business*
- *Adoption of the report of the meeting*
- *Closure of the meeting*

20. The Meeting also agreed on its organisation of work as contained in document UNEP/BUR/53/2.

Agenda item 3: Progress report by the Coordinator on activities carried out since the last meeting of the Bureau, including draft recommendations on specific activities (March - November 1998)

21. Mr. L. Chabason introduced his progress report contained in document UNEP/BUR/53/3, which covers the period from March until November 1998. He went through the report section by section, stressing in particular the following main developments and the specific recommendations which require action by the Bureau:

Programme Coordination

22. The Coordinator referred to MAP's further strengthened relations with the EU, METAP and GEF. He referred to the EU voluntary part of the contribution to the MTF which will be allocated to specific projects, as well as to the funds to be secured through the EU/EURO-Mediterranean Partnership Programme (MEDA). With regard to MAP/GEF cooperation, he pointed out that the approved project including the operational aspects of activities, was discussed during the consultation meeting held in September 1998 in Athens, with representatives from the World Bank, METAP, GEF/UNEP and the French GEF (Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial - FFEM). He also referred to the contribution from the secretariat of the French GEF of about one million dollars.

23. Concerning the project component which aims at formulating a Strategic Action Programme for Biodiversity (BIO/SAP), he pointed out that a consultation meeting was held in Rome in July 1998 between MAP, SPA/RAC and FAO to discuss the operational aspects of the project. It was agreed to establish an *Ad-hoc* Technical Advisory Group composed of relevant IGOs and NGOs (WWF, IUCN, FAO, SPA/RAC and MAP) to follow up the project and advise on regional priorities. The overall coordination of this component would be the responsibility of SPA/RAC and the budget for the activities from the overall GEF project budget would be US \$ 600,000. Finally, the Coordinator informed the Bureau that a three-year post for project manager is expected to be advertised soon.

24. With regard to cooperation with RAMOGE, he referred to his participation in the recent RAMOGE Conference held in Lisbon, Portugal, on 3 September 1998, during which various aspects of collaboration between MAP and RAMOGE were also discussed.

25. As for MAP/METAP collaboration, he pointed out that METAP's involvement in the implementation of the MAP/GEF project on the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to address pollution from Land-based Activities, shall be based on the criteria approved by the last meeting of the Bureau, namely, that METAP should participate as a donor partner. The Coordinator stressed that MAP will use METAP technical and financial assistance without resorting to the recruitment of additional experts.

26. In this connection, the President of the Bureau pointed out that he has been involved in the work of METAP since its inception several years ago. There were big and important projects under this exercise which necessitate the establishment of correct and equitable rules in order to clearly identify and implement these projects in a good manner. He stressed that within the METAP programme, we should have more pilot projects for implementation in the countries rather than having more studies.

27. With regard to MAP's official relations with its Regional Activity Centres (RACs), the Coordinator pointed out that draft host Government Agreements have been prepared by the Secretariat to be sent soon to the three countries hosting a) the Blue Plan/Regional Activity Centre (France), b) the Environment Remote Sensing/Regional Activity Centre (Italy) and the Clean Production/Regional Activity Centre (Spain). The Agreements are intended to specify the responsibilities of both MAP and the countries concerned towards the administrative, financial and operational aspects of these Centres.

28. Finally, the Coordinator referred to the specific recommendations cited in the progress report under the Coordination component on projects proposed and financed by the donors which also require MAP counterpart fund sharing, and for which MAP has no previous mandate nor a budgetary programme.

29. During the ensuing discussion, H.E. Mr. B. Fautrier of Monaco thanked the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for hosting the Meeting and for its hospitality, and echoed the statement made by the Secretary for Housing and Utilities of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on creating a peaceful and secure Mediterranean Sea. Concerning MAP/RAMOGÉ cooperation, he informed the Meeting that the headquarters of the RAMOGÉ Secretariat are in Monaco, which also hosted the last meeting of the Contracting Parties to RAMOGÉ Agreement. He informed the meeting that RAMOGÉ is a sub-regional organisation composed of Monaco, France and Italy. The main objectives of the organisation were to coordinate the various activities of the Parties in combatting marine pollution and in protecting the environment and marine biodiversity in a practical and flexible manner. With regard to the establishment of protected areas, he noted that the legal aspect of the issue has to be dealt with carefully. He gave his support to the proposed recommendation concerning the procedure to be followed for projects involving outside financing.

