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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 Protocols

Genoa (Italy), 16 June 2004

**PROGRESS REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT ON ACTIVITIES
CARRIED OUT SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES
(November 2003 – May 2004)**

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Introduction

1. The present report covers the progress achieved in the implementation of the various activities carried out by the Coordinating Unit, its Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and MED POL since the last meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Catania on 11-14 November 2003.

I. COORDINATION

I.A. Legal Framework

a) Status of Ratification of the Convention and Protocols

2. As at 04 February 2004, a total of 15 Contracting Parties had accepted the amendments to the revised Convention, 14 had accepted the amendments to the revised Dumping Protocol and 13 to the revised Land-based Sources (LBS) Protocol. In addition, 14 Contracting Parties had ratified the new Specially Protected Areas (SPA) and Biodiversity Protocol, 4 the new Offshore Protocol, 4 the new Hazardous Wastes Protocol and 5 the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

3. Of these new and revised instruments, as at 4 February 2004 only the new SPA and Biodiversity Protocol had entered into force. It should be recalled that six ratifications are required for the entry into force of a new Protocol and that 17 Contracting Parties have to accept the amendments to a revised instrument for it to enter into force. A detailed table of the status of signatures and ratifications is attached as **Annex I** to this report.

4. It is to be noted that Slovenia has informed the Secretariat about its ratification of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol and the delivery of the instrument to the Depository country on 16 February 2004, thus bringing the number of deposited instruments to six. The Secretariat is now awaiting the official notification from the Depository country. According to Article 25 of the New Prevention and Emergency Protocol, the latter enters into force on the thirtieth day following the deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval of the Protocol.

5. Every effort will be made by the Secretariat to ensure the entry into force of the relevant instruments before the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

6. Following a decision at the last Contracting Parties meeting, requesting the Depository country (Spain), and the Bureau, to take an active role in encouraging the Parties to speed up the ratification process, the Secretariat will be sending out a joint letter by the President of the Bureau, the Depository country, and MAP Coordinator to those Contracting Parties that have not yet signed, accepted or ratified any of the revised or new legal instruments under the Barcelona Convention encouraging them to do so. Moreover the MAP Coordinator is planning to visit Spain to discuss with the Depository country what further concrete actions should be taken in this regard.

7. One option being considered is a visit by the Coordinator and a representative of the Depository country to those Contracting Parties who are in the process of ratifying the MAP legal instruments, to encourage them, and if need be, assist them, to complete the process.

8. At the same time, the Secretariat is requesting the countries that have not ratified the revised and new legal instruments to submit information on their ratification process,

offering also any assistance that may be required. According to the information available to the Secretariat, Serbia & Montenegro and Algeria are in an advanced phase of the ratification process. Syria, after the acceptance of the amendments to the Barcelona Convention and the ratification of the new SPA and Biodiversity protocol, is proceeding with the acceptance of the amendments to the LBS protocol.

b) Implementation of Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention on Reporting

9. At their 13th Ordinary meeting in Catania in November 2003, the Contracting Parties decided to commence the implementation of Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention beginning from the 2002-2003 biennium on the basis of the updated reporting format.

10. To this end, the Secretariat has to:

- a) provide assistance to the Contracting Parties to strengthen their reporting capacities and systems to enable them to submit their national reports on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention by January /February 2005;
- b) prepare a regional report on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention in the biennium 2002-2003 for submission to the Meeting of MAP National Focal Points and the Contracting Parties in 2005;
- c) prepare reporting formats and guidelines for the non-legal component of MAP with a view to submitting a draft for consideration by the Contracting Parties at their 2005 Ordinary Meeting;
- d) continue working towards the harmonization of the reporting procedures with other multilateral environmental agreements and the respective European Union directives with a view to having updated formats for consideration by the Contracting Parties at their 2005 Ordinary Meeting.

11. During the period covered by the present report, the following countries have been provided with financial and technical assistance to prepare the national report: Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Morocco, Syria, Serbia and Montenegro. Provisions are being made for assistance to Croatia, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Slovenia, Tunisia and Turkey. The approach of the Secretariat is not only to assist parties in preparing their first national report but to also ensure sustainability in strengthening their national reporting systems for them to benefit from this experience by establishing a data collection, processing and updating system, and to enable them to meet the reporting obligations effectively and on a long term basis.

12. From the exercise at the national level, inputs are expected in terms of harmonization of the reporting format under the Barcelona Convention with the other reporting formats at the regional and global levels as well as the improvement and simplification of the reporting with a preference for indicators instead of narrative text, and compatibility with the respective national reporting systems.

13. To this end, a meeting was convened in Tunisia on 10-11 May with the participation of 32 national experts from 17 Contracting Parties. The meeting was intended for MAP national focal points or national focal points on reporting and national experts from developing countries to assess the work done, identify national needs and review and discuss the legal or administrative as well as technical aspects of the reporting process.

14. The Meeting reviewed issues related to the national reporting process, workplans for their formulation as well as possible problems and bottlenecks aimed at facilitating the process and meeting the target of preparing national reports by the end of January 2005. As a follow-up to the Tunis meeting, the Secretariat has transmitted to all Ministers a letter

seeking support for the process for the preparation of the national report due to its particular need to involve stakeholders from different sectors on the national and local level.

15. Updating the MAP web page with more detailed information on reporting and presenting the MAP reporting system on the web site, including the reports "Lessons learnt from the reporting exercise from the last biennium", together with the national report of Spain, and the reporting formats, would help in making the MAP system more visible and increase its accessibility to all those who are interested both the general public and organisations alike.

Recommendation:

The Bureau may wish to suggest to the Secretariat to follow up carefully the process of the reporting with a view to ensuring full ownership by the Contracting Parties in that process and its sustainability.

c) Implementation and Compliance under the Barcelona Convention

16. In Catania, the Contracting Parties decided to establish an Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts (hereinafter referred to as the Working Group), responsible for the elaboration of a platform 'Promoting the implementation of, and compliance with the Barcelona Convention" for consideration at their fourteenth meeting in 2005.

17. The main output of the Working Group will be a document outlining possible options and recommendations dealing with establishing a mechanism to promote the implementation of, and compliance with the Barcelona Convention,

18. The document should endeavour to elaborate a transparent, cost effective, simple, flexible and a country driven mechanism. It should be oriented towards helping parties to implement the provisions of the Barcelona Convention and in particular to facilitating the process of implementation of the Convention and Protocols by the developing countries.

Composition of the Working Group

19. In accordance with the above decision, and in order to ensure diversity of experience, representation from both developing and developed countries and from different geographic sub-regions, the composition of the Working Group should consist of six government designated experts, nominated on the basis of their legal or technical expertise and skills; and one member representing the NGOs/ MAP partners. The Working Group will be assisted in its work by the Secretariat and by two international technical and legal experts.

20. Five out of six countries volunteered and were decided upon in Catania, to participate in the Working Group, namely Croatia, Greece, Israel, Spain and the Syrian Arab Republic.

21. Greece, Israel, Spain and the Syrian Arab Republic have already nominated their experts to participate in the Working Group. The process of nomination is ongoing for the remaining experts representing two other Contracting Parties, and one for the representative of the NGOs/MAP partners. The latter have requested the Secretariat to prepare ToRs for membership to the Working Group. The Secretariat has transmitted the requested ToRs and is waiting for feedback. France has recently officially submitted its candidacy to the Working Group.

22. With a view to balancing the geographical composition of the Working Group, representation of MAGHREB countries on the Working Group could be taken into consideration and probably encouraged.

23. The Secretariat is preparing ToRs for the independent legal and technical experts with a view to facilitating the process. It is also elaborating an introductory paper on the possible elements for such a platform.

Working sessions

24. In conformity with the decision of the Contracting Parties, the progress achieved by the Working Group, should be regularly shared with all the Contracting Parties. Further more the meetings of the Working Group will be open to other Contracting Parties or MAP partners wishing to participate provided that their participation will be self-financed.

25. With a view to ensuring the sharing of information with the Bureau and helping the Working Group members in their deliberations, it might be useful to organize the Working Group sessions back to back with the meeting of the Bureau. Thus, the Bureau would have the opportunity to be informed, on the progress achieved and for the Secretariat to take any necessary follow up action.

Recommendations:

The Bureau might suggest to the Secretariat to:

- **organize, if appropriate, the meeting of the Working Group back to back with the meetings of the Bureau;**
- **ensure the full sharing of information with all the Contracting Parties on the progress achieved throughout the process;**
- **develop a platform, keeping in mind that the principal objective is to have a transparent, cost effective, simple, flexible and a country driven mechanism, to be oriented towards helping the parties to implement the provisions of the Barcelona Convention.**

d) Other Issues

Legal Instrument on ICAM

26. The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have, at the 13th Meeting in Catania (November 2003), adopted a recommendation to "...prepare a draft text of the Regional Protocol on Integrated Coastal Area Management, on the basis of a broad process of consultation among experts and all other interested parties in view of its consideration by the Contracting Parties."

27. To this end, the Regional Forum of ICAM to be held on 28-30 May 2004 in Cagliari, Italy, represents the first step in the consultation process. The objectives of the Forum are:

- to present the Feasibility Study for the Protocol on ICAM in the Mediterranean;
- to open a wide debate among authorities and stakeholders in the region on the need for a new legal instrument for Integrated Coastal Area Management in the Mediterranean;
- to receive inputs for the drafting of the Protocol;
- to agree on the consultation process for the drafting of the Protocol.

28. The following stakeholder groups were invited: Ministries for the Environment, Physical Planning; Tourism, Infrastructure, Public Works and/or Development; coastal local and regional authorities; international organisations; other Regional Seas; scientific community; NGOs; professional associations (Chambers of Commerce, tourism operators and/or industry; associations of architects and planners; juridical associations; other); financial institutions (IBRD, EBRD, EIB, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, Arab Development Bank); other experts.

29. It is expected that during the initial stage, lessons will be learned from the preparatory processes for three previous Protocols: Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol), Protocol concerning the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA and Biodiversity Protocol), and Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol) thus avoiding overlaps and clashes between the three instruments and the fourth. The added value and complementary nature of the new protocol should be highlighted.

30. It would also be useful to induce a process for the preparation of an operational document for the implementation of the protocol to run in parallel with the preparatory process for the protocol itself; in this way the main provisions and their impact on coming into force could be explained, actors and partners prepared, and their support be more readily secured.

Minor discrepancies of the legal text of the Barcelona Convention in Arabic version

31. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria has submitted a *Note Verbale* to the Depositary country, which in turn referred it to UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi with their own comments. UNEP Headquarters then referred this *Note Verbale* to the attention of the Secretariat for necessary action. The *Note Verbale* dealt with some discrepancies between the Arabic and French texts of the amendments to the Barcelona Convention as referred to in the Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiary, held in 9-10 June in Barcelona in 1995. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria is asking for the opinion of the competent legal services of the Depositary country, with regard to their observation, with a view to ensuring the uniformity of all the versions of this Convention, which will in turn help speed up the process of ratification by Algeria.

32. The appropriate services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Spain, in their *Note Verbale* sent to UNEP Headquarters on 3 March 2004, have informed the Secretariat that they have established that there are some discrepancies between the two texts. In their capacity as Depositary country, they propose to bring this issue to the attention of all State Parties to the Convention. They propose that at the next ordinary meeting, or if deemed necessary, at an extraordinary meeting to be convened specifically to deal with this issue, these discrepancies could be corrected through a *Proces Verbal* to be adopted by the State parties, pursuant to the provisions of the Convention. Alternatively, these discrepancies could be rectified through a *Proces Verbal* which will be circulated among the State Parties through diplomatic channels. The Bureau members will be briefed on these discrepancies so as to decide on the next steps.

Recommendation:

The Bureau is invited to address the issue of correcting the discrepancies between the Arabic and French texts of the amendments to the Barcelona Convention, as it might deem useful and appropriate so that any obstacles that might delay the entry into force of the Barcelona Convention will be overcome.

Support to countries on legal matters

33. The 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties recommended to the Secretariat to assist the Contracting Parties in their efforts to adhere to the MAP legal instruments and to develop their national legislation by incorporating the main requirements of the Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols.

34. During the period covered by the report, assistance is being provided to Albania.

35. Some countries are experiencing difficulties in understanding the implications that international agreements may have on their national legislation and would probably need assistance in identifying relevant gaps, as well as to develop, enact and enforce appropriate laws and regulations in order to achieve the compliance with the Barcelona Convention.

36. Without prejudice to any request for legal assistance which may be received from Contracting Parties in this regard, it is the intention of the Secretariat to plan and provide legal assistance in the future on the basis of the findings and recommendations resulting from the process for the preparation of the national reports "On the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols" and their assessment.

Membership to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties

37. In Catania, the Contracting Parties requested the Bureau to consider and clarify the issue of representation and membership of the Bureau of the Contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention.

Recommendation:

The Bureau is asked to discuss this issue and provide the Secretariat with any guidance that might be deemed appropriate.

