



Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean
and its Protocols

Madrid, Spain, 2-3 July 2007

ADDENDUM to SPECIFIC ISSUES

Adoption Process of the ICZM draft Protocol

The fourth meeting of the Working Group on the draft text of the ICZM Protocol was held on 13-16 June 2007 in Split, Croatia. The meeting reviewed all pending articles, including those on which a reservation had been made, as well as the text that was still in brackets. At the end, the meeting reviewed and adopted the whole text of the draft Protocol. This draft will now be submitted to the meeting of MAP Focal Points for its consideration and eventual transmission to the 15th meeting of the Contracting Parties in December 2007.

The meeting also requested the Secretariat to inform in writing the MAP Focal Points on the procedure to be followed for the adoption of the Protocol by the Diplomatic Conference that it is scheduled to be held back to back with the 15th meeting of the Contracting Parties.

At the end of the negotiation process, five Contracting Parties maintained their reservation with respect to three articles or specific references in the text, while the other Contracting Parties reached a consensus on the whole text of the draft Protocol. It is expected that some of these reservations will be withdrawn before or during the MAP focal points meeting. However, the reservations expressed by two Contracting Parties with respect to Article 7 paragraph 2 might prove difficult to be withdrawn.

The Secretariat now intends to propose a draft decision for the consideration of the meeting of MAP focal points, seeking the approval of the draft Protocol by the 15th Meeting of the CPs and its transmission for adoption by the Diplomatic Conference. The draft text of the Protocol will be attached as Annex to this draft decision.

In the opinion of the Secretariat there is no need for further negotiations by the WG on ICZM. Between now and the meeting of the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat intends to have bilateral discussions with those countries that have expressed a reservation with a view to have them withdraw their reservation. If they do not, the procedure is that they can still sign the Protocol but again express their reservation provided also that their reservation is accepted by the other Contracting Parties.

The Diplomatic Conference is scheduled to be held on 14 and 15 December 2007. Apart from the signature ceremony of both, the Final Act and the Protocol, the Conference is expected to adopt a resolution calling for implementation of the ICZM Protocol.

The Secretariat will discuss with the Spanish hosts to make available the same facilities for the meeting of the CPs for the convening of the Diplomatic Conference. However, use would have to be made of the MTF in order to ensure the full participation of the Contracting Parties.

Recommendations

The Bureau is requested to:

1. Provide the Secretariat with its views on the above options and procedures.
2. Encourage the Contracting Parties to speed up their internal processes for them to be in a position to approve and adopt the Protocol during the meeting of the Contracting Parties and the Diplomatic Conference in December 2007;

3. Approve that the Secretariat holds bilateral discussions with the CPs which have expressed reservations on some Articles or parts thereof of the text of the draft Protocol in order to facilitate the withdrawal of these reservations by the concerned parties.
4. Approve that provided the host country will not be in a position to provide the venue and facilities for the convening of the Diplomatic Conference the Secretariat will make the necessary arrangement and meet the costs from the MTF.