30. H.E. Mr. Theodoros Koliopanos, the Vice-President from Greece, while thanking the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for hosting this important Meeting, pointed out that his country supported the Libyan candidature to the Bureau during the last meeting of the Contracting Parties. He pointed out that MAP has always been a forum of peaceful cooperation for all Contracting Parties on an equal footing, for the benefit of our common heritage, the Mediterranean Sea. Greece, as the host country of the MAP Coordinating Unit, attaches great importance to the success of such peaceful cooperation and assured the Meeting that it would continue to work towards this goal. In the meantime, he expressed his appreciation for the work done by the Secretariat, and reaffirmed his country's full support for its task. He also congratulated the President of the Bureau on his recent election as President of the Steering Committee of the MCSD and wished him a fruitful and successful mandate. Finally, he agreed with

the Secretariat proposal concerning the procedure to be followed for projects proposed and financed by other donors.

31. The Vice-President for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya pointed out that while he has no difficulty in approving the proposal, he would like the Secretariat to inform him who the donors referred to in the proposed recommendation actually are. In response to the request, the Coordinator informed the meeting that GEF and the EU are the expected donors.

32. Ms. Kumru Adanali, the representative of Turkey, informed the Bureau that unfortunately, due to the budget debate in the Turkish Grand National Assembly, Minister Imren Aykut, the Vice President of the Bureau, could not participate in the present Meeting. She seized this opportunity to thank the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to all participants. She also expressed her sincere thanks to the Secretariat. She stated that we are all aware of the fact that the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Action Plan have always played a vital role in strengthening cooperation among the Mediterranean countries. The new dimension of the Barcelona system provides us with the necessary tools and mechanisms for sustainable development and represents a major, in fact the most comprehensive, regional effort to address the basic problems of the Mediterranean. The Bureau also has a catalytic role and responsibilities in the process of fulfilling these objectives. In this respect she reiterated Turkey's full commitment to the goals of the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Action Plan, together with the other instruments that were adopted towards sustainable development. With regard to the proposed recommendation concerning the procedure for projects proposed and financed by other donors, she expressed her support for the Secretariat proposal.

33. After some discussion on the contents of the proposed recommendation, the Bureau approved the following procedure:

- a. **In a case involving a project proposed and financed by another donor which also requires MAP counterpart fund sharing and in which MAP has no precise mandate or budgetary programme, the Secretariat should first raise the issue with the Bureau for its decision, which should immediately be sent to all MAP National Focal Points for their opinion within a limited time frame;**
- b. **The Secretariat would be given flexibility in dealing with these cases, in order to attract outside funds;**
- c. **The project in question should be within the overall framework of the MAP programme as approved by the meetings of the Contracting Parties;**
- d. **All Contracting Parties could benefit from the project in question.**

Financial and institutional matters

34. Under this component, the Secretariat distributed the latest "Status of Contributions to the MTF" as at 31 October 1998. In this connection, the Coordinator informed the Meeting that Italy and the EU have paid their 1998 contributions and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has recently paid part of its unpaid contributions.

35. The Secretariat also distributed the User Manual on the Integrated Accounting and Budgeting System (I.A.B.S.) which was designed and implemented within the MAP office, and the official 1996-1997 certified accounts of MAP, for the Bureau's attention.

36. The Coordinator also referred to the various contacts with the Government of Malta in relation to the forthcoming meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in Malta on 27-30 October 1999.

37. The President thanked the countries which have paid their contributions to the MTF and urged all Contracting Parties to speed up the payment of their contributions. He stated that members of the Bureau should set the example for the early payment of their contributions. In this connection, he asked the Secretariat about the status of the unpaid contributions by the former Yugoslavia (\$ 469,976). In response to this enquiry, the Coordinator stated that the issue of the legal succession of the former Yugoslavia has not been solved by the countries concerned (Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Slovenia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia). The existing debt cannot, therefore, be dropped by the Secretariat until the legal issue of succession is solved. He promised that the Secretariat would submit a report on this issue to the next meeting of the Bureau. In this context, the Vice-president from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya agreed with the Secretariat's explanation and pointed out that MAP is not the only organization faced with this situation. He suggested that the Secretariat should therefore find out about the experiences of the other organisations.

38. Ms M. Mastrovic, the representative of Croatia, expressed her thanks to the host country and pointed out that due to internal circumstances, Ms Gordana Valcic, the Vice-President of the Bureau, was not able to attend the present Meeting. She informed the Bureau that her country is in the process of paying the delayed contributions to the MTF.