Publication of the legal text in English and French

38. In Catania, the issue of the informal nature of the legal texts of the MAP system, was addressed. Experience has shown that national courts of law have recognised the validity of MAP legal instruments even before they had officially entered into force. Therefore there is no point in publishing these instruments in 2004 with the label **Informal**.

39. In this regard it is suggested that in the future publication of these documents, the word **Informal** should be deleted. After all, the legal texts are already in the public domain.

I.B Institutional framework

a) Evaluation of MAP

40. At its 13th Meeting in Catania, in November 2003, the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to launch an external overall evaluation of MAP with a view to presenting it to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005. The Secretariat is of the opinion that the formulation of the MAP Phase III will be based primarily on the main findings and recommendations of this evaluation.

41. In general terms, the evaluation exercise will be expected to provide the basis for a reform in order to:

- a) improve the effectiveness of MAP as Secretariat for the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in promoting and supervising their implementation;
- b) promote more effectively integration of environment considerations in policy development at the regional and national levels;
- c) improve regional and international visibility of MAP through a more effective integration of its components within the framework of sustainable development based on the recommendations contained in the Plan of Implementation;
- d) formulate and implement a more pro-active cooperation strategy with relevant regional and international institutions, IGOs and NGOs through a more objective communication and partnership strategy.

42. It is the view of the Secretariat that the evaluation exercise should be carried out:

- as an integral part of the ongoing evaluations of MAP components;
- at three levels of analysis: namely, past performance, planned objectives and the international and regional context; including legal and political developments in the Mediterranean Region;
- to ensure an effective integration between the components of MAP under the direction of the Secretariat;
- with a view to integrate fully the ecosystem approach in the framework of MAP Phase III and its overall components;
- by taking an open and participative approach through
 - a) a desk review and in depth analysis of relevant documents;
 - b) meetings and interviews with MAP National Focal Points and MAP Partners
 - c) the sharing of information with all the Contracting Parties.

43. The following time frame is proposed:

June – July 2004

- Formulation of TORs for the evaluation and recruitment of evaluators;

October 2004

- Launching the evaluation process at a meeting of the government designated experts;

March 2005/April 2005

- Discussing a pre-term evaluation document at a meeting of the government designated experts;

September 2005

- Submitting a consolidated draft evaluation document to the meeting of the national Focal Points;

November 2005

- Submitting the final draft of the evaluation document to the Contracting Parties meeting for their consideration and adoption, if appropriate.

b) Evaluation of MAP components

44. Another major activity for MAP during this biennium is the external evaluation of its Components. In this context and in conformity with the decisions of the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat has:

- invited and assisted ERS/RAC, CP/RAC and MEDPOL in preparing for and launching their evaluations with, in each case an additional objective, respectively:
 - to transform ESR/RAC into an Information and Communication Technology Center,
 - to develop CP/RAC into a Clean Technology and Sustainable Development Center,
 - and to contribute to the preparation of MEDPOL Phase IV;
- defined further steps and taken measures to prepare a feasibility study and relevant proposals for the new programme on Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development. To this aim a consultant has been engaged. The main outputs of his work are expected to be delivered in December 2004. The feasibility study, along with its recommendations and priority actions, will be reviewed by government designated experts at a meeting to be held in Marseille, early next year.

45. As a follow up to the evaluation of SPA/RAC, in particular in relation to management and institutional issues, there have been exchanges and discussions with the Center's staff directly concerned and with the national authorities. The nomination of the new Director a few weeks before the Contracting Parties meeting and the departure of the Scientific Director in early March 2004 have created problems that required continuous attention from the Secretariat. In this context, the Secretariat has provided regular support to the Director of the Centre, including assistance for the appointment of a new Scientific Director. The Secretariat will continue to give attention and support to the Centre in improving and sustaining its operations. However, a follow up to the evaluation and recommendations made, in particular with regard to the status of the Centre, should be carried out.

Recommendations:

The Bureau is invited to:

- **Provide the Secretariat with any guidance it might deem it useful in launching and convening the external evaluation of MAP;**
- **Authorize the withdrawal from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) 60.000 Euro for the financing of the external evaluation exercise of MAP.**

I.C. Cooperation and Partners

a) Cooperation with the European Commission

46. In conformity of the Contracting Parties' decision, the Secretariat has consulted with officials from EC/DG ENV and European Environment Agency (EEA) in order to resume discussions for the strengthening of cooperation between them and for the preparation of a joint programme of work. In this regard, a mission to EC and EEA was planned for February 2004 and all MAP components were requested to submit suggestions on past, present and expected further activities with the EC. This mission was then postponed, pending the appointment of the new Coordinator which at the time was expected to take place in February. A working session between the MAP Coordinator and the European Commission will be held early June to discuss the cooperation policy framework.

47. Meanwhile, the Secretariat had the opportunity to discuss with the Director of International Affairs, EC/DG ENV, the importance of the elaboration of a joint programme of work. On her part, the Director expressed her readiness to identify the appropriate ways and means to implement the decision of the Contracting Parties during the next meeting of the Bureau. Moreover, MED POL has started working with EEA for the preparation of an updated "State of the Marine Environment Report in the Mediterranean" with a view to have it finalised by the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Slovenia in 2005.

48. As requested by the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat closely followed, and contributed to, the process for the preparation of the European Marine Strategy being conducted by the European Commission. All technical meetings were attended by MED POL representatives, who participated actively in the discussions on technical and policy documents proposed by the European Union to reflect Mediterranean needs and objectives.

49. A comparative analysis was made by MED POL of the measures contained in the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and in the EU legislation and policy concerning the reduction of land-based pollution. It took into account the targets and objectives of the SAP and the existing EU Directives, including the Water Framework Directive and the EC Marine Strategy being finalized. The comparative analysis, that was informally reviewed by EC/DG/ENV, will be published soon aiming at facilitating the implementation of the SAP by the European/Mediterranean countries.

b) Cooperation with other UN Agencies and other programmes

Accreditation to UN-ECOSOC and CSD

50. Following the decision of the Contracting Parties in Catania requesting the Secretariat "to undertake the necessary steps to request the accreditation of the Barcelona Convention with UN-ECOSOC, so as to improve the visibility of MAP and be able to participate directly in UNCSD as an observer, with a view to increasing its involvement in the implementation of UNCSD decisions at the regional level", action is being taken to address this issue. The Secretariat will report about this matter at the next meeting of the Bureau.

Cooperation with GEF

51. In view of the successful implementation of the Mediterranean GEF Project, the GEF Secretariat is now considering formulating a new project together with MAP. The new project, still being discussed in its content and objectives, would support the implementation of the SAP as well as the newly adopted SAP BIO in an integrated manner. At this stage of formulation, the project would consist of two major components, (a) capacity building and (b) the establishment of an Investment Fund. While the first would be mostly devoted to the implementation of capacity building programmes – both regional and national – to facilitate the implementation of the SAP and the SAP BIO, the Fund would be presented to the countries of the region in the form of facilitated loans to achieve investments again related to the implementation of the targets and objectives of the SAP and the SAP BIO. An interagency meeting to discuss the content of the project is scheduled for next June while a large stocktaking meeting is planned for next September.

Cooperation with UNECE

52. In cooperation with the Secretariat of the Espoo Convention on EIA in a transboundary context, a joint seminar on reporting issues was held in Tunis on 10-11 May 2004. It focused on the advantages of a closer interactive cooperation between both conventions for the Mediterranean region, through the implementation of Article 4 of the

Barcelona Convention, and the synergy especially in the eventuality that the South Mediterranean countries participate in the activities of or adhere to the Espoo Convention.

53. The Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" will be held in Serbia Montenegro, in 2006, and thus in the Mediterranean region. The agenda of this important meeting will be decided in September 2005 by the UNECE/ Committee on Environmental Policy. Many organizations and programs are interested in being on the agenda. UNEP/MAP should take the initiative as of now, especially with the host country which is also a Contracting Party, to feature on the agenda of the Ministerial Conference.

54. The Barcelona Convention and MAP were not given sufficient exposure in the third assessment report of the European Environment Agency (EEA) published in the context of the Kiev Conference nor in other related documents. Closer contacts are needed with the EEA, UNECE/Working group on monitoring and the Committee on Environmental Policy, in which several Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are members.

55. Contacts are ongoing with the Secretariats of the Aarhus Convention and UNECE Helsinki and Industrial Accident Conventions in order to achieve synergy with their activities on establishing compliance mechanisms, mobilizing civil society and liability and compensation issues.

Recommendation:

The Bureau might deem it useful to urge the Contracting Parties, members to UNECE to ensure that the Mediterranean and the Barcelona Convention are given more recognition and visibility in their major activities and publications and especially for the Barcelona Convention to feature on the agenda of the Ministerial Conference.

c) Synergy and cooperation with other programmes and initiatives in the region

56. Several organizations are now seeking cooperation with MAP. Satisfactory cooperation has been established with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), with the possibility of some joint activities being organised. Good prospects were also opening up with the Euro-Arab Management Centre in Spain, and with the Baltic 21 and MedWet programmes. Genuine prospects are still lacking with regard to civil society and the NGOs. Cooperation with NGOs was limited to sporadic MAP assistance for activities or meetings. Civil society in the Mediterranean is quite developed, and is presently capable of rallying major resources and abilities.

57. The AZAHAR programme (Programme for cooperation concerning sustainable development, environmental protection and conservation of natural resources in the Mediterranean), with an annual budget of 18 million euros, was sustained exclusively by funds from the Spanish government and regions. AZAHAR is conducting some major projects in the countries of the Maghreb and in Palestine

58. With a view to implementing the relative Catania recommendation, two joint activities have been carried out with REC. One was the participation at an international seminar in Tirana, regarding the implementation of Environmental Agreements in Albania, a project funded in the framework of the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for South East Europe (REReP); a program designed to assist EU pre-accession and accession countries towards sustainable development, stability and reconstruction of the environment in the region. Secretariats of several Environmental conventions were invited to this meeting and a set of recommendations for each convention was adopted and submitted officially to the competent authorities in Albania, including those related to the Barcelona Convention.

59. Under the REReP program, REC invited the MAP Secretariat to contribute by holding a seminar in Croatia on legal issues on the new Prevention and Emergency protocol under the Barcelona Convention. The contribution of the Secretariat has been important for the smooth convening of such a seminar.

I.D. Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

60. Considering the importance of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) during the 2004-2005 biennium, the Secretariat has been engaged, since early December 2003, in the follow up of relevant decisions by the Contracting Parties at their 13th meeting in Catania. These concern the launching of further steps for the preparation of the MSSD, the organization and elaboration of the necessary documents for the meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee and the 9th MCSD meeting, the cooperation with the partners from the Major Groups, the promotion of MCSD and MSSD visibility and the process for the appointment of new professional staff for the MCSD/MSSD.

a) Preparation of the MSSD

61. At their meeting in Catania, the Contracting Parties have decided to take note of the Vision and the Framework Orientations for a MSSD, requesting however the Parties to submit comments, if any, by 15 January 2004. By this date, comments were only received from Egypt and Spain, concerning mainly further steps but do not affect the contents of the reports presented for the Contracting Parties consideration. The EC stated that it had no comments on the documents as presented to the Parties in November 2003. Consequently, the President of the Bureau has sent a letter to the members of the Bureau in March 2003 informing them that we can finally consider that the Contracting Parties took note of the contents of the Vision and the Orientations and that these will constitute the basic reference for the elaboration of the MSSD.

62. Immediately after this notification to the Bureau members, the Secretariat agreed with the President of the Bureau on the next steps, in particular the meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee, the workshop on the preparation of the MSSD and the 9th meeting of the MCSD; these activities were previously foreseen to be held earlier but were postponed upon UNEP Headquarters request pending appointment of the new UNEP/MAP Coordinator. About two months later, given the continued delay in the nomination process, the Secretariat was authorized to proceed with these activities.

b) MCSD Steering Committee

63. In order to advise the Secretariat on the preparation of the MSSD, the Steering Committee, chaired by Croatia, has met in Split, in PAP/RAC premises on 7 April 2004; BP/RAC and PAP/RAC were invited to attend together with an expert who had prepared a draft methodology for the preparation of the Strategy components, based on two test cases related to water and energy from the "Orientations" Areas for Priority Actions; this was the main item on the agenda and the results of the discussions were considered important inputs for the workshop for the preparation of the MSSD organized a month later in Rabat.

