





## **1. State of the Mediterranean Environment**

The following is the information in respect of the issues raised under this heading.

### **1.1 *The effectiveness of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocol***

MAP is currently working on developing effectiveness indicators. At a consultative meeting of MAP Components on Reporting under the Barcelona Convention, held in Rome on 5/8 May, 2008, it was concluded that effectiveness indicators will be developed using integrated approach. It was agreed that each MAP component will submit to the Secretariat a first set of effectiveness indicators by the middle of September including a definition for each proposed indicator and the rationale for its selection and proposal. At the Rome meeting it was also agreed that another meeting will be held at the end of September to discuss and make a first selection. Once selected, the indicators will be published on the MAP web site for consultation with MAP Focal Points, RACs and MEDPOL. A definite set of indicators will be determined at a second meeting scheduled for early 2009.

It should be added that in Istanbul 2007, a Working Group on Reporting had a first round of negotiations on how to assess effectiveness. At that meeting, MEDPOL presented a paper on the assessment of effectiveness on the marine environment and coastal areas based on DPSIR (Driving Forces-Pressures-State-Impacts-Responses) indicators.

At the end of the meeting it was proposed to consider a step-by-step approach, identifying and developing a first set of indicators on measures, objectives, outputs and outcomes and then working during the next biennial on impact indicators( UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 314/5 paragraph 45).

### **1.2 *MEDPOL indicators for compliance and enforcement***

The MEDPOL trends and compliance monitoring are essential tools to assess the effectiveness of LBS, Hazardous Waste and Dumping Protocols. During the last 5 years, MEDPOL have been constantly working with the Contracting Parties to develop a set of indicators to assess the impacts of measures on the marine environment. A set of regional fact sheets are produced and a testing trial on the capacity of Contracting Parties to generate the necessary data to assess the indicators have been undertaken in 2006-2007. The final goal is to arrive at a common pan-European set of indicators for the marine environment. Actually the European Marine Monitoring and Assessment (EMMA) is in the process of completing the first phase of indicator comparison, focussing on 4 priority indicators (nutrient concentrations, chlorophyll-a, fish abundance and hazardous substances in biota). MED POL is actively participating in the EMMA Working Group on indicator comparison, by providing information on MAP/MEDPOL's progress in the development of marine pollution indicators in the Mediterranean region.

The report of the working group will be discussed at the next meeting that will be organized in mid-November 2008.

### **1.3 *The EEA score card***

The EEA score card system was proposed to monitor and evaluate the EU Horizon 2020 initiative. So far it has not been adopted in the framework of MAP. According to an EEA Report, "A scorecard is a methodology for comparing performance. A scorecard assessment can be used to name and shame, and name and fame. This is suitable when there are agreed targets and a level playing field. However, across a region such as the Mediterranean, even with agreed targets, the existence of conflicting data, information gaps and wide variations in social, economic and environmental conditions, generally make this

application an inappropriate and crude approach to assessing performance and ineffective in identifying problems and encouraging improvements". (EEA report).

#### **1.4 State of the Environment Report**

All MAP components are working on the preparation of a State of the Environment Report for submission to the 2009 meeting of the Contracting Parties. At the first ECP Meeting, Blue Plan proposed a draft Table of Contents. In order to adopt a harmonized approach among MAP components, Blue Plan is now preparing another Table of Contents together with a Work Plan containing necessary elements on the basis of which each MAP component will submit its contribution. A final and more detailed Table of Contents will be prepared by Blue Plan for approval by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Coordination Panel meeting scheduled for the end of September 2008.

#### **1.5 The meeting of the subgroup on monitoring and evaluation in the framework of EU Horizon 2020**

The first meeting of the sub group on monitoring and evaluation in the framework of Euro Mediterranean Horizon 2020 initiative will be held in Athens 9-10 October 2008. The meeting will review and discuss the EEA strategy for the monitoring and evaluation of the impacts of EU Horizon 2020 initiative. Basically EEA should prepare two reports: biannual and every 5 years. MAP together with all MAP components, will continue to be actively involved in the work of this sub group.

At a meeting in Brussels in April 2008, at which all MAP Components were present, it was agreed that Blue Plan and MEDPOL will submit to the meeting of the sub group, a paper on the indicators to be used for the preparation of the two reports. All MAP components are expected to participate at the October meeting.

In addition, the EU's Directorate General for the Environment has just launched a study for the preparation of recommendations for ensuring better synergies between MAP activities and the H2020 initiative, taking into account *inter alia* the Horizon 2020 roadmap, the EEA-MAP Work Programme and the EC-MAP Joint Work Programme. The objective is to identify actions to be undertaken including, *inter alia*, an assessment of the possibilities for the MAP monitoring and data integration activities to contribute to the development of the review and monitoring component of Horizon 2020 as well as to assist MAP in consolidating monitoring and data integration activities across the MAP system and facilitate synergies between MAP components and the Contracting Parties and other stakeholders as a contribution to the review and monitoring component of Horizon 2020 indicators in the Mediterranean region.

## **2. INFO/RAC Work Programme**

Following the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Almeria, the Italian Ministry for the Environment informed the Secretariat that INFO/RAC will be responsible for the implementation of the Work Programme for 2008.

In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding was reached between INFO/RAC and MEDU detailing specific activities to be implemented during 2008 with measurable outputs. A copy of the MoU is attached.

## **3. Review of MEDU**

A copy of the report compiled by Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw following his recent visit to MEDU and the Coordinator's remarks on the points raised in the report are attached for the information of the members of the Bureau.

#### **4. Post of the Deputy Coordinator**

Following the call for applications for the post of Deputy Coordinator a total of 236 applications were received. Following a thorough review of all the applications received by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), five candidates were short-listed for telephone interviews, which were held on 23 July, 2008. The interviewing panel was chaired by the Director of the Division of Regional Cooperation (DRC) of UNEP and included the MAP Coordinator, the Coordinator of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) of UNEP as members and a General Service staff member of DEPI as ex-officio member. The nationalities of the short-listed candidates were Israeli, Albanian/Canadian, French, Egyptian and Moroccan/Canadian.

The Egyptian and French candidates were again short-listed for face to face interviews which were held in Nairobi on 30 July, 2008. The panel was chaired by the Director of DEPI and included the MAP Coordinator, the Director of the Division of Regional Cooperation and a General Service staff member of DEPI as ex-officio member.

At the end of the interviews it was the unanimous decision of the members of the panel that none of the short-listed candidates was suitable for the post and that a fresh call should be issued. The call for applications has again been issued with a closing date of 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 for the receipt of applications.

The second call differs slightly from the previous one in respect of the language requirements. While in the first call fluency in oral and written English and French was requested, in the second call candidates are required to be fluent in oral and written English and a working knowledge of French. A good working knowledge of Arabic would be an asset.