Personnel

39. The Coordinator informed the Meeting that the job announcement for the Professional MED POL "Programme Officer-P3" has been distributed to all MAP focal points and the classification of the new post of GEF project manager was completed in August 1998.

40. He also informed the Meeting of the appointments of new Directors for REMPEC (Mr. Roberto Patruno) and for SPA/RAC (Mr Mohamed Adel Hentati). He wished them success in their work.

41. During the brief exchange of views on this topic, the President, on behalf of the Meeting, congratulated the two new Directors for their appointments and wished them every success.

Information, participation and training

42. The Coordinator briefed the Meeting on the information issues within the MAP system. He first referred to the document on "MAP Information Strategy" which will be discussed under Agenda item 4. Moreover, he referred to the various activities listed under this component, such as MEDWAVES, the Library, and training activities, and asked the Bureau to consider the draft recommendations contained in his progress report. In the course of the brief exchange of views, the Secretariat distributed an information paper and a diskette concerning the MAP Internet home page.

43. Mr. Fautrier (Monaco), while agreeing with the draft recommendation, pointed out that all national focal points should have access to the MAP home page and asked the Secretariat to make more efforts to help the national focal points to exchange information through this modern system.

44. Mr. Elshamekh (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) supported the position of Monaco and suggested that the MAP Library in Athens should have more contacts with the Mediterranean countries and open branches in them.

45. Mr. Koliopanos (Greece) fully supported the proposed recommendation especially for the countries which have not yet benefited from this exercise.

46. Ms Adanali (Turkey) also supported the recommendation and pointed out that training in the field of information is essential, and that national focal points should have more financial and technical assistance in order to undertake this job.

47. The President of the Bureau noted that the Internet system has become an essential instrument and that all Mediterranean countries should produce their inputs to the system by preparing specific issues, moving away from negative awareness towards a dynamic awareness. He went on to add that we should enable children to have access to environmental information. He cited the advanced experience of Tunisia in this connection and offered it to all Mediterranean countries.

48. At the end of the discussion on the information component, the Meeting approved the following recommendation:

In the framework of the environmental information component, and in underlining the need for training in information access/management/dissemination, it was agreed to organize, within the framework of the next biennial programme and budget (2000-2001) an intensive training programme (information management, Internet, Web page, etc) for nationals of developing Mediterranean countries.

Legal framework

49. The Coordinator drew the attention of the members of the Bureau to the annex to his report on the Status of Signatures and Ratifications of the MAP legal instruments, and pointed out that only two Contracting Parties have ratified these new instruments. In this context he informed the Meeting that letters to that specific end had been sent by the President of the Bureau to all Contracting Parties that have not done so, urging them to speed up the process of ratification. He reminded the participants that we are approaching the end of 1998, and the credibility of MAP is at stake vis-a-vis the legal status of the amended Convention, protocols and the new protocols. Therefore, he urged all Contracting Parties to speed up the ratification process and expressed the hope that by the Malta meeting of the Contracting Parties (October 1999), all these instruments would have entered into force.

50. The Vice-President from Greece noted that progress on the ratification of the amended 1995 Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols in different Contracting Parties is an issue which is crucial to the full implementation and entry into force of the new legal instruments. He informed the Meeting that Greece is working on this, and that the various documents have been officially translated and will soon be sent to the Parliament for ratification. The delay observed until now is due to the fact that it was decided to forward all these documents for ratification as a whole, which meant a major workload.

51. The representative of Croatia informed the Meeting that Croatia has ratified the Barcelona Convention and the Dumping Protocol. The Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity and Offshore Protocol have been officially translated and will soon be sent to the Parliament for ratification.

52. The representative of Turkey reiterated Turkey's full commitment to the goals of the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Action Plan, together with the other instruments adopted for achieving sustainable development. In conformity with the last Bureau decision, urging the Contracting Parties to speed up the process of ratification, the Izmir Protocol on hazardous wastes has been sent to the Parliament and is expected to be ratified within two months.

53. The President of the Bureau urged all Contracting Parties to ratify the new instruments and asked the Members of the Bureau to set an example in this regard.

54. At the end of the discussion, the Bureau approved the following recommendation:

The Bureau urged the Contracting Parties that have not yet done so, to urgently speed up the ratification of the amendments to the Barcelona Convention, its protocols and the new protocols. In the meantime, the Secretariat should continue and intensify its efforts with the Contracting Parties to speed up the ratification process.

Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

55. The Coordinator introduced the subject and briefly summarized the outcome of the last meeting of the Commission recently held in Monaco, on 20-22 October 1998. In this connection, he expressed his thanks to Monaco for hosting the Fourth Meeting of the MCSD. He also extended his thanks to Lebanon, Turkey, Tunisia and Italy for hosting the various meetings of the Thematic Working Groups. He noted that after four meetings of the Commission, the Mediterranean countries and their people were starting to appreciate the work of the Commission. With regard to the last meeting's deliberations and results, he informed the participants that the report of the Fourth meeting would be distributed soon.

56. During the ensuing discussion, the President thanked Monaco and the other countries for hosting the Fourth meeting of the MCSD and its Thematic Working Groups. He emphasized the importance of the work of the Commission, and the need to effectively implement its various recommendations. In this regard, he requested the opinions of the Bureau members on the best way to implement these recommendations.

57. The representative of Turkey, Ms. K. Adanali, pointed out that her country attaches the utmost importance to the work of the MCSD. Turkey is participating in five Thematic Working Groups of the Commission. In this context, she informed the Meeting that her country would be honoured to host the Sixth meeting of the MCSD in the year 2000. She noted that the Fourth meeting of the Commission was a meeting with full membership, which is a good start. She stressed the need to collect more information from the work and experience of the national committees for sustainable development.

58. H.E. Mr Fautrier noted that although the work of the commission was remarkable, there were nevertheless still problems with information and communication, which could be discussed during the next meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in Malta next year. He also referred to the contribution of UNEP/MAP to the forthcoming session of the UNCSD on the protection of the oceans and seas, and the management of coastal areas. He pointed out that the main objective of the Commission was not only to implement projects but also to raise public awareness and draw the attention of countries to the problems of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

59. H.E. Mr. Emgeg of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya advocated that the Mediterranean Sea should be a sea of peace and cooperation, and it would not be so unless we created a strategic plan for information. He suggested that a working paper be drawn up on this issue to be presented to various international conferences in order to make the Mediterranean voice heard.

Activities of the Regional Activity Centres and other MAP Programmes

60. The Coordinator briefly informed the Bureau of the activities of the MAP programmes and the Regional Activity Centres (RACs), namely the MED POL programme, REMPEC, BP/RAC, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC, ERS/RAC and CP/RAC. He noted that there were no specific recommendations and only one concerning these components in his progress report, relevant to SPA/RAC second meeting of experts on turtles.

MED POL Programme

61. The Coordinator referred to the new approach of MED POL Phase III and to the various visits to a number of countries by the staff of MAP and the IAEA Monaco Laboratory, to prepare their capacity building programmes.

62. He also informed the meeting that the National Focal Points meeting for MED POL will be held early next year, and an expert meeting will be held in Malta on 30 November to 2 December 1998 to finalise the guidelines for the management of dredged material as requested by the provisions of the Dumping Protocol.

63. With regard to collaboration with GEF, he informed the meeting that the detailed project document concerning the MAP/GEF project on the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) is being finalised and it will be ready by the end of the year for distribution.

64. In his intervention, the President urged all Contracting Parties to urgently ratify the amendments to the LBS and the Dumping Protocols. With regard to the role of SPA/RAC in the implementation of the BIO/SPA component, he thanked the Coordinator for entrusting the responsibility of coordination to the Tunis Centre (SPA/RAC).

65. With regard to the activity on the identification of regional pollution hot spots, he referred to his country's experience regarding the use of appropriate technology in the management and treatment of wastewater and offered to host another training course for operators of wastewater treatment plants in Tunisia.

66. With regard to the activity concerning compliance and enforcement of legislation (compliance monitoring) and the meeting scheduled to be held in March 1999, the representative of Greece suggested that the MAP Secretariat should coordinate its efforts in this field with those of UNEP.

67. The representative of Turkey asked the Secretariat to arrange for a flexible timetable for convening national courses on hot spots activity.

68. The representative of Croatia informed the meeting that her country has prepared a draft National Monitoring Agreement for the whole Adriatic Sea and a meeting with MAP officials on trend monitoring has already been held. With regard to the GEF project, she stated that her country expects assistance through the SAP project.

69. Finally, and in a response to the various comments made during the discussion on this topic, the Coordinator agreed with the Greek representative's proposal concerning coordination between MAP and UNEP on compliance monitoring. He also pointed out that SAP is a concept which constitutes a part of the new amended LBS protocol, which should be ratified soon and in that case, when the LBS protocol comes into force, the SAP would be considered under the terms of Article 15, which lays down a more advanced procedure for the adoption of regional action plans and programmes. Consequently, the SAP may have to be revised accordingly in order to give it the required elements.