64. Outputs from discussions on other agenda items will be brought directly to the attention of the 9th MCSD; moreover, considering the importance of the "Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development" issue, the BP/RAC was requested to prepare an information note and a proposed brief text (attached as **Annex IV** to this report) that could eventually be integrated in the "Orientations" for the MSSD after appropriate consultations between the Contracting Parties and the MCSD Members.

c) Ninth Meeting of the MCSD

65. Following the kind offer made by the Italian Minister for the Environment and Territory, H.E. Mr Altero Matteoli, in Catania, to host and cost-share the 9th meeting of the MCSD, it was agreed to organize the meeting from 17 to 19 June 2004 in Genoa, with three major items on the agenda: (a) the preparation of the MSSD (priority objectives and goals, responsibilities, expected outputs, organization of work, mainly as proposed by the Rabat Workshop); (b) the MCSD's medium term programme of work and (c) the findings and proposals by the working group on "Financing and Cooperation for SD in the Mediterranean". Presentations on the progress achieved will also be made in relation to the Report on Environment and Development, the Cultural Heritage Programme and the on-going Sustainability Impact Assessment for the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Zone. Moreover, a series of side events will also be organized.

d) Cooperation with Major Groups

66. Following the request by the Contracting Parties to improve the cooperation with Major Groups, in particular in relation to MCSD activities, the Secretariat has provided support for a working session between the main Mediterranean NGO Networks; during this session which was held on 17-18 January 04 in Madrid, ways and means on how to improve their participation in the MCSD and their contribution to the MSSD were discussed. Results have been presented to other meetings and will again be discussed at the 9th MCSD. Meanwhile, the NGOs have prepared a project proposal that, if implemented, would provide valuable support to the elaboration of the MSSD and its follow up through relevant fora at national levels that would involve concerned actors from various sectors.

67. The Secretariat has also had working sessions with representatives of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce to further discuss and appraise the "Coastal Management Summer Institute" proposal that could be set up in Split region in Croatia on a trial basis, involving concerned actors from public and private sectors. The Minister of Environment of Croatia has already expressed its interest and support.

e) Information and communication

68. In order to provide additional visibility to MCSD and its MSSD, the Secretariat has participated and contributed to two important meetings where progress on the MSSD preparatory process was outlined. One was the International Partnership Forum organized by the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory and the UNCSD in Rome on 3-5 March 2004, and the 12th UNCSD session where a side event on the "Mediterranean Responses to the WSSD Commitments" was organized jointly with MIO-ECSDE, the EC and the Greek and Italian Ministries for the Environment; at this occasion, an updated version of the UNEP/MAP Partnership Initiative on MSSD was distributed.

f) Appointment process for the MCSD professional

69. Soon after the Contracting Parties meeting in Catania, where the appointment of a Professional Officer for the MCSD/MSSD was approved, action was taken with UNEP Headquarters in order to appoint the required person the soonest possible. The selection process is still underway.

70. The Job Description for the post of "Sustainable Development Officer", and the classification papers were prepared and forwarded to UNEP. Since, according to UNEP, the related duties correspond to core activities of MAP, they recommended that the post should be a P3 level. This would facilitate the recruitment process in case the Contracting Parties decide to confirm this post later on. It is expected that by the time of the Bureau meeting, the vacancy would have been announced. At the same time, in order not to burden MAP and

eventually the Contracting Parties with costs for additional staff, the Secretariat intends to maintain its original proposal that the post should be an L3 level.

100 Historic Sites

71. While preparing the new programme of work in accordance with the decision of the Contracting Parties in Catania, the *Atelier du Patrimoine* has carried out a number of meetings and activities. It has also participated in the main institutional meetings of MAP. In the wake of damages sustained by the Turkish towns of Beyoglu and Galata in November 2003, the communities of those towns requested a technical assistance mission to help prepare a plan for the protection and reconstruction of the damaged areas. This initiative is in line with the mission to monitor sites on the list of the 100 Historic Sites Programme.

72. In partnership with the Council of Europe and the European Commission's Culture 2000 Programme, a plan for the implementation of integrated rehabilitation, architectural and archaeological heritage assessment projects in the Balkan countries was devised. Activities focused on Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro.

73. During the period under reference, technical assistance missions were conducted in November 2003 in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, and in March 2004 in Croatia.

74. In partnership with the national and local authorities in Morocco, technical assistance was provided for the preparation of the dossier for the Portuguese town of El Jadida with a view to registering it as world heritage; and for the protection of the Marrakech medina in the town planning project.

I.E. NGOs/MAP partners

75. After facilitating, for the first time, a meeting of the NGO/MAP partners on the eve of the Contracting Parties meeting in Catania, several activities have been undertaken by the Secretariat in this context.

76. The Secretariat has regularly informed its partners on MAP activities, encouraged their participation in these activities, and has organised consultation meetings with them regarding the preparation of the MSSD.

77. The Secretariat has processed several requests from NGOs for the funding of projects dealing with important and interesting subjects focusing on and supporting the achievement of the MAP objectives along with their own capacity building requirements.

78. An Albanian NGO has submitted an application to become a MAP partner. It is mainly concerned with pollution control and prevention issues. Thus, it might give important contribution in assisting national authorities in implementing the LBS and Dumping Protocols. It is an organisation with branches throughout the country. It could also establish a forum of NGOs in the future. According to the relative decision in Catania, the Secretariat has informed all Contracting Parties about this application. The Secretariat is of the opinion that this application should be supported, keeping in mind that the role of the NGOs on issues related to pollution and prevention control and the implementation of the SAP is still weak in the southern Mediterranean.

Recommendation:

In view of the above, the Bureau is invited to consider and approve that the Association of the Albanian Chemists be added to the list of MAP partners.

I.F. Information, Public Awareness, and Participation

79. Since the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties apart from consolidating the ongoing programme, new activities have been launched to implement the MAP Information Strategy as well as the decisions taken by the Contracting Parties in Catania, their main objective being the promotion of MAP visibility.

a) Media coverage of MAP events

80. The MAP has been developing relations with Mediterranean media professionals, with positive results.

81. For the first time, a good number of journalists from MAP member countries were accredited to cover the Catania Meeting of the Contracting Parties, representing daily newspapers, weekly and monthly magazines, television and radio stations and national news agencies from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey. Media professionals interviewed Ministers and Delegates attending the Contracting Parties Meeting. About 250 articles were published by some of the largest periodicals, in addition to television and radio programmes. A folder of press cuttings providing a good example of this wide media coverage was prepared and disseminated to the participants of the Contracting Parties meeting as well as the Media representatives.

Workshop for Mediterranean Media Professionals on Biodiversity

82. Twenty journalists, representing the major newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations in Cyprus, Croatia, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Serbia and Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey attended a workshop on Biodiversity in the Mediterranean, organised in Nicosia, Cyprus on 11 – 13 March 2004 in collaboration with SPA/RAC.

83. Participants were briefed on the state of the Mediterranean sea, the main sources of pollution, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as well as the activities and actions undertaken by the MAP and its Regional Activity Centres.

84. Presentations on biodiversity in the Mediterranean were also made by the SPA/RAC Director, by a Tunisian Marine Biologist, former scientific director of SPA/RAC, and by an independent Cypriot marine biologist, and a Senior Official of the Cypriot Government. NGOs were also invited to attend.

85. The event was given wide publicity in the print media, in addition to television and radio coverage. A press folder of this Media coverage was prepared and disseminated.

MAP and the World Environment Day

86. Seven feature articles were prepared by MAP for dissemination to Mediterranean print and broadcast media, with specific focus on the Mediterranean Sea and World Environment Day, which this year is dedicated to Oceans and Seas.

b) Public Participation

87. Following the decision of the Contracting Parties regarding Public Participation, a document explaining the concept of the Participatory Approach, its relevance to the whole process of decision-making together with proposed specific guidelines for its integration in plans and activities aimed at reducing pollution while promoting sustainable development, has been prepared.

88. This document and guidelines were presented during the Regional Training Course for the preparation of the National Action Plans in the framework of SAP-MED held in Izmit, Turkey on 4-6 March 2004. The Course Programme was based on the concept of Participatory Approach.

89. In this presentation, it was stressed that the involvement of concerned stakeholders is a key factor for reaching consensus among all parties, this being indispensable for the stakeholders to have the sense of ownership, to increase trust in institutions, to provide their needed inputs in an effective manner, to decisively contribute to conflict resolving and to ensure adequate and efficient implementation of the NAPs.

c) MAP publications:

MedWaves

90. Three new issues of Medwaves, in Arabic, French and English were published by the Secretariat. Two issues dealt with the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania and the other on the Mediterranean Area in the context of World Environment Day.

MAP Technical Reports Series (MTS)

91. Seven new issues in the series of MAP Technical Reports were published during the period under review. Nine other reports are being printed and another is being prepared.

d) Preparation of a new publication on the State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment

92. The MAP Secretariat together with the European Environment Agency (EEA), has initiated the preparation of the report on the state of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment, as requested by the Contracting Parties Meeting in Catania.

I.G. Financial, Personnel and Security Matters

a) Status of financial implementation of MAP programme and budget

Remittance of Contributions

93. As at 31st December 2003, the status of the Mediterranean Trust Fund was as follows:

- Total contributions in 2003 for 2003 and prior years: \$ 5,542,263 representing 80 % of total amount due.
- Total unpaid pledges for 2003 and prior years: \$ 1,395,500 representing 20 % of total amount due

94. As of the first of January 2004, the Mediterranean Trust Fund was converted to the Euro currency and all outstanding pledges were converted at the December UN rate of

exchange of 0.801 EURO to the US \$. However, since payments for prior years have been received in both Euro and in US dollar, the table attached reflects the payments for prior years in the currency in which the payment is made.

95. The status of the Mediterranean Trust Fund as at 31st March 2004 was as follows (attached as **Annex III**):

- Total pledges for 2004: €6,612,684
- Total collections during 2004 for 2004: € 2,933,138 (44.36 % of 2004 pledges).
- Total unpaid pledges for prior years: € 272,219 from countries and € 571,423 from voluntary contributions. Total unpaid pledges as at end December 2003 is € 843,642.
- Total collections during 2004 for prior years in Euro: €570,303
- Total collections during 2004 for prior years in US dollars: \$ 17,626 (€14,707)

96. 2004 Contributions from Croatia, European Union, France, Monaco and Slovenia as well as the EU voluntary contributions have been received. All the other ordinary and voluntary contributions for 2004 are still outstanding.

Interest income for 2002-2003

97. The un-audited figure reported by the Budget and Fund Management Services (BFMS – Nairobi) for 2003 is \$ 156,446 (€139,863) (exchange rate of 0.894 was used as an average for 2003). Total interest income for the biennium 2002-2003 was \$ 367,008 (Eu. 328,105).

b) Personnel Issues

98. Coordinator - D.2 (Post No: MEL-2322-2664-2198-1101-00). Mr L. Chabason retired on 30th November 2003. Mr P. Mifsud, the new coordinator, reported for duty on 10th May 2004.

99. The Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) requires a new post at professional level for a Sustainable Development Officer. Recruitment process is currently underway.

100. The post of MED POL Program Officer was reclassified from P.3 to P.4 level and the recruitment process has been finalized. Official nomination of the appointed officer is expected from Nairobi HQs.

101. The recruitment process for the post of Scientific Director at the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) is currently underway.

102. Administrative Assistant – G.7 (Post No: OTO 27800 EL -L002). The incumbent, Ms D. Mandika retired on 31 March 2004.

c) Security Issues

103. Since March 2003, due to the war in Iraq, the international situation has worsened as a result of which more emphasis is being made on security issues.

104. In October 2003, the United Nations Office of the Humanitarian Commissioner for Iraq – UNOHCI - at Baghdad was the target of a bomb attack.

105. Since then, the United Nations Security Coordination Office – UNSECOORD based in N.Y. - has been tightening security measures and monitoring the implementation of country-specific security plans at all duty stations, worldwide.

106. Moreover, the forthcoming Olympic games require that security measures should be strengthened as a precautionary step. In this regard the necessary action is being taken with the cooperation of the host country.

107. UNEP HQs has been asked to provide a one-time financial allocation for the implementation of the security plans. Moreover, the host country will be approached in order to provide additional financial support to MEDU office for the maintenance of security services and the provision of the necessary security equipment.

108. Responsibility for the management of the Security Plan rests with the Designated Official (D.O.) who is the most serious among UN agencies in the country. In the case of Greece, this responsibility is shouldered by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator. He is assisted by a Deputy D.O., a Country Security Focal Point (CSFP) and the Wardens. The CSFP in Athens, who also acts as a link between the D.O. and the wardens is the UNEP/MAP Fund/Administrative Officer. As a result of the added responsibility for UNEP/MAP to be regarding the management of the security plan at UN buildings in Greece, there has been a substantial increase in the workload of some of the UNEP/MAP staff which is difficult to handle with the present complement. Due to the present international situation, responsibility for security matters has become a full time job requiring the deployment of a full time security officer.

109. As a result it is being proposed to create a new post of Assistant to the CSFP. The cost of engagement of this assistant will be shared among all UN agencies and IOM in Athens.

Recommendation:

The Bureau is invited to consider the security requirements of UNEP/MAP offices and MEDU staff in Athens and may wish to approve that the process for the engagement of the assistant to the CSFP be taken in hand with urgency.

I.H. Meetings

110. The Secretariat has planned a calendar of meetings as proposed in **Annex II** of the present report. As usual the MAP National Focal Points meeting will be held during the first half of September and the Contracting Parties meeting in the second half of November. Consequently all the RACs and programmes will be requested to hold their respective Focal Points meetings by the end of May 2005 at the latest.

