

I.A. Legal Framework**c) Implementation and Compliance under the Barcelona Convention**

1. The Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts is made up of the following:

1	Croatia	not yet appointed	
2	Greece	Mr Alexander Lascaratos	Professor in Oceanography
3	France	Mr Didier Guiffault	Lawyer
4	Israel	Ms Rachelle Adam	Lawyer
5	Spain	Mr Jesus Garcia	Lawyer
6	Syrian Arab Republic	Ms Reem Abed- Rabboh	Engineer

2. The NGOs/MAP partners have submitted to the Secretariat four candidates for selection by the Bureau:

1	OGP International Association of Oil and Gas Producers	Mr John Campbell	Chemist
2	MIO-ECSDE Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development	Mr Michael Scoullos	Professor of Environmental and Marine Chemistry
3	CIDCE Centre International de Droit Comparé de l'Environnement	Mr Michel Prieur	Lawyer
4	WWF World Wildlife Fund	Mr Paolo Gugliemi	Marine Biologist

Recommendation:

The Bureau is invited to consider the experience of all candidates from these partners and recommend the candidate who should sit on the Working Group.

d) Legal Instrument on ICAM

3. At the CP meeting in Catania (2003), a recommendation was adopted which requires that the process to draft the text of the protocol should start and that the text be presented to the CP at their meeting in 2005. The PAP/RAC was charged to carry out this task.

4. The first major action to be taken after the Catania meeting was to organise a broad - based forum on ICAM that would be a sort of "stock-taking" meeting where all the relevant stakeholders would express their views on the idea of a protocol. The Forum was organised in Cagliari, Italy, on 28-29 May 2004. For the organisation of

the Forum, in addition to financing provided by PA/RAC, generous financial support was obtained from the Italian Ministry of the Environment, the Region of Sardinia, the Province of Cagliari, and several local communities in Sardinia. The Forum was attended by about 200 participants, representing national and local authorities, NGOs, international organisations, experts, scientific community, almost all MAP centres and several UN organisations (UNESCO, UNDP, UNIDO, WHO, World Bank). The Forum was given extensive coverage in the media. Also, an exhibition was organised.

5. The Forum consisted of an introductory part (a number of keynote speeches related to the most important issues in the coastal areas of the region), workshops, presentation of national and local experiences in implementing coastal legislation, and MAP experiences in implementing regional protocols. This structure of the meeting allowed the participants (1) to gain as wide as possible an insight into regional initiatives on building and implementing coastal legislation, and (2) to express their views and expectations of the new protocol, its contents, value added of the protocol, and obstacles in its preparation and implementation. During the workshop, the participants were divided into 4 working groups: (a) national and local authorities; (b) NGOs; (c) scientific community; and (4) private sector. Each group prepared a report of its work which adequately reflected somewhat different standpoints of each stakeholder group. These views will be presented in more detail in the Forum's Report.

6. Among others, the following conclusions and recommendations of the Forum could be emphasised:

- a "bottom-up" approach to the preparation of the protocol is the right approach;
- numerous participants pointed out that duplication and overlaps with existing regional legal instruments should be avoided;
- a minimum of legally binding provisions should be there from the beginning, and other phased in progressively;
- national experiences should be taken in consideration when preparing the protocol;
- implementation mechanisms, such as institutions and financing, should be provided;
- process should be open, transparent and most stakeholder groups should participate;
- relationship with EU relevant legislation should be established;
- better involvement of business sector should be secured at some stage.

7. After the Forum, a tentative programme of activities with regard to the drafting of the protocol was outlined as follows:

- setting up of the drafting group (first draft by October 2004)
- meeting of the small technical and legal expert group to discuss the draft and give recommendations to improve the first draft (November 2004)
- consultations in countries (improved first draft by February 2005)
- government designated experts' meeting (April 2005)
- finalisation of the draft text of the protocol, by March - April 2005)
- submission of the draft to MAP Focal Points (September 2005)
- submission of the draft to Contracting Parties (November 2005)

Recommendation:

The Bureau is invited to consider the tentative programme of activities for the preparation of the draft legal instrument on ICAM and provide the Secretariat with any guidance it might deem useful in launching and convening a successful process ensuring full consensus of the all Contracting Parties and other stakeholders.

I.E. NGOs/MAP Partners

8. The Secretariat has received an application from the NGO "Fund for Integrated Rural Development of Syria" to be added to the list of MAP partners

9. Its mission is to promote economic development in Syria's rural areas to enable them to play an effective role as a partner in the national economy through the enhancement of investment, socio-cultural development and environmental development.

10. In conformity with the recommendation of the Contracting Parties all MAP Focal Points have been consulted with regard to this application.

Recommendation:

In view of the above, the Bureau is invited to consider and approve that the "Fund for Integrated Rural Development of Syria" be added to the list of MAP partners.