REMPEC

70. The Coordinator briefed the meeting on the activities of the Malta Centre and pointed out that a legal and technical experts meeting is scheduled to be held in Malta on 23-24 November 1998 with the aim of reviewing and amending the Emergency protocol in accordance with the decision of the last meeting of the Contracting Parties (Tunis, November 1997). The experts meeting will immediately be followed by the meeting of the REMPEC National Focal Points (Malta, 25-27 November 1998). He also pointed out that the second meeting on the preparation of guidelines on the management of dredged material would likewise be held in Malta on 30 November to 2 December 1998.

71. The representative of Croatia stated that a sub-regional plan for spill response capabilities between Croatia, Slovenia and Italy is under preparation with the assistance of REMPEC. In this connection the Coordinator pointed out that the MAP Secretariat is always in favour of and is encouraging such sub-regional cooperation.

SPA/RAC

72. The Coordinator introduced the relevant section in his progress report related to the activities of the Tunis Centre on specially protected areas. He noted the wealth of work done by the Centre during the period under consideration. He referred to the two meetings of experts hosted by Greece, in the city of Arta, from 27 to 31 October 1998, on the implementation of the Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean marine turtles and monk seals. In this connection, he presented document UNEP/BUR/53/Add.2, concerning the expert meeting's decision to convene a further meeting of experts to discuss the issue of identification of priority actions for the implementation of the Turtle Action Plan in more detail, in order to submit a list of recommended priorities to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties. The Coordinator informed the Bureau that in order to convene such an anticipated expert meeting by the Secretariat, a sum of about 40,000 US \$ is to be identified from the MTF. As the funds are not available from the MTF, a Contracting Party could host and support the costs of the meeting. In case no country were prepared to shoulder this undertaking, a third proposal could be followed which stipulated that the Secretariat is to prepare a draft of priority actions for the implementation of the Action Plan, which would be circulated to the Contracting Parties through the SPA Focal Points, for advice and comments. The revised draft would then be submitted to the meeting of SPA Focal Points for finalisation and transmission to the eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties for approval.

73. The Coordinator also referred to the survey of the coastal areas of Libya undertaken by the SPA Centre jointly with WWF and MEDASSET. The purpose of the survey was to assess marine turtle nesting in Libya.

74. During the ensuing debate, the President of the Bureau noted that the work accomplished by the SPA Centre would be of great value to the Mediterranean region. He expressed his thanks to all countries which contributed to the Centre's activities. With regard to the Secretariat proposal to convene a second meeting of experts to

review the Turtle Action Plan, he offered to host the meeting in Tunis should no funding be made available by the MTF.

CP/RAC

75. The Coordinator informed the meeting of the few activities undertaken by the Centre during the period under consideration, particularly its involvement in the MAP/GET project for the Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

76. H.E. Mr Fautrier of Monaco referred to the section in the Coordinator's progress report covering the Cleaner Production Centre which shows that the Centre has not yet reached the expected level of development.

77. The President, while agreeing with the Centre's approach in dealing with the issue of cleaner production, noted that there is a need to evaluate the actual experience of the Mediterranean countries with the various types of industry, such as the paper industry. He advocated the approach of shifting from polluting means of production to cleaner methods.

BP/RAC

78. The Coordinator introduced the section related to the activities of the Blue Plan Centre and pointed out that national environment and development observatories have been established in Tunisia and Morocco, while the Syrian and the Lebanese observatories are being established with the financial backing of the LIFE mechanism.

79. He referred to the work of the Centre, which in his view the Blue Plan is carrying out very well. He made particular mention of the activity concerning the identification and elaboration of environmental performance indicators for which three sub-regional workshops are currently being organised in Rabat, Cairo and Split.

80. Concerning the administration of the Centre, the Coordinator noted that a new Director for the Centre has already been appointed while the post of Deputy Director is still vacant.

81. During the exchange of views, the President noted the BP Centre's close involvement in the work of the MCSD and its thematic working groups. He stressed the need for the various experts and groups to present their work in good time for consideration by the Contracting Parties.