II Components

II.A. Pollution prevention and control

Land-based pollution

a) General coordination and policy

111. Work has started on the preparation of the MED POL Phase IV (2006-2013) Programme. A first draft will be ready in the coming months and will be circulated among scientists and national authorities. The draft contains all the elements that were agreed upon by the Contracting Parties, including the implications of the application of the ecosystem approach and the consideration of the principles of the Johannesburg Summit.

112. In parallel to the preparation of MED POL Phase IV, the evaluation of MED POL Phase III started according to the decision of the Contracting Parties through the engagement of three independent experts from France, Greece and Syria. While a first draft will be ready soon, the evaluation is expected to be completed by the summer 2004.

b) Pollution Assessment

113. Work continued to improve and extend the existing MED POL National Monitoring Programmes and to expand the geographical coverage of the monitoring activities by involving new countries. As a result, a new programme was finalized in Syria and started being implemented. A new draft Programme for Morocco was prepared and is expected to be finalized soon. The two ongoing programmes of Greece and Slovenia were revised and extended in 2004.

114. The second meeting to review the implementation of MED POL Phase III monitoring activities was held in Saronida, Greece on 9-11 December 2003. The Mediterranean countries, represented by their national authorities and experts, reviewed and analysed achievements and bottlenecks of their monitoring activities with a view at improving the performances of their programmes. A first detailed statistical evaluation of the existing trend monitoring data of the ongoing programmes had been prepared by the Secretariat and was presented to the Meeting and reviewed by the countries' representatives as well as external experts. In addition to a review of all other monitoring-related activities such as training and data quality assurance, a number of presentations on research projects on emerging environmental issues were made and two ad-hoc working sessions were held on data flow and the pilot eutrophication monitoring programme.

115. Concerning eutrophication, after the adoption of a specific monitoring strategy within the MED POL Programme, the Meeting agreed on a tentative work plan for the pilot phase of the year 2004. According to the plan, three pilot sites in different countries, i.e. a lagoon, a coastal strip and a bay under the pressure of eutrophication drivers, were selected for the formulation of a monitoring programme. The second regional training activity was also tentatively scheduled for the second half of 2004. It was also decided to revise the draft reference method manual to include more techniques of some specific mandatory variables of the MED POL eutrophication monitoring programme.

116. A consultation meeting was held in Athens from 17-18 December 2003, with the purpose to make recommendations on quality criteria and standards for the monitoring of bathing waters. Government-designated experts from 15 countries reviewed recent developments in monitoring microbiological pollution, taking into consideration the WHO guidelines and the current development of the new European Council (EC) Directive on this

topic. The participants unanimously agreed on a number of draft standards and criteria which are in harmony with the WHO and EC approaches and to carry out corresponding activities and submit, the conclusions and recommendations to the next MED POL National Coordinators' meeting.

117. All the monitoring data submitted from countries during the period November 2003-February 2004 was loaded into the MED POL database, and exported database files were provided to the corresponding countries for verification.

118. A test of the newly agreed procedure concerning flow of marine pollution data between EEA and MAP/MED POL was successfully performed on the 2002 Cyprus data upon agreement of the national authorities. The decision for the European/Mediterranean countries to first provide data to MED POL and for MED POL to transfer them to EEA was also reflected in the revised monitoring agreements of Greece and Slovenia in order to implement the process without delay.

119. Concerning the MED POL database web site, the new direct URL has been finalized as <http://62.68.74.75/medpol/> and the link to the site through MAP web pages has been established through www.unepmap.org >about the MAP>MAP structure>MED POL>MED POL today>database.

c) Pollution control – Implementation of the LBS Protocol and SAP

120. In the context of the preparation of National Diagnostic Analysis(NDA) and National Baseline Budget(NBB) which are considered as the corner stones for the preparation of National Action Plan to address LBS of pollution , the status of the preparation of these documents is shown in the following table:

Country	NDA	NBB
Albania	Yes	Yes
Algeria	Yes	Yes
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Yes	Yes
Cyprus	Yes	Yes
Croatia	Yes	Yes
Egypt	Yes	Yes
France	Ongoing	Ongoing
Greece	Yes	Yes
Israel	Yes	Expected in May 2004
Italy	Ongoing	Ongoing
Lebanon	Yes	Yes
Libya	Yes	Ongoing
Malta	Yes	Yes
Monaco	Ongoing	Ongoing
Morocco	Yes	Yes
Serbia -Montenegro	Ongoing	Ongoing
Slovenia	Yes	Yes
Spain	Ongoing	Ongoing
Syria	Yes	Yes
Tunisia	Yes	Expected in May 2004
Turkey	Yes	Yes
Palestinian Authority	Yes	Yes

121. The information and data included in all the reports were reviewed by the Secretariat and other experts.

122. The process for the preparation of the National Action Plans (NAPs) started effectively in February 2004. To this aim, the Secretariat organized, with the assistance of GEF and FFEM, a regional training course in Izmit, Turkey, on 4-7 March 2004, to discuss and review the overall objectives of NAPs and train national experts nominated by the MED POL National Coordinators in the preparation of the Sectoral Plans (SP) and NAPs. NAPs are expected to be prepared during the 2004-2005 biennium.

123. Fifty five experts and representatives from 18 Mediterranean countries participated in the training course together with representatives from MED POL, MEDU, UNEP/GPA, CP/RAC and PAP/RAC and 3 independent experts. The course was designed on the basis of a "game player" concept where the participants had the opportunity to be exposed to the different stakeholders' perspectives. The plenary sessions of the Course examined and reviewed the following documents:

- Guidelines for the preparation of SPs and NAPs including Cleaner Production
- Guidelines for Public Participation for NAPs
- Guidelines for the use of economic instrument for NAPs
- Guidelines for the preparation of Portfolio for NAPs
- Two CDs including 23 Guidelines and Regional Plans prepared by MED POL and adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2003

124. As a result of the training course, MED POL, with the assistance of GEF, started the process of contracting national experts for the preparation of SPs and NAPs and for the drawing up of a tentative timetable and phases to conclude the activity by June 2005.

Recommendation:

The Bureau is invited to urge those countries that have not yet provided their NDA and BB reports to make an effort to complete them by June 2004, and all Parties to plan without delay the appropriate launching of the process for the preparation of Sectoral Plans and National Action Plans.

d) Other activities related to the LBS Protocol

125. In the framework of the work carried out by MED POL on sea water desalination in the Mediterranean, the Secretariat participated at a Meeting on Impacts of Sea Water Desalination on the Marine Environment organized by the Interislamic Oceanographic Committee (INOC) in Dubai. The Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of Sea Water Desalination Plants in the Mediterranean region, prepared by MED POL, were very well received by the participants and considered as an innovative approach for the management of desalination plants. CDs including the Guidelines were distributed to all participants.

126. Concerning the issue of management of solid waste (litter) in coastal areas, work was carried out by MED POL in two directions: public awareness and field work. As to the latter, MED POL presented a paper describing the technical and policy developments in the Mediterranean on the issue of coastal litter management during the METAP Regional Workshop on Solid Waste Management in Algiers, Algeria 26-29 January 2004, and signed an agreement with HELMEPA, a Greek NGO MAP-partner, for the preparation of a poster and a brochure in English and Greek for beach goers, swimmers and seafarers to be distributed to the many visitors who will go to Greece during the coming summer on the occasion of the Olympic Games. With regard to the fieldwork, the Secretariat initiated contacts with Lebanese authorities to launch the first Mediterranean Pilot Project on coastal litter management and the implementation of the Guidelines prepared by MED POL.

127. MED POL, with the assistance of GEF and FFEM, organized one regional training course on rivers monitoring and quantification of riverine inputs into the Mediterranean Sea in the premises of IFEN, Orleans, France, on 17-18 December 2003. Experts from 13 Mediterranean Countries participated in the course during which the Guidelines for Rivers monitoring and quantification of riverine inputs into the Mediterranean together with case studies were presented and discussed with three regional experts from France and Greece. The representatives of the Contracting Parties made their own presentations on the subject which showed that many countries still do not possess comprehensive monitoring programmes for rivers as well as experience in the quantification of riverine inputs.

128. In the same context, a similar training course for North African Mediterranean countries was organized by MED POL in Tunis, Tunisia, on 25-26 March 2004. Fifteen experts from Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria participated in the course.

129. With the assistance of GEF, MED POL is planning to organize four additional courses in Turkey for Turkish experts, in an eastern Arab country for experts from Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Libya and Palestinian Authority, in Albania for Albanian experts and in Croatia for experts from Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia-Montenegro. In all cases, working documents are to be translated in the local language.

130. A meeting of the Informal Network on compliance and enforcement was held in Athens, from 3-5 December 2003, as part of MED POL. The purpose of the meeting was to review the activities performed within the Informal Network and to make proposals for future actions. Twelve representatives of the Contracting Parties attended the meeting, and made a number of recommendations to be discussed during the next MED POL Coordinators Meeting.

131. Two National training courses on pollution inspection were held in Arabic language, during May 2004. The first one took place in Algiers, from 9-11 May and the second one in Tunis from 10-14 May. Forty experts participated in the courses, using background material translated into Arabic.

132. A national training course on municipal wastewater treatment plant operation and management was held in Algiers from 15-17 May 2004 with the assistance of an external expert. Twenty participants attend the course that was conducted in Arabic.

e) Reporting

133. As a result of the decision of the Contracting Parties regarding the MAP reporting system, MEDPOL has been responsible for the preparation of reporting formats for the LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Waste Protocols; concerning reporting on the implementation of the SAP, draft guidelines for the countries to monitor the implementation of the SAP targets and the effectiveness of the measures taken have been prepared, will soon be tested and will be later integrated as appropriate into the MAP system.

134. In the framework of the implementation of the pilot project on the preparation of Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) in Mediterranean countries, MED POL, in cooperation with ICS-UNIDO, organized a kickoff meeting for the PRTR pilot project in Lattakia, Syria, on 22-23 March 2004. This Pilot Project consists of the implementation of the PRTR concept in 10 industries located in the Syrian coastal zone (Governorates of Lattakia and Tartous) together with a training programme on the preparation of a Data Base and the quantification of releases from industry that will be organized by ICS-UNIDO. The meeting was successful and the industrial partners and local authorities showed willingness and interest to adequately implement the pilot project.

135. The Secretariat received from Turkey a preliminary approval for the implementation of a PRTR pilot project during 2004-2005 and a proposal for the extension of the project already successfully carried out in Alexandria, Egypt, to cover additional SMEs and regions.

f) Implementation of Dumping Protocol

136. In the framework of the preparation of Guidelines for the dumping of materials under the provisions of Art. 4 and 6 the Dumping Protocol, MEDPOL is actively cooperating with London Convention in order to finalize the Guidelines for dumping of inert geological materials.

137. Concerning the other Guidelines already prepared by MED POL and adopted by the Contracting Parties, MED POL has contacted a number of countries as well as the London Convention Secretariat to jointly organize regional training courses for the appropriate application of the Guidelines.

g) Implementation of Hazardous Waste Protocol

138. As agreed by the Contracting Parties at their 13th meeting held in Catania in 2003, MED POL has started negotiating a framework agreement with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention foreseeing the cooperation of the Basel Convention Regional Centers for the organization of sub-regional training courses on hazardous waste management with special emphasis on obsolete chemical, batteries and luboil. Such activity would contribute to the future implementation of the Protocol but also to the implementation of the SAP that specifically deals with these issues.

Sea-based pollution

139. In conformity with its functions and objectives and with the decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, REMPEC continued between November 2003 and April 2004 to carry out activities in the fields of prevention of pollution from ships and of preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution. The main activities focused on development and implementation of specific projects aimed at prevention of pollution from ships, and on capacity building including dissemination of information, training and assistance in the development of national and sub-regional systems for accidental marine pollution preparedness and response. No major pollution incidents were recorded in the Mediterranean during the period under review and therefore there was no need for assistance in case of emergency.

a) Dissemination of information

140. As part of the permanent activity of developing and keeping up-to-date the Regional Information System (RIS), REMPEC updated and disseminated to its national Focal Points English and French versions of Part A of RIS ("Basic documents ...").

141. Data concerning shipping incidents registered during 2003, which caused or might have caused pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, were collated and entered into the Centre's data base. Preparation of the updated version of document RIS/C/2 (List of Alerts and Accidents) is currently in progress.

142. The Centre's website has been completely revised and restructured. The new design enables REMPEC staff to update and amend the contents of the site as necessary, without need for external assistance. The site offers the opportunity to the visitors to download reports, technical and other documents produced by the Centre and some of

REMPEC developed databases. The new site features *inter alia* "country pages" in which national Focal Points can enter relevant data themselves concerning competent national authorities and information concerning expertise and stockpiles of spill response equipment available at national level for international co-operation and mutual assistance.

143. MIDSIS TROCS (Mediterranean Integrated Decision Support Information System) has been finalized and a CD ROM containing this new decision support tool is expected to be published in May 2004. It was prepared with a view to assisting REMPEC Operational (OPRC) Focal Points in taking decisions when dealing with marine pollution emergencies involving hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) as well as certain crude and refined oils.

b) Training activities

144. A National Seminar on preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution for government administrators and senior managers was organized in Durres, Albania, 24-26 November 2003. 27 participants attended the Seminar.