PAP/RAC

82. The Coordinator introduced the section of his progress report on the activities of the Split Centre for Priority Actions Programme. He pointed out that the Centre would continue its work in the field of sustainable management of coastal zones and their natural resources. In this connection, he referred to the study prepared by METAP and PAP/RAC on "Assessment of Integrated Coastal Management Initiatives in the Mediterranean: Experience from METAP and MAP (1988-1996)", copies of which were distributed to the Bureau participants. He pointed out that a MAP/METAP Workshop on

Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) in the Mediterranean was convened in Cairo, on 2-3 June 1998, with the aim of presenting and reviewing the study with special reference to lessons learned, conclusions and recommendations, and of presenting and assessing other relevant experiences in the region as well as defining future activities and tasks, including the involvement of partners in implementing ICAM initiatives in the Mediterranean region. (The report of the Cairo meeting was distributed to the participants). He recognised that management of coastal areas is still very weak in most of the Mediterranean countries and that more efforts should therefore be exerted by the countries and the Secretariat in this field, which he considers as one of the most important themes for the whole Mediterranean region. In this connection he pointed out that a Manual on Coastal Areas Management was being prepared by the Split Centre.

83. Moreover, the Coordinator informed the Bureau that the vacant post of Deputy Director for the PAP Centre would soon be filled.

84. Commenting on the issue of the management of coastal areas, Mr. Emgeg of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya informed the meeting of how much attention his country paid to the management and protection of coastal areas. For this reason, necessary regulations have been adopted to prevent any building within one hundred meters of the coastline.

85. In his intervention, the President of the Bureau recommended proceeding towards the implementation of the preventive approach when dealing with the issue of protecting and managing the coastal areas.

ERS/RAC

86. The Coordinator briefly introduced the section on the activities of the Centre for environmental remote sensing (ERS/RAC). He referred in particular to the Centre's involvement in some CAMP projects, including the Fuka-Matrouh CAMP (Egypt). In this context he drew the attention of participants to the recently published report (May, 1998) entitled "Support of Remote Sensing Techniques to Planning and Decision-making Processes for Sustainable Development in Egypt", which was prepared by ERS/RAC within the framework of the Fuka-Matrouh CAMP project. He noted that the content of the report on how to use remote sensing techniques for environmental purposes is a good one, however, we have to wait and see if these techniques can be easily applied by the countries in a practical and pragmatic manner.

Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP)

87. In introducing the section on CAMPs in the progress report, the Coordinator referred again to the MAP/METAP Study on Integrated Coastal Zone Management and the Workshop held in Cairo last June on ICAM, which recommended the continuation of the CAMP exercise on the basis of agreed guidelines. With regard to the specific CAMP projects, he pointed out that the final Presentation Conference for the Sfax CAMP (Tunisia) is scheduled to be held in Sfax, on 15-16 December 1998, with a view to presenting the outcome of the project to the Tunisian authorities. As for the Fuka-Matrouh CAMP project (Egypt), the plan is to close the project and convene the final

Conference during the first quarter of 1999. With regard to the other projects, he pointed out that progress is being made.

88. During the general exchange of views, the President noted the importance of the Sfax CAMP as one of the pragmatic approaches in the implementation of sustainable development in an urban area. Moreover, he observed that we have to be specific, where there is a specific area, such as Fuka and Sfax projects. He also stressed the importance of soliciting external funds for the CAMP projects, which is the responsibility of the countries with the help of the Secretariat.

Agenda item 4: MAP Information Strategy

89. The Coordinator made a section by section introduction of the document: UNEP/BUR/53/4 "MAP Information Strategy", and explained the reason behind the preparation of this proposal, pointing out that MAP is not well enough known either to the media or to the public at large. It was therefore proposed to the Contracting Parties at their last meeting that an information strategy be drawn up in order to provide relevant information to decision makers to assist them in the promotion and implementation of sustainable development and the protection of the environment, and to provide information to the public and encourage public access and participation to information activities for the protection of the environment in the Mediterranean region.

90. In this context, he also informed the meeting that MAP legal instruments are being translated into Greek and it was planned to support their translation into other Mediterranean languages if needs be.

91. During the discussion, the representative of Croatia thanked the Secretariat for the good document on the information strategy and pointed out that we needed to implement all the proposed activities mentioned in the proposed strategy. She suggested that more use of other Mediterranean languages was needed in order to reach and inform the public. In the meantime, she emphasised the need for all Contracting Parties to celebrate the Mediterranean Environment Week.

92. H.E. Mr Fautrier thanked the Secretariat for the good work embodied in the draft MAP Information Strategy.

93. H.E. Mr. Emgeg welcomed the Secretariat proposal and stressed the importance of language when dealing with the public. He therefore suggested that information messages be translated into the main languages of the Mediterranean region. The role of the States in the implementation of the information strategy was also emphasized. The Secretariat should also provide countries with the necessary information material to assist them in getting the message across to the people. He also pointed out that bilateral agreements between countries as well as exchange of information and experience could be important methods in this regard. He noted that public awareness raising should basically start with young people in the schools. Finally, he suggested that the Secretariat proposal should be thoroughly reviewed and studied for it to be put into force.

94. The representative of Turkey enquired whether the Secretariat would be able to implement all the proposed recommendations embodied in the draft strategy. Moreover, she emphasised the importance of mobilising the necessary financial resources to undertake all activities of the strategy.

95. The representative of Tunisia welcomed the Secretariat proposal and stressed the importance of sensitising the public to the environment, and the need to direct our attention towards the media. He encouraged MAP to exert more efforts to this end. He noted that MAP national focal points could also play an important role in addressing the media in their countries.

96. At the end of the discussion on this agenda item, the President thanked the Secretariat for its work presented in the form of an information strategy for MAP, and observed that we must select the best methods for approaching the public and the other target groups. In this regard, he made particular mention of children as an important target group to which due attention should be paid with the selection of environmental themes for every occasion. Industry is another target group to be directly contacted. Concerning the means to be used to reach the target groups, he pointed out that mobile exhibitions are a good means to raise public awareness. He suggested that each country should have its own mobile exhibition and exhibitions in different Mediterranean languages are also recommended. Finally, he suggested celebrating a "Mediterranean Environment Day". He invited other countries of the region to organize similar events for the children in order to raise public awareness in the region. He referred to the children's conference held in 1997 in Tunisia and the children's visit to Spain as a means for making children aware of environmental and sustainable development issues.

97. H.E. Mr Emgeg suggested convening a conference for the Mayors of the Mediterranean coastal cities to be organized by MAP, with the aim of informing them of all aspects of the Mediterranean environment and the dangers of pollution to the environment. As large-scale industry is mostly responsible for pollution of the Mediterranean, he suggested that the Conference be financed by this sector.

98. In this connection, the President noted the Libyan proposal and pointed out that the Barcelona Convention has already adopted the "polluter pays" principle. He requested that the Libyan delegation submit a paper to the Secretariat concerning this proposal.

99. At the end of the discussion on this agenda item the Bureau:

took note of the Secretariat proposal on "MAP Information Strategy", contained in document UNEP/BUR/53/4, and invited the Secretariat to convene a meeting of information experts composed of members of the Bureau, with the aim of thoroughly reviewing the document, making the necessary modifications and presenting it to the forthcoming meeting of the Contracting Parties, after being examined by the meeting of the MAP National Focal Points.

Agenda item 5: MAP cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations

100. Mr. I. Dharat, Senior Programme Officer, MAP, introduced document UNEP/BUR/53/3/Add.1 "Proposed Recommendations on MAP/NGO Cooperation. He also referred to the report of the meeting of the Working Group on MAP/NGO collaboration, which was contained in document: UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.147/3. He explained that in accordance with the decisions of the last meeting of the Contracting Parties and the Bureau, a Working Group meeting composed of representatives of the Bureau was held in Athens, at the MAP premises, on 9 October 1998. The meeting had before it a Secretariat report, including a proposed set of recommendations on the subject of MAP/NGO cooperation. The Working Group meeting thoroughly reviewed the report and its recommendations and made certain modifications which were incorporated in the document submitted to the present Bureau for review. He went through the proposed set of recommendations section by section and suggested their approval by the Bureau, for subsequent submission to the forthcoming meeting of the Contracting Parties (Malta, October 1999) through the meeting of MAP National Focal Points.

101. During the ensuing debate, the Vice-President from Greece acknowledged the importance of the subject. He congratulated the Secretariat and the Working Group for their work and for the documents presented to the Bureau on this issue. He stated that Greece supports the idea that Networks should function as focal points for the various NGOs they represent, and they should assure the widest possible dissemination of information on MAP activities to other NGOs and the public at large. He supported the proposed recommendations as contained in the Secretariat document.

102. The representative of Turkey gave support to the proposed recommendations. She stated that the relevant NGOs and the private sector should be encouraged to become involved in the specific environmental and sustainable development issues.

103. In this regard she informed the meeting that a Turkish NGO, namely, the Academia Mediterranean Halicarnassensis Foundation (AMH) has submitted its application for membership of NGO partnership with MAP. She believed that the foundation would contribute to the future activities carried out by MAP in the field of sustainable development.