145. A National Training Course on emergency management was organized in Lattakia, Syria, 16-19 November 2003. Nineteen high ranking officers attended and successfully completed the course, which was organized as part of LIFE Third Countries.

146. Within the same LIFE project for the development of national preparedness and response system in the Syrian Arab Republic a complex oil spill response exercise, involving deployment of vessels, aircraft, equipment and personnel was organized in Baniyas, Syria, 29 November -3 December 2003. The exercise itself was preceded by a day and a half long seminar on incident command structure. More than 60 officers from government departments, Navy, Army, other national services and industry took part in the exercise in addition to some 50 oil spill response workers/operators.

147. Four Syrian national experts were trained in Damascus, 18-19 November 2003, in oil spill modeling and in the use of MEDSLIK 4.1 oil spill forecasting model.

148. The preparation of a comprehensive national training programme for inclusion in the Syrian National Contingency Plan was completed in December 2003. The programme comprising 9 different training courses was prepared in both English and Arabic languages.

149. On 24 February 2004 REMPEC staff presented a series of lectures to a group of 20 postgraduate students from the World Maritime University, Malmö, Sweden.

150. On 13 April 2004 REMPEC staff presented a module on regional and global regimes for marine pollution prevention, preparedness and response to the 2004 class of postgraduate students of the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), Malta.

c) Meetings

151. Regional Workshop on the implementation of MARPOL 73/78 Annex I in the Mediterranean Region was held in Malta 11-13 December 2003. 37 participants from practically all Mediterranean coastal States attended the Workshop.

152. A meeting was held on 20 January 2004 with the representatives of the Italian National Institute for Geophysics and Vulcanology (INGV) with a view to establishing co-operation in the field of oceanographic forecasting. A Memorandum of Understanding between REMPEC and INGV concerning future co-operation is expected to be finalized in May 2004.

153. On 8-9 March 2004 REMPEC convened in Malta an *ad hoc* Meeting of a selected group of experts on sensitivity mapping. The meeting formulated a proposal concerning sensitivity mapping in the Mediterranean region that has been disseminated for comments to the REMPEC Focal Points in April 2004.

d) Development of national and sub-regional systems for accidental marine pollution preparedness and response

154. In December 2003 REMPEC finalized activities related to LIFE Third Countries project TCY99/INT/017/SYR for the development of national preparedness and response system in Syrian Arab Republic. In addition to the above indicated training purposes the following activities were also completed in November and December 2003: preparation of environmental sensitivity maps of the Syrian coasts; adaptation, installation and testing of MEDSLIK oil spill forecasting model; translation into Arabic of draft National legal Act, National Contingency Plan, three area and two local Contingency Plans and of the proposal concerning National Oil Spill Response Centre. Final report of the entire project was submitted to the EC, LIFE Unit of DG Environment, on 10 April 2004.

155. Sensitivity maps of the Slovenian coasts, developed as part of CAMP Slovenia, were completed by the end of January 2004.

156. Arabic versions of the Sub-regional Contingency Plan for the South Western Mediterranean (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia), and of the trilateral agreement for its implementation were finalized and submitted for final approval to the three countries concerned.

157. The draft Sub-regional Contingency Plan for the Adriatic Sea (Croatia, Italy, Slovenia) and the trilateral agreement for its implementation were revised and the texts were agreed upon at the meeting of national legal and technical experts convened under the Slovenian presidency of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative Round Table on Sustainable Development and Environment in Portoroz, Slovenia 29-30 March 2004. Croatian and Slovenian delegations decided to finalize, before the end of May 2004, through direct exchanges between them several definitions that could not be agreed upon at the meeting. On 15 April 2004 REMPEC disseminated to the three countries concerned the consolidated texts for final verification.

e) Prevention and control of pollution from ships

158. The MEDA project "*Port reception facilities for collecting ship-generated waste, bilge waters and oily wastes*" is composed of 4 components, namely: Activity A (*Identification of Required Capabilities for Collection and Treatment of Relevant Types of Solid and Liquid Wastes*), Activity B (*Optimum Solutions for Collecting, Treatment and Disposal of Relevant Ship-Generated Solid and Liquid Wastes*) and Activity D (*Preparation of Standard Designs for Port Reception Facilities*). Activity B was completed by mid April 2004. The final report of this activity was forwarded to the project's beneficiary countries at the end of April 2004. Call for tenders for Activity D and the terms of reference were prepared and sent to identified potential contractors in April 2004.

159. As the MEDA port reception facilities project does not cover the whole Mediterranean region, REMPEC initiated the execution of the same activities of the above-mentioned MEDA project in three other countries which are not Euro-Med Partners namely, Albania, Slovenia and Croatia. Financial support for these analogous activities was provided by the MTF budget. In this regard, the Centre has already carried out similar initiatives to Activities A and C of the MEDA project related to the identification of existing situation and needs regarding port reception facilities in these countries. The related final reports were disseminated to the three beneficiary countries in March 2004. Moreover, REMPEC is

finalizing the completion of a similar exercise to Activity B of the MEDA project with respect to these three countries and the final report will be distributed by June 2004.

160. A needs assessment study similar to Activities A and C of the MEDA project was also carried out in March 2004 in a number of ports in Libya and the relative draft report of the study is now being produced.

161. As a result of the experience gained from the implementation of the MEDA project on port reception facilities, in the last quarter of 2003 REMPEC was requested by the Technical Co-operation Division of IMO to carry out an assessment of the situation and needs of port reception facilities in the port of Aqaba, Jordan. With the assistance of a consultant, in November 2003, REMPEC carried out a needs assessment mission in Aqaba to assess the situation and needs of port reception facilities related to Annexes I and V of MARPOL 73/78. The final needs assessment report on port reception facilities in the port of Aqaba was finalised and submitted to the competent authorities of Jordan and to IMO in February 2004. The execution of this activity on behalf of IMO in the Gulf of Aqaba is the result of the positive impact of the implementation of the MEDA project on port reception facilities in the Mediterranean by REMPEC. It is also considered as an added value of the MAP REMPEC Project which has resulted in the transfer of technology to another region.

f) Other activities

1) *Strategy for the implementation of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol*

162. Revision of the Strategy for the implementation of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol, on the basis of comments received from the Contracting Parties started in April 2004. The revised version of the Strategy, which will henceforth be referred to as the Regional Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, will be distributed to REMPEC Focal Points in May 2004. Organization of the Meeting of national experts on Strategy started in April 2004 with a view to convening the meeting in July 2004.

2) *Project proposals*

163. REMPEC revised, completed and submitted to MEDU, with a view to be presented to GEF for financing, a complex project proposal called CLEANMED for a series of activities aimed at reducing the level of operational pollution in the Mediterranean.

164. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in April 2004 with the Italian National Research Council for the implementation of a project named CLEANMED Italia, that should serve as a pilot project for the regional CLEANMED project.

3) *Personnel*

165. Mr. François Leotoing joined REMPEC on 3 November 2003. He was seconded by the French national oil company TOTAL within the framework of the French system "*volontariat international scientifique*" (VIS) and will work at the Centre for a period of 18 months. He has been assigned duties related *inter alia* to liaising with the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG), further developing MIDSIS-TROCS decision support tool, developing and maintaining the Centre's database of pollution incidents, participating in the organization of exercises and training activities and preparing technical documents on restoration of polluted shorelines. Mr. Leotoing also has responsibilities related to maintaining the Centre's new website.

166. Mr. Francesco Strangis who was seconded to REMPEC by the Italian Petroleum Association (UPI) completed his assignment in February 2004.

Cleaner Production

167. During the period covered by this report a number of activities have been carried out. Several publications were issued including *P News newsletter* No. 15, , four *Med Clean case studies and mailing list*. A technology database for the paper industry has been prepared and reviewed with the aim of posting it on RAC/CP web site and contributing to technology transfer in the Region, together with a database of Mediterranean experts. The RAC/CP web site was updated.

168. Studies and leaflets on cleaner technologies and pollution prevention were also published. One of the studies dealt with the state of CP in the MAP countries. The contents of the report on the state of CP in the Mediterranean basin had been prepared for the southern and eastern countries of the region. During November 2003 – April 2004, the report including overall conclusions, has been completed and finalised with the northern countries. Furthermore, the whole report has been translated into English, French, Spanish and is currently being published.

169. Another study was entitled “*Manual of good environmental practices in the logistics sector*”. The contents of a study on good environmental practices for the sector (transport services, agencies, free lance professionals, logistic operators) have been prepared and translated (English, French and Spanish), with an overview of the situation in the Mediterranean region.

170. A third study concerned “*Pollution prevention in the printing and allied industries*” and dealt with the pollution prevention opportunities of the printing sector and allied industries, with an overview of the situation in the Mediterranean basin. The report has been translated and published on CD-ROM.

171. The fourth study was a “*Study on the organisation of the industrial sectors and businesses in the Mediterranean region*”. This consisted of the preparation of a study along with a database that gives an overview of the organisation of industry and businesses in the Mediterranean basin by country, with the final aim of identifying and better knowing the representative counterparts within the entrepreneurial domain.

172. Projects: *LIFE project: Capacity building in Bosnia and Herzegovina*. The project consists in the creation of a cleaner production centre in BiH in the long term. In the period November 2003 – April 2004, RAC/CP has participated in the project by following up and giving advice in the carrying out of several Minimisation Opportunities Environmental Diagnosis (MOED) in local companies. Particularly, RAC/CP has participated and given advice in detecting pollution prevention opportunities in two companies of the food industrial sector and two companies of the metallurgic sector.

173. Two training courses on the *Minimisation Opportunities Environmental Diagnosis (MOED)* methodology have been carried out in València (4 November 2003) and Murcia (6 November 2003), addressed to consulting firms, companies and experts.

174. A seminar on *Enhancing public/private partnership for new financial arrangements to eliminate land-based pollution: promoting transfer of Best Available Techniques (BAT)* was held in Rome on 2-3 February 2004. This seminar for experts was organised with the aim of launching a joint project Global Programme of Action (GPA) – MAP on financial instruments for the application of the Strategic Action Programme to address pollution from land-based activities (SAP).

175. A *Training course for the preparation of sectoral plans and National Action Plans in the framework of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)* was held in Izmit, Turkey, on 4-6

March 2004. The course dealt with cleaner production aspects of the National Action Plans that the Mediterranean countries have to draft according to the SAP. Participants took part also in the working groups on a case study for drafting a NAP for a fictitious country.

II.B Biodiversity

a) Data collection and assistance to countries for preparing inventories of species and sites

176. As recommended by the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, RAC/SPA launched the computerization of the Standard Data entry-Form (SDF) for national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest. The first computerized version is being tested.

177. A "*Manual for the interpretation of marine habitat types for the selection of sites to be included in the national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest*" was elaborated in French and translated into English. The Manual will be integrated in the computerized version of the SDF and will be published in an electronic format.

b) Implementation of the action plans

1) Implementation of the Action Plan for the management of the Mediterranean monk seal

178. RAC/SPA is organising an expedition to Northern Morocco with a local team to train them on monk seal populations monitoring and to assess the status and evaluate the habitats in the area.

179. Two reports needed for the species management, concerning the effects of pollution on the monk seal and genetics of the species are being planned.

180. Contacts are being established with the Libyan authorities and the National Centre for Marine Research of Tajura to reactivate activities for monk seal conservation along the Libyan coasts and to provide training to a team of national experts on monk seal monitoring and conservation.

181. RAC/SPA will have a meeting with the concerned authorities in Libya to discuss further the reactivation of monk seal conservation in this country.

2) Implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean marine turtles

182. As requested by the Contracting Parties, RAC/SPA translated and published the Fishermen's Guide in Turkish, Greek and Croatian.

183. In collaboration with the Berne and Bonn Conventions' Secretariats and the Turkish Government, RAC/SPA is making the necessary preparations to organize the Second Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles that will be held in Turkey in autumn 2004.

184. RAC/SPA contributed to a Workshop on Sea Turtle Scientific Tagging Standardisation, which was held in the Centre for the Mediterranean Cooperation of IUCN (Malaga, Spain) from 31 March to 1 April 2004.

3) *Implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea*

185. A coordination meeting was held in RAC/SPA premises on 2 March 2004, with the Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS, in order to coordinate a common work plan.

186. RAC/SPA is discussing the possibility of supporting the organisation of the 5th European Seminar on Marine Mammals (13-17 September 2004), with the International University Menendez Pelayo (UIMP) in Valencia (Spain).

187. A coordination meeting was held with a national institution in Tunisia (Institut National des Sciences et des Technologies de la Mer at Sfax) to establish a National Stranding Network and to record data on free ranging cetaceans.

188. RAC/SPA is preparing an International Meeting on Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean region and Black Sea, in collaboration with ACCOBAMS. This Meeting will be held in Libya from 30 May to 1 June 2004.

189. RAC/SPA is having consultations about the preparation of a National Action Plan on the conservation of cetaceans in Lebanon.

190. RAC/SPA collaborated with and assisted ACCOBAMS in the organisation of the Bycatch Coordination Meeting (Rome, 19-20 April 2004), which aims at developing a regional project on assessment and mitigation of cetacean bycatch in the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic contiguous waters.

191. Layout of the documents "Whale watching" and "Guidelines for the Development of National Networks of Cetacean Stranding Monitoring" are being prepared.

192. RAC/SPA will undertake the International Meeting on Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean region and Black Sea, in collaboration with ACCOBAMS.

193. RAC/SPA will contribute to the production of a training CD-Rom on cetacean tissue bank.

4) *Implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea*

194. In collaboration with the Action Plan Associates, RAC/SPA organised the Second Mediterranean Symposium on Marine Vegetation in the premises of the Greek National Centre for Marine Research (NCRM), on 12-13 December 2004. Several Mediterranean scientists and specialists in marine vegetation attended the Symposium. RAC/SPA intends to publish the Proceedings of the Symposium that will contain about 40 papers and poster abstracts.

195. A consultant has been appointed for the drafting of a Guide for the elaboration of projects for seagrass meadow mapping.

196. RAC/SPA is participating in a request with IFREMER (France) for a Project on *Posidonia* conservation in the Western Mediterranean region (INTERREG).

5) *Implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes (chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea*

197. Partner institutions for the implementation of the Action Plan have been identified. Contacts with these institutions are underway in order to agree on the fulfillment of the adopted Action Plan calendar of activities for the present biennium. The Spanish Oceanographic Institute (IEO) has the technical capacity to contribute towards their implementation. They already keep record of most shark captures done by the Mediterranean fleets in this sea.

6) *Implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex II to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean*

198. A consultant was appointed to:

- Undertake two case studies for the use of the SDF in two important sites for birds
- Elaborate a programme of work and a timetable for implementing the Action Plan provisions
- Support RAC/SPA in implementing these activities.

199. RAC/SPA has offered its support in the organisation of the 11th Pan African Ornithological Congress to be held in Djerba Island (Tunisia) in November 2004.

7) *Implementation of the Action Plan concerning species introductions and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea*

200. A consultant was appointed to support RAC/SPA in the implementation of the Action Plan activities according to the adopted timetable.

c) Public information

201. RAC/SPA is initiating the implementation of the Mediterranean Clearing-house Mechanism (CHM) on marine biological diversity in close collaboration with the CBD Secretariat. In this context, two case studies are underway to investigate the appropriate means of integrating information on marine and coastal biodiversity in two existing national CHMs.

202. RAC/SPA co-organised, in collaboration with MEDU, and participated in the Workshop on Biodiversity and Media in the Mediterranean held in Nicosia (Cyprus) on 11-13 March 2004.

203. RAC/SPA is working on updating its website and in integrating in it various databases and in particular a GIS database.

204. RAC/SPA is publishing the newly adopted action plans and guidelines.

d) Assistance to countries in the selection, establishment and management of specially protected areas

205. The activities of the Regional Project for the Development of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Region (MedMPA Project) are being implemented in accordance with the work plan agreed with the European Commission, the countries and the partners involved in the Project. During the reporting period, these activities included the

organisation of several field surveys, the drafting of management plans for marine protected areas and their submission to a consultation process, and the organisation of a regional training seminar on protected areas management planning.

206. A Guide on species in need of special care in the Mediterranean and Guidelines on the establishment and management of protected areas were elaborated and are going to be translated and published in three languages (Arabic, English and French).

e) Selection, establishment and management of specially protected areas of Mediterranean importance (SPAMIs)

207. Representatives from RAC/SPA and REMPEC met in order to coordinate the development of a project on contingency plans for the protection of SPAMIs in case of accidental pollution.

208. RAC/SPA is assisting WWF -France in re-launching the Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MedPAN), a network of Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas managers. This network is aiming at exchanging experience between managers and fostering the development of management tools (SPA).

f) Training activities concerning specially protected areas and species conservation

209. A consultant was appointed in order to find appropriate channels of cooperation and financing of the Mediterranean Initiative on Taxonomy (MIT) and to elaborate appropriate funding requests for it.

210. In the framework of promoting taxonomy, RAC/SPA provided its support in organising the First National Workshop on Taxonomy of NAFRINET (North African Taxonomic Network) held on 9 and 10 December in Tunis (Tunisia). This workshop was attended by 67 participants and assessed the situation of taxonomy in North Africa and especially in Tunisia.

g) Project for the elaboration of the strategic action plan for the conservation of biological diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO)

211. A team of 4 international consultants was set in order to start the preparatory phase of SAP BIO programme when funds are made available.

212. An international consultant was appointed to support the preparation of the National Report and National Action Plans of Serbia & Montenegro.

213. Serbia & Montenegro National Report and National Action Plans were prepared.

214. A Concept paper for SAP BIO launching was prepared and sent to MEDU and GEF.

215. A coordination meeting was held with the GEF Project Manager to discuss alternative funding sources.

216. The SAP BIO website was updated.

217. RAC/SPA will participate in the Fourth World Fisheries Congress (Vancouver, Canada, 2-6 May 2004) in order to promote the existing SAP BIO actions and initiatives related to fisheries, among other projects. RAC/SPA will attend the next Subcommittee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE) Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting, to identify ways of collaborating with FAO regarding fisheries and SAP BIO implementation.

h) CAMPs

218. A coordination meeting was held in RAC/SPA premises with the team responsible for the implementation of the activity related to natural site within CAMP Algeria.

219. RAC/SPA participated in the inception workshop of CAMP Slovenia.

220. RAC/SPA will take part in CAMP Cyprus and CAMP Mar Menor (Spain).

i) Cooperation and synergy

221. RAC/SPA held a coordination meeting with the IUCN-Mediterranean Cooperation Centre to carry out common activities related to the amendment of Annexes II and III to the SPA Protocol.

222. Preparations are underway together with the Black Commission Secretariat for the organisation of a five day gathering at RAC/SPA to exchange experience and working methods.

223. A Memorandum of Cooperation between the IUCN-Mediterranean Cooperation Centre and the Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit was signed.

224. A draft Memorandum of Cooperation between the CMS and the Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit was prepared.

225. A Memorandum of Cooperation, including a joint work programme, between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit was signed.

II.C Environment and Development

a) Report on the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Region and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

226. The Blue Plan is currently putting the finishing touches to the "Report on the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Region" on behalf of MAP. Extra time was needed on two chapters to allow account to be taken of a number of points raised by experts during the Steering Committee meetings.

227. The chapter on coasts was rewritten and submitted to a group of experts in December 2003. In the light of their comments, it subsequently took until March 2004 to be finalised.

228. Part 3 of the report is currently being finalised, so that all chapters (in both English and French) can be forwarded to the focal points in late June 2004, requesting their response by mid September at the latest. Almost the entire text can be accessed on a restricted basis on the Blue Plan's website at the following address: www.planbleu.org/vfrancaise/red2003.htm and www.planbleu.org/vanglaise/red2003.htm. The European Commission showed interest in the initial results of the report. A representative of EuropeAid even visited the Blue Plan in December. Additional funding could be forthcoming to take things further.

229. The Blue Plan actively participates in meetings concerning the preparation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

b) The MEDSTAT-Environment Project

230. Phase II of this project, which should provide for consolidation of the major headway made during Phase I, will focus on new priority themes: air pollution, biodiversity and the sustainable development indicators advocated by the MCSD, whilst obviously not abandoning the water, soil and waste themes. Environmental accounting will also be on the agenda. The new objectives under Phase II consist of a synergy with the other sectors dealt with under MEDSTAT, in particular transport, tourism, agriculture and national accounts, and greater consideration for requests for information from the main users.

231. Operations got underway in autumn 2003 with major launch missions in 9 countries. The first of the three training courses required (one per priority theme) was run in February 2004 on the release of pollutants into the atmosphere. The remaining two will follow at six-monthly intervals. Three series of missions are also planned, with the first scheduled for April-June 2004. Regular publications are expected, including a new version of the regional compendium.

232. A new version of ECHEMS was drawn up in 2003, in line with OECD and Eurostat standards. Moreover, the Blue Plan intends to make this tool available to the countries, especially to those national Environment Observatories which are already up and running. To this end, an ECHEMS training course has been scheduled for June 2004, to be followed by *in situ* installation for Observatories wishing to make use of this instrument.

c) Free Trade and the Environment in the Euro-Mediterranean Context

233. A study was conducted within the framework of the World Bank/METAP and ESCWA partnership, aimed at assessing the likely impact of free trade (abolishing the multifibre agreement and dismantling tariffs as foreseen by the EU-Morocco Association Agreement) on small and medium-sized enterprises in Morocco's textile sector. It showed that liberalisation in the absence of accompanying measures (basic scenario) would cause serious economic and social damage as a consequence of a deterioration in the Moroccan textile sector's competitive position, illustrated by a loss of the country's comparative advantage in cost/price terms, particularly when compared with Asiatic countries. Conversely, strategic repositioning (mitigation scenario) of the sector based on an optimisation of quality/proximity/speed of reaction within a Euro-Mediterranean framework would allow the benefits of liberalisation to be capitalised upon. This would require accompanying measures enabling small and medium-sized companies to switch from the role of sub-contractor to that of co-contractor, anticipating international market requirements. As far as the environment is concerned, the aim is to encourage the introduction of a win-win strategy within the company: easing pressure on the environment (reducing water and energy consumption and waste) and cutting costs. In this field, Euro-Mediterranean scale measures would need to be dovetailed with those which the Moroccan state would be required to take in order to encourage firms to reconcile competitiveness and sustainability.

234. The University of Manchester, in association with some other institutions, was entrusted with conducting the impact assessment on the sustainability of the Euro-Mediterranean free trade area. The BP/RAC held an in-depth working session with the project director, along with a representative of the European Environment Agency who, with the various DGs involved, attends the EC's internal steering committee. The meeting analysed the various environmental stakes tied in with liberalisation as flagged up by the work carried out by the BP/RAC on behalf of the MCSD. The BP/RAC was also requested to take part in an advisory committee comprising several experts who had, in particular,

contributed to previous work. The work of the Blue Plan/MCSD is going to be put to good use, with the study allowing objectives to be targeted, more in-depth consideration to be given to certain points, and more particularly the consultation process to be widened.

d) *Funding and Cooperation towards Sustainable Development*

235. One regional assessment and two national studies (Croatia and Morocco) have been completed. The assessment reflects the funding of sustainable development in the Mediterranean, and indicates several channels for rallying capital and players behind the objectives of this type of development. The Croatian study looks at coastal area protection funding, whilst the Moroccan one deals with funding in the water sector.

236. On 3 and 4 June 2004 the BP/RAC is organising a regional workshop in Sophia Antipolis (France) to facilitate the emergence of a joint position and to come up with some proposals on this issue. The workshop will attract representatives from the European Commission, Spain, France, Italy, Croatia, Morocco and Tunisia, the main Mediterranean sponsors, as well as other bodies, NGOs and experts.

e) *Sustainable Coastal Area Management, Town Management and Local Governance*

237. 2003 also witnessed the development of the new prospecting methods ("systemic and prospective sustainability study") which the Blue Plan implements in MAP's coastal management programmes. This participation-based method leads to the selection of priority indicators by local teams, with Blue Plan assistance, their calculation, and prospective thinking regarding development trends and desirable improvements. The Slovenian CAMP was launched in March 2004 within the framework of this activity, and the 4th workshop for the Algiers CAMP is scheduled for May 2004.

f) *Water Demand Management*

238. A head of mission was recruited in February 2004 through the secondment of an engineer from the Kingdom of Morocco and top-up funding from France. The aim is to continue and further develop upon work conducted over recent years and to assist in making optimal use of the indicators to allow policies to be refocused and their progress to be monitored.

g) *Indicators for Sustainable Development*

239. In order to strengthen the link between the Mediterranean set of 130 indicators for sustainable development and other initiatives, the situation in the Mediterranean countries as regards the millennium development goals (MDGs) was assessed using the 48 millennium indicators (selected in Johannesburg in 2002). An interim report (in French) has been drawn up on this assessment.

240. The Blue Plan has begun to prepare the experts meeting scheduled for November 2004, identifying basic documentation and possible participants. The aim of this meeting is to provide food for thought and discussion at the regional workshop planned for 2005 on the use of compound sustainability indexes, and how they can best be used in sustainable development strategies and policies in the Mediterranean region.

h) *Tourism and Sustainable Development*

241. The final version of the forthcoming "White Paper" on tourism in the Mediterranean, which was entrusted to a regional consultant, is now in the pipeline. Several national experts have provided valuable contributions to the report. The experts group which convened back in January 2002 to launch this activity was due to reconvene in autumn 2003

to allow for publication early in 2004. The meeting was postponed until July 2004. This is a useful network which is worth maintaining to help Mediterranean tourism take greater account of sustainable development.

j) Sustainable Rural Development

242. With the aim of boosting the Mediterranean forestry sector's contribution to sustainable rural development, the Blue Plan has received the active support of several Mediterranean countries which are members of the Silva Mediterranea committee, in order to conduct illustrative case studies representative of the various contexts encountered. The project's steering committee has considered six proposals: building on interviews with local players, they will serve as the basis for the exchange of views being planned by the members of the committee for 2005, in order to produce recommendations on good practices to be encouraged for the management of natural resources, risk management, and the development of rural areas of forestry interest. Where these studies have not already been launched, they will be so during the first half of 2004.