104. H.E. Mr. Emgeg recognized the importance of the role of NGOs in the field of public awareness and participation and expressed his support for the proposed recommendations.

105. The President noted that the NGOs' role should be a complementary one to that of the Governments and we should welcome NGOs which are really working for the protection of the Mediterranean environment. Therefore, the selection of NGOs to be MAP partners should be established on a solid basis. They should not request money to shoulder their responsibility and should offer their contributions to MAP and to the Mediterranean countries. In this connection, it is recommended that MAP select environmental and sustainable development themes, on which the NGOs can help and contribute.

106. In response to the statement of the representative of Turkey, the Secretariat explained that the request of the Turkish NGO "AMH" for membership to NGO/MAP partnership, has already been received by the Secretariat and the necessary steps are being taken in this regard.

107. At the end of the discussion relevant to this agenda item, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to continue its work on the issue and submit a report to the forthcoming meeting of the MAP National Focal Points, taking into consideration the comments made by the Bureau.

Agenda item 6: Date and place of the next meeting of the Bureau

108. The Coordinator suggested that the next meeting of the Bureau could be held either at the end of March or the beginning of April 1999, in order to advise the Secretariat on the process of preparation of the programme and budget for the 2000-2001 biennium. As regards the venue of the meeting, he suggested that in case no-one offered to host the meeting, the Bureau should meet at the headquarters of the Coordinating Unit in Athens. After a brief exchange of views, the Bureau decided:

to convene its next meeting at the premises of the Coordinating Unit in Athens, around the end of March 1999.

Agenda item 7: Any other business

109. The Bureau took note of the proposed dates of 6-9 September 1999 as the dates of the Meeting of the National focal Points to be held in Athens, Greece.

Agenda item 8: Adoption of the report of the Meeting

110. It was agreed that a draft report of the Meeting should be prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Rapporteur and sent to the members of the Bureau for their comments before its finalisation and distribution.

Agenda item 9: Closure of the Meeting

111. H.E. Mr. Emgeg of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya presented the following draft motion for the consideration of the Bureau:

"As a result of the embargo imposed on the Great Jamahiriya, the Country badly lacks the means and instruments needed to monitor and control all sources of pollution. The situation has worsened since the country has been prevented from importing the spare parts needed for the laboratories, and from loading and unloading equipment including pumps, pipes and highly developed dredgers required to control oil pollution. Therefore, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya strongly calls, through this august Bureau, for the embargo imposed on the Great Jamahiriya to be lifted, so as to enable it to continue its effective contribution to safeguarding the maritime and coastal environment against all pollutants".

112. The President pointed out that, considering the difficulties and problems encountered by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in its efforts to protect the Mediterranean environment and particularly its national environment, the Bureau takes note of the motion presented by the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and invites the Secretariat to communicate it to all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention as well as to UNEP.

113. H.E. Mr. Elshamekh on behalf of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya expressed his thanks and appreciation to the President of the Bureau and the other members of the Bureau for the consideration given to the Libyan motion and for its subsequent communication to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and to UNEP in order to acquire wider support. He also thanked the President for his excellent manner of chairing and conducting the deliberations of the meeting, to the other members of the Bureau for their contributions and to the Secretariat for its efficient organisation of the meeting.

114. In closing the Meeting, H.E. Mr. M. Mlika, thanked all participants for their effective contributions to the deliberations of the Bureau Meeting which had tackled important subjects, such as the information strategy, the collaboration with NGOs, the follow-up of the implementation of decisions of the last session of the MCSD, the work of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the review of the various MAP financial, technical and legal activities. He expressed his hope that the Bureau work would be useful and positively contribute to the submission of good recommendations to the forthcoming meeting of the Contracting Parties. Once again he stressed the need for the early ratification of the MAP legal instruments and the payments of contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund.

115. In his closing statement, Mr. L. Chabason expressed, on behalf of UNEP, his thanks and appreciation to H.E. Mr. Elshamek, H.E. Mr. Emgeg, Mr. Fares and Mr. Boargob for working to make the meeting a successful one. He also expressed his thanks to the President of the Bureau for his excellent chairing of the meeting. He promised that the Secretariat would do its utmost to implement the various decisions taken by the Bureau and would report back to its next meeting.

116. Following the exchange of courtesies, the President declared the Meeting closed on Monday, 16 November 1998 at 18.00 hrs.

ANNEX I

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Liste des Participants**

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