II.D Sustainable Management of Coastal Zones

a) MAP CAMPs

CAMP "Lebanon"

243. All activities in CAMP Lebanon were finalised, including reports of individual activities. The draft Final Integrated Report was prepared in the beginning of 2004. Since then, PAP/RAC has been trying to organise a Final Presentation Conference. At all occasions, where representatives from the Ministry for the Environment were present, PAP/RAC took the opportunity to try and define dates and discuss details of the Conference. The date and the form of the Conference have not yet been defined. The idea of the Lebanese Ministry for the Environment is to prepare the conference in a different way to what was done in other CAMPs. While this is, in principle, acceptable, more details are still needed and the Ministry has yet to propose dates for the conference.

244. As a result of one of the CAMP activities, i.e. Tourism and Sustainable Development, which dealt with alternative or eco-tourism development in the CAMP area, a private firm has developed the Oceana project in co-operation with the Damour municipality, taking into account the proposed recommendations. PAP/RAC represented MAP at the inauguration ceremony (24 March 2004). Present were about 250 people, and the media covered the event very well.

245. This sort of partnership was developed for the first time in Damour. This is important for MAP CAMP projects because even before the formal conclusion of this specific project, interest is being shown from various entities to use its results. All this shows that CAMP Lebanon has produced a significant influence on the approaches and development in general of the Lebanese coastal areas.

CAMP "Algeria"

246. As foreseen by the Inception report and *Aide-Mémoire* relating to CAMP Algeria, a number of consultation meetings will be organised for the duration of the project so as to examine the project's progress. The first of these meetings was held on November 13 and 14, 2003, it was attended by the national project leaders and certain members of the national thematic and transversal teams, the ANAT and CNERU representatives, as well as by the PAP/RAC representatives and consultants. After the presentation of the progress of CAMP activities, the participants have revised the working plan and calendar of the project in order

to making up for the resultant delays. The participants have also adopted a series of measures which should ensure the regular progress of the project. Particular attention has been given to the dimension of natural risks, which should be reinforced after the earthquake in May 2003.

247. Prior to the above meeting, a training session for the young managerial staff of the Ministry of Physical Planning and Environment (MATE) and inspections of the environment area included in the CAMP Algeria, was organised in the premises of MATE, on November 10, 2003. The session identified the persons who, with the additional training, could be able of implementing the participative programme of the CAMP. The final objective of the workshop was to prepare a plan of action for the implementation of the participative approach in each of the thematic activities of the CAMP. The workshop aroused a great interest among all the participants, including the local counsellors who have taken an active part in the work of the groups.

248. The second training course on animation and communication in the context of a participative process was held in Algiers from March 29 to 31, 2004. The main objective of the training course was to train the animators who can promote the application of a participative approach in the framework of CAMP, and to prepare them for the first concrete application of the participatory approach at the level of pilot actions of the CAMP. The training course based its work on brief information prepared for the needs of the training course regarding the Reghaia Lake, which has every chance of being accepted as one of the pilot sites. The animators practised the art of communicating, how to animate different target groups, how to apply the tools of visualisation, how to control difficult situations, etc. Their interest to start the field work as soon as possible and to apply in practice what they have learned is evident that the participative approach will become an important element of the CAMP.

249. Diagnostic phase of all thematic activities is about to be submitted to PAP/RAC in May 2004. In addition, the Ministry for the Environment of Algeria launched a web site related to CAMP project; <http://www.mate-dz.org>

CAMP “Slovenia”

250. Details of CAMP Slovenia project were presented and discussed at the Inception Workshop (IW) in Koper, 18-19 March 2004. The structure, organisation and each of the project activities were presented, and recommendations for improvements proposed by the participants. The workshop was attended by local and national authorities, scientific institutions, NGOs, representatives of MEDU, MEDPOL and the RACs involved in the project, and other stakeholders. The start of the implementation is expected in May 2004, and most of the outputs should be available by autumn 2005. The main project activity is the Regional Concept of Spatial Development, around which other activities will take place, such as those for protected areas, tourism development, non-point sources of water pollution, coastal strip development, all in addition to the project horizontal activities (SPSA, project co-ordination, training, public participation, awareness).

251. The first meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) took place in Koper on March 5, 2004. The main objective was to nominate its members, as well as the members of the National Lead Committee; to present the project and its partners; and to nominate the project secretariat. As some representatives from the municipalities were absent the formal inauguration of the SC will take place at its second meeting which was proposed to take place after the Inception Workshop. At that time the SC will also adopt the Inception Report which will be the basis for the bidding process in order to select national experts.

CAMP “Cyprus”

252. A draft Agreement for the CAMP Cyprus project is being finalised by PAP/RAC consultant and it is expected to be signed in the following months.

CAMP “Morocco”

253. The Feasibility study for CAMP Morocco was submitted to PAP/RAC and the Ministry for the Environment of Morocco, from which comments and suggestions are to be sent to the consultant in order to finalise it. PAP/RAC director visited the Ministry for the Environment in Morocco in December 2003 during which he met the PAP NFP and visited the CAMP area.

CAMP “Mar Menor”, Spain

254. On the basis of the Feasibility Study for CAMP Mar Menor, which was prepared and presented at the Contracting Parties meeting in Catania (November 2003), a draft Agreement between MAP and the Spanish authorities is now being finalised and is expected to be signed in the following weeks. A short delay occurred due to Spanish elections at the national level and the establishment of the new Government. Besides the activities at the project level, including Project Co-ordination and Integration of Project Activities; Training; Participation, Information and Communication; Systemic and Prospective Sustainability Analysis, the following individual project activities are envisaged: Territorial sustainability; a set of Sustainability-oriented activities for different sectors (tourism, agriculture, fishing and aquaculture, energy, industry and mining); and Conservation of Natural and Cultural resources.

255. Following the Forum, together with WB/METAP, a meeting in Cagliari will be organised on 31 May, 2004. The meeting will discuss the proposal to be submitted to EU for SMAP financing. Seven countries from the region have responded and their representatives will participate at the meeting.

256. PAP/RAC prepared a MedOpen virtual training course on ICAM in the Mediterranean, divided into two levels, namely basic and advanced. The first run of the virtual training course started on April 19th, 2004. Out of almost 60 candidates who applied for MedOpen half applied for the advanced course. In order to secure the quality of the course, only 21 candidates have been selected for the first run of the advanced course. The priority was given to candidates from the Mediterranean and to those selected by the MedOpen commission. The remaining candidates will start with the basic course and are scheduled for the next advanced run. PAP/RAC has received applications from all over the world. The candidates have different educational backgrounds and are mainly highly educated, while their working experience is impressive.

257. The National Report on ICAM for Turkey and Tunisia were prepared and are now being edited. PAP/RAC will publish both reports and make them available widely. The final report for Malta is still to be submitted. The delay seems to be due to other commitments of the consultant.

258. PAP/RAC has been contacted by the Government of Catalonia, Spain to assist them in preparing their regional strategy on integrated coastal management. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between the two parties.

259. The Director of PAP/RAC participated in the activities of the Steering Committee of the EU financed EUROSION project. The project is now completed and its results will be distributed in the Mediterranean region, as well as used in the implementation of respective activities by PAP/RAC.

b) Support to MCSD activities

260. PAP/RAC has been actively participating in the process of shaping the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). To that end, the meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee was organised in PAP/RAC premises. PAP/RAC was present at the MSSD Workshop in Rabat 7-8 May 2004.

c) Integrating environment and development

261. The new site on soil erosion was recently launched by FAO in a close co-operation with PAP/RAC. The site is published on the FAO's webpage with a direct link from the PAP/RAC web page. PAP/RAC and FAO AGL Department have a long history of successful co-operation. In the late '90s, two Guidelines were jointly prepared, namely the Guidelines for mapping and measurement of rainfall-induced erosion processes in the Mediterranean coastal areas and the Guidelines for erosion and desertification control management. In addition to the latter, a Photo-library on soil erosion processes, as a pictorial annex was published in 2002. In this way, a full set of the most needed methodological tools was developed, which are being used by soil erosion practitioners and other users. The Photo-library was translated to Spanish. PAP/RAC is currently conducting several projects where these guidelines are applied, such as in the Maghreb countries (Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria), as well as in Syria and Lebanon as CoLD project (LIFE Third countries project in co-operation with ERS/RAC).

262. Guidelines on Integrated Urban Water System Planning and Management in coastal area of the Mediterranean were drafted and sent for review to external experts. It is expected that consultants and PAP/RAC will meet in June 2004 to discuss the finalisation of the guidelines, as well as future activities.

d) Sustainability of SAP MED

263. PAP/RAC actively participated in the "Training course for preparation of Sectoral Plans and National Action Plans (NAP) in the framework of the Strategic Action Programme", held in Izmit, Turkey, on March 4-6, 2004. PAP/RAC experts and the national teams on economic instruments are working on the preparation of the "Proposals of economic instruments for NAP". These proposals will serve as an input to the national teams preparing the NAP. The overall task to be carried out was discussed at the meeting, where the simulated NAP was drafted based on a simulation study.

264. On February 2 - 3, 2004, a meeting was held in Rome on "Enhancing public/private partnership for new financial arrangements to eliminate land-based pollution: promoting transfer of best available techniques (BAT)". At the meeting, PAP/RAC presented the work done within the GEF project component "Development of economic instruments for sustainable implementation of SAP". PAP/RAC agreed with the GPA and C.I.R.P.S. to exchange project results and outputs, and discussed the ideas for the future work and co-operation.

265. In November 2003, countries started to sign MoUs and contracts for the preparation of the "Proposals of economic instruments to address marine pollution from the land based activities for the NAP". The proposals of economic instruments are under preparation in most of the Mediterranean GEF eligible countries. At the training course in Izmit it has been decided that the deadline for the submission of proposals will be postponed till the end of September 2004, in order to reach better harmonisation between the preparation of the NAPs and economic instruments activity. Also, it has been decided to extend the contracts for the experts on economic instruments in order to ensure their participation in the preparation of NAPs.

266. During the first half of the 2004, pilot projects on economic instruments have been attempting to realise implementation of the economic instrument to be introduced/adapted. In May, simulation of the pilot projects will start, to be followed by the evaluation and finalisation. Also, Policy Guidelines on economic instruments are under preparation.

e) General co-ordination of the project

267. The web site of PAP/RAC, <http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org>, is regularly updated, providing information on all current PAP/RAC activities, news, etc. Also, both other thematic web sites, namely <http://www.pap-sapei.org> on implementation of the Activity "Sustainability of SAP" of the Project "Development of Economic Instruments for the Sustainable Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme to Address Marine Pollution From Land-based Activities in the Mediterranean (SAP MED)", and <http://www.pap-medclearinghouse.org> on the Mediterranean ICAM Clearing House Project, are regularly updated.

268. Leaflets to promote some of PAP/RAC projects were reprinted, as well as the bookmark, which is widely distributed at all occasions in order to disseminate and exchange web-available information.

269. The PAP/RAC library is regularly updated with relevant publications, books and other documents. Acquisition list is available on the web site, which is updated quarterly. PAP/RAC has improved its connections to the internet servers (much faster ADSL service has been introduced). The catalogue of photographs made by PAP/RAC staff and consultants is being prepared. A selection of photos will be placed on the picture gallery at the PAP/RAC web site.

ANNEX I

STATUS OF SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS
as at 4 February 2004

Contracting Parties	Barcelona Convention 1/			Dumping Protocol 2/			Emergency Protocol 3/		New Emergency Protocol 4/	
	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification
Albania	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	-	-
Algeria	-	16.02.81/AC	-	-	16.03.81/AC	-	-	16.03.81/AC	25.01.02	-
Bosnia & Herzegovina	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-
Croatia	-	08.10.91/SUC	03.05.99	-	08.10.91/SUC	03.05.99	-	08.10.91/SUC	25.01.02	13.06.03**
Cyprus	16.02.76	19.11.79	15.10.01	16.02.76	19.11.79	18.07.03	16.02.76	19.11.79	25.01.02	-
European Commission	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	13.09.76	12.08.81/AP	25.01.02	-
Egypt	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	16.02.76	24.08.78/AC	-	-
France	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	16.04.01	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	16.04.01	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	25.01.02	02.07.03
Greece	16.02.76	03.01.79	10.03.03	11.02.77	03.01.79	-	16.02.76	03.01.79	25.01.02	-
Israel	16.02.76	03.03.78	-	16.02.76	01.03.84	-	16.02.76	03.03.78	22.01.03	-
Italy	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	16.02.76	03.02.79	25.01.02	-
Lebanon	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	-	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	-	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	-	-
Libya	31.01.77	31.01.79	-	31.01.77	31.01.79	-	31.01.77	31.01.79	25.01.02	-
Malta	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	16.02.76	30.12.77	25.01.02	18.02.03
Monaco	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	16.02.76	20.09.77	25.01.02	03.04.02
Morocco	16.02.76	15.01.80	-	16.02.76	15.01.80	05.12.97	16.02.76	15.01.80	25.01.02	-
Slovenia	-	15.03.94/AC	08.01.03	-	15.03.94/AC	08.01.03	-	15.03.94/AC	25.01.02	**
Spain	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	16.02.76	17.12.76	25.01.02	-
Syria	-	26.12.78/AC	10.10.03	-	26.12.78/AC	-	-	26.12.78/AC	25.01.02	-
Tunisia	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	25.05.76	30.07.77	25.01.02	-
Turkey	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	16.02.76	06.04.81	-	20.05.03**
Yugoslavia	-	27.04.92/SUC*	-	-	27.04.92/SUC*	-	-	27.04.92/SUC*	-	-

Accession = AC

Approval = AP

Succession = SUC

*F.R. of Yugoslavia notified on 16 July 2002 its succession to the Convention and the Protocols as above. The date of succession is 27.04.92. On 20 March 2003, UNEP Regional Office for Europe was notified that the newly reorganized State Union of Serbia and Montenegro had become party by succession to the Barcelona Convention.

** Croatia, Slovenia and Turkey notified their ratification to the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol to UNEP/MAP. Pending notification from the Depository country.

Contracting Parties	Land-Based Sources Protocol 5/			Specially Protected Areas Protocol 6/		SPA & Biodiversity Protocol 7/		Offshore Protocol 8/		Hazardous Wastes Protocol 9/	
	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification
Albania	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	10.06.95	26.07.01	-	26.07.01	-	26.07.01
Algeria	-	02.05.83/AC	-	-	16.05.85/AC	10.06.95	-	-	-	01.10.96	-
Bosnia & Herzegovina	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	-	12.06.92/SUC	-	-	12.06.92/SUC	10.06.95	12.04.02	14.10.94	-	-	-
Cyprus	17.05.80	28.06.88	12.10.01	-	28.06.88/AC	10.06.95	15.10.01	14.10.94	15.10.01	-	-
European Community	17.05.80	07.10.83/AP	12.11.99	30.03.83	30.06.84/AP	10.06.95	12.11.99	-	-	-	-
Egypt	-	18.05.83/AC	-	16.02.83	08.07.83	10.06.95	11.02.00	-	-	01.10.96	-
France	17.05.80	13.07.82/AP	16.04.01	03.04.82	02.09.86/AP	10.06.95	16.04.01	-	-	-	-
Greece	17.05.80	26.01.87	10.03.03	03.04.82	26.01.87	10.06.95	-	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Israel	17.05.80	21.02.91	-	03.04.82	28.10.87	10.06.95	-	14.10.94	-	-	-
Italy	17.05.80	04.07.85	07.09.99	03.04.82	04.07.85	10.06.95	07.09.99	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Lebanon	17.05.80	27.12.94	-	-	27.12.94/AC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Libya	17.05.80	06.06.89/AP	-	-	06.06.89/AC	10.06.95	-	-	-	01.10.96	-
Malta	17.05.80	02.03.89	28.10.99	03.04.82	11.01.88	10.06.95	28.10.99	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	28.10.99
Monaco	17.05.80	12.01.83	26.11.96	03.04.82	29.05.89	10.06.95	03.06.97	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Morocco	17.05.80	09.02.87	02.10.96	02.04.83	22.06.90	10.06.95	-	-	01.07.99	20.03.97	01.07.99
Slovenia	-	16.09.93/AD	08.01.03	-	16.09.93/AC	-	08.01.03	10.10.95	-	-	-
Spain	17.05.80	06.06.84	17.02.99	03.04.82	22.12.87	10.06.95	23.12.98	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Syria	-	01.12.93/AC	-	-	11.09.92/AC	-	10.10.03	20.09.95	-	-	-
Tunisia	17.05.80	29.10.81	01.06.98	03.04.82	26.05.83	10.06.95	01.06.98	14.10.94	01.06.98	01.10.96	01.06.98
Turkey	-	21.02.83/AC	18.05.02	-	06.11.86/AC	10.06.95	18.09.02	-	-	01.10.96	-
Yugoslavia	-	27.04.92/SUC*	-	-	27.04.92/SUC*	-	-	-	-	-	-

Accession = AC

Approval = AP

Succession = SUC

*F.R. of Yugoslavia notified on 16 July 2002 its succession to the Convention and the Protocols as above. The date of succession is 27.04.92. On 20 March 2003, UNEP Regional Office for Europe was notified that the newly reorganized State Union of Serbia and Montenegro had become party by succession to the Barcelona Convention.

1/ Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution

Adopted (Barcelona): 16 February 1976

Entry into force*: 12 February 1978

2/ The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Dumping Protocol)

Adopted (Barcelona): 16 February 1976

Entry into force*: 12 February 1978

3/ The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in cases of Emergency (Emergency Protocol)

Adopted (Barcelona): 16 February 1976

Entry into force*: 12 February 1978

4/ The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea

Adopted (Malta): 25 January 2002

Entry into force*:

5/ The Protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources (LBS Protocol)

Adopted (Athens): 17 May 1980

Entry into force*: 17 June 1983

6/ The Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (SPA Protocol)

Adopted (Geneva): 3 April 1982

Entry into force*: 23 March 1986

7/ The Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA & Biodiversity Protocol)

Adopted (Barcelona): 10 June 1995

Entry into force*: 12 December 1999

8/ Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation (Offshore Protocol) of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil

Adopted (Madrid): 14 October 1994

Entry into force*:

9/ Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Hazardous Wastes Protocol)

Adopted (Izmir): 1 October 1996

Entry into force*:

* The amendments are not yet into force

ANNEX II

**Part I: Upcoming/Ongoing Calendar of Meetings
organized in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan**

As at 1 June 2004

Date	Place	Meeting	Organizer	Contact	Invitees	Status
June 2004						
3-4 June	Split	Training course on river monitoring for the Adriatic region	MEDPOL/GEF	F. Abousamra A. Baric	Trainees from the region	Confirmed
16 June	Genoa	Bureau 61	MEDU	P. Mifsud T. Hema	Bureau members	Confirmed
17-19 June	Genoa	9th MCSD Meeting	MEDU	A. Hoballah	MCSD members	Confirmed
21 June	Athens	Fifth meeting of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee	GEF	A. Baric	IASC members	Confirmed
22-23 June	Athens	Preparatory Meeting to discuss a draft concept paper for a full-sized GEF Project	GEF	A. Baric	WB, DGEF UNEP GPA CPRAC PAP/RAC REMPEC	Confirmed
21-24 June	Damascus	National Training course on Environmental Inspection	MEDPOL/WHO	G. Kamizoulis	National experts	Confirmed
July 2004						
8-10 July	Italy	1 st National Experts meeting on regional strategy for the prevention and response to marine pollution from ships	REMPEC	R. Patruno D. Domovic J. Pace L. Khodjet El Khil	REMPEC Focal Points	Confirmed
August 2004						
September 2004						
Sept.	Cairo or Beirut	Training course on river monitoring for Arab speaking experts	MEDPOL/GEF	F. Abousamra A. Baric	National trainees	Tentative
Sept.	Turkey	Training course on river monitoring for Turkish experts	MEDPOL/GEF	F. Abousamra A. Baric	National trainees	Tentative
September	Rome	Workshop on Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea from land based	MEDU	B. Kamal	Mediterranean Media Professionals	Tentative

Part I: Upcoming/Ongoing Calendar of Meetings organized in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan

As at 1 June 2004

Date	Place	Meeting	Organizer	Contact	Invitees	Status
20 – 22 Sept	Monaco	sources 1 st National experts meeting on Pleasure Craft in the Mediterranean region	REMPEC (Monaco)	R. Patruno L. Khodjet El Khil	REMPEC Focal Points	Confirmed
Sept.	Algiers	Meeting on SRCP Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia	REMPEC	D.Domovic	National experts	Tentative
Sept/ Oct	Turkey	Second Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles	RAC/SPA	Z. Belkhir	RAC/SPA Focal Points	Tentative
October 2004						
October	Albania	Training course on river monitoring for Albanian experts	MEDPOL/GEF	F. Abousamra A. Baric	National trainees	Tentative
11 – 15 October	London	MEPC 52	REMPEC (IMO)	J. Pace	National experts	Confirmed
October	Split	Regional Workshop on Sustainable Urban Water Resources Management	PAP/RAC	I. Trumbic	Representatives from Med countries	Tentative
October		Bureau 62	MEDU	P. Mifsud T. Hema	Bureau members	Tentative
November 2004						
22 – 26 Nov	Malta or Italy	Regional workshop on reception facilities	REMPEC	J. Pace	REMPEC Focal Points	Confirmed
6 Nov	Syria or Lebanon	Final Presentation Workshop ECLife CoLD Project	ERS/RAC (PAP/RAC)	S. Carnemolla	Representatives from Syria and Lebanon, EC delegates, EC officers	Confirmed
December 2004						
Dec		Government designated expert meeting to review the preparation and long-term implementation of NAPs	MEDPOL	F.S. Civili F. Abousamra	National authorities & experts	Tentative

ANNEX III

REGIONAL TRUST FUND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AGAINST POLLUTION (ME) Status of contributions as at 31 March 2004 (Expressed in EURO)

COUNTRIES	Unpaid pledges for 2003 & prior yrs		Adjustments	Pledges for 2004	Collections during 2004 for fut. yrs	Collections during 2004 for prior yrs	Collections during 2004 for prior yrs - US \$
Albania	2,844		0	3,877	0	0	0
Algeria	42,354		0	58,163	0	0	0
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0		0	16,619	0	0	0
Croatia	0		0	53,730	53,730	0	0
Cyprus	0		0	7,755	0	0	0
European Union	(1,783)		0	138,483	136,587	0	0
Egypt	19,898		0	27,143	0	0	0
France	0		0	2,103,262	2,103,262	0	0
Greece	(5,61)		0	155,653	0	0	0
Israel	0		0	81,427	0	0	0
Italy	0		0	1,737,670	0	0	0
Lebanon	2,843		0	3,877	0	0	0
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	158,138		0	109,124	0	0	0
Malta	3,525		0	3,877	0	0	3,525
Monaco	0		0	3,877	3,877	0	0
Morocco	44,405		0	15,511	0	0	0
Serbia and Montenegro	0		0	18,000	0	0	0
Slovenia	0		0	37,113	37,113	0	0
Spain	0		0	830,337	0	0	0
Syrian Arab Rep.	14,101	1/	0	15,511	0	0	14,101
Tunisia	0		0	11,632	0	0	0
Turkey	0		0	124,634	0	0	0
T o t a l	272,219		0	5,557,275	2,334,569	0	17,626
Additional Contributions (for information only)							
European Commission	571,423		0	598,569	598,569	570,303	0
Host Country *	0		0	440,000	0	0	0
UNEP Env. Fund	0	2/	0	16,840	0	0	0

N.B. Amounts in brackets mean credit to the Government

The **additional contributions** are included in this report for information purposes only.

ANNEX IV

Sustainable agriculture and rural development

The bad management of Mediterranean rural areas has a severe impact. The desertification that affects 80 per cent of dry and arid areas is causing an inestimable loss of biodiversity, the progressive silting of reservoirs and reductions in agricultural production. The principal cause in developing countries is the overexploitation of resources (forests and firewood, pastureland, agricultural land and water) by the large rural populations, which are poverty-stricken and over-dependent on agriculture. Neighbouring countries also face the risk of forest fires, which are occurring with greater frequency in developed countries as a result of the reduction of agricultural activity and the management deficit.

The marginalization of hinterlands and internal disparities have grown with the polarization of agricultural development around irrigated crops and on the rare coastal and fluvial plains, to the benefit of a minority of farmers. This polarization has also contributed to an accentuation of the pressure on water resources and of pollution by fertilizers and pesticides. As demonstrated by the work of the MCSD and FEMISE, the liberalization of trade could augment the rural exodus and certain types of social and environmental deterioration. An evolution of policy towards more integrated, diversified and participative forms of rural development would therefore appear to be essential to ensure the sustainable management of vital resources (land, biodiversity, water), limit risk factors (fires, floods, pollution), offer a way out of rural poverty (which limits the development of internal markets and is a source of social instability) and reduce the rural exodus (which is having a detrimental impact on urban areas, the coast and emigration). What is also at stake is the creation in the long term of added value through development, which integrates environmental concerns and promotes the strong points of the Mediterranean (synergy between agriculture, tourism, industry and services, and the development of local products and organic agriculture).

Through support for the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the work of the FAO, Silva Mediterranean, CIHEAM, MAP and Euro-Mediterranean Conferences, the Strategy could establish as objectives a reorientation of public policies and the implementation of integrated development programmes (such as regional natural parks, biosphere reserves and other pilot actions). At the regional level, it would call for the strengthening of development assistance policies, the greater integration of environmental and social factors in Euro-Mediterranean agricultural negotiations and the more robust implementation of international Conventions on biodiversity and desertification.