

I. Introduction

Following the decision taken by the second meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel, its third meeting was held on 25-26 September at PAP/RACs premises in Split, Croatia. The meeting was chaired by the MAP Coordinator and attended by all Regional Activity Centres' (RAC) directors, except INFO/RAC director, as well as MED POL Coordinator. A full list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

II. Agenda items 1 and 2

The MAP coordinator opened the meeting.

The meeting reviewed and adopted the provisional agenda together with the proposed timetable. The agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex II to this report.

Following the discussion of all agenda items, the meeting concluded on some key considerations for each topic and decided on necessary actions and timetables for their implementation.

III. Agenda items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,10,11,12,13,14

Key considerations, Actions and Timetables

<p>Agenda Item 3: Matters arising from the second ECP meeting</p> <p><u>1) Mediterranean Information System on Sustainable Development (MISSD)</u></p> <p>Key considerations</p> <p>a) MISSD will cover all the Mediterranean region on a number of important thematic issues and different economic sectors;</p> <p>b) BP and INFO/RAC had agreed on a joint programme of work for the establishment of MISSD;</p> <p>c) the section on Water is expected to be ready by the Euro- MED Water Ministerial Conference in October 2008;</p> <p>d) The total cost for the development of MISSD is 700 000 euro. In case INFO/RAC would not be in a position to support the project until it is finalised, the need to mobilise 2/3 of these funds through external sources would definitely arise.</p> <p>e) MISSD maintenance cost, including its regularly update is not yet been calculated.</p>	<p><u>1) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>a) MISSD system shall be on line by the end of 2009</p> <p>b) Substantial additional funds should be mobilised in case BP and INFO/RAC partnership would not continue until MISSD is finalised.</p> <p>c) MISSD system design shall interface with INFO/MAP and MAP reporting system.</p>
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<p><u>2) MAP reporting system</u></p> <p>a) The work for the preparation of the on-line MAP reporting has progressed according to the Plan agreed at the Rome meeting in May 2008.</p> <p>b) According to INFO/RAC, the non-disbursement of the funds from Italy may delay the process beyond 2008.</p> <p><u>3) Participation of MAP components to MAP meetings organised in the framework of the implementation of programme of work of each MAP component</u></p> <p>a) It was pointed that although there is an increased effort by all MAP components to ensure an active participation at MAP meetings organised by MAP components, there is room for improvement.</p> <p>b) It was agreed that it was not always necessary for all the RACs to attend all other components' meetings systematically.</p> <p>c) In order to create possibilities for contribution of the RACs to MAP events/meetings without necessarily physically attending them, videoconferences and other tools could be used.</p> <p>d) There is a need for the MAP components to consult among themselves from the outset in the preparation of their meetings/events. This would enable them to contribute more to the organization of the meeting apart from also participating in the meeting.</p>	<p><u>2) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>INFO/RAC shall make a special effort to meet the agreed deadline of having the MAP reporting system on line by the end of December 2008.</p> <p><u>3) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>MAP components should attend MAP meetings and events in particular when their contributions are considered useful for the success of the meeting.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 4 : Outcome of the meeting of the Bureau (Bur 67)</p> <p><u>1) Topics for the Ministerial segment of the 16th meeting of the Contracting Parties</u></p> <p>After a careful consideration of the proposals by the Bureau, the ECP agreed to propose one main theme for ministerial discussion and a back-up theme.</p>	<p><u>1) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>a) The proposed Ministerial topic is: a_“MAP's added value in the Barcelona Process – Union for the Mediterranean”.</p>

<p><u>2) Organisation of the Euro MED Environmental Ministerial meeting back to back with the 16th meeting of the Contracting Parties</u></p> <p>Key considerations</p> <p>a) This proposal was considered at the Bureau meeting held in Madrid in September 2008, but no decision was taken.</p> <p>b) The ECP highlighted a number of possible positive impacts of this proposal (possible synergy, demonstration of a Partnership spirit, advantages related to logistical issues, etc).</p> <p>c) However , the meeting also considered that it would be difficult to create synergy between both meetings because the topics would be different. Some difficulties may also arise because it might be difficult for Ministers to stay for both meetings.</p> <p><u>3) The ECP took note of the Bureau recommendation on the participation of the President of the Bureau at the ECP meeting</u></p> <p><u>4) Organization of the Joint Focal Points Meeting: Blue Plan, PAP/RAC and INFO/RAC</u></p> <p>Key considerations</p> <p>The Bureau welcomed in principle the ECP proposal regarding the merging of BP/RAC</p>	<p>b) The proposed back-up theme: “Sustainable use of natural resources with the main focus on the findings of the Ecosystem Services Analysis and Cost of Environmental Degradation”</p> <p>c) By the fourth ECP meeting, the Coordinating Unit shall prepare, in consultation with all MAP components, a detailed Concept paper on the organisation of the Ministerial segment for the consideration of the next Bureau meeting.</p> <p><u>2) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>MAP Coordinator should contact the EC and transmit the considerations of the Bureau and ECP meeting on the matter.</p> <p><u>3) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>The Secretariat is to inform the President on the dates and the venue of the ECP meeting/s.</p> <p><u>4) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>a) Blue Plan should raise the necessary funds and contribute its part to the organisation of the Joint Focal Points Meeting: Blue Plan, PAP/RAC and INFO/ RAC.</p>
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<p>and INFO/RAC focal points with those of MAP focal points. However it pointed out that a definitive decision on this matter should be taken after the mandates for these components are defined.</p> <p>The Bureau reconfirmed that the next Joint Focal Points Meeting: Blue Plan, PAP/RAC and INFO/ RAC shall be held as per usual practice.</p> <p><u>5) Preparation of Progress reports for the Bureau by the Components</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>a) Following the remarks of the Bureau meeting (Bur 67) it was agreed that all Components should make an effort and include information in all the sections required by the new format of the Progress report .</p> <p>b) Additional information related to the budget for all activities under different objectives should be also presented in the Progress Report by each component.</p>	<p>b) Organisational details of the Joint Focal Points Meeting: Blue Plan, PAP/RAC and INFO/ RAC will be addressed at the next ECP meeting.</p> <p>c) The Joint Focal Points Meeting will be held in Croatia. The date and place will be decided at the next ECP meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>5) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>For the next Bureau meeting (Bur 68):</p> <p>a) The Coordinating Unit should update, on the basis of Bureau's remarks, the format of the Progress Report for the next meeting.</p> <p>b) MAP components should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete all sections of the format including the part related to lessons learnt and constraints as well as the part on recommendations, where appropriate. - Meet the agreed deadlines for the submission of their inputs for the Progress report in order to allow the Secretariat to make all necessary interventions in the text. All interventions made by the Secretariat should be subject to agreement by the respective MAP components.
<p>Agenda item 5 Implementation of Programme of work</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>a) Challenges/difficulties were reported on the implementation of a number of activities such as Effectiveness indicators, CAMP Spain, Data collection, Reporting system, cooperation MEDPOL/UNIDO on PRTR, activities related to the implementation of Article 15 of the LBS protocol as amended, etc.</p> <p>b) Examples of joint cooperation between different Centres, such as the REMPEC-RAC/SPA work on ballast water and Blue Plan-INFO/RAC on MISSD are encouraging.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>Following consultation with the Coordinating Unit, MAP components may apply for bids and participate in activities funded under different donor agencies, provided that such activities fall under their field of competence and can contribute to the implementation of the</p>

<p>c) MAP components sought guidance regarding their association with bids for carrying out of requests, studies, etc.</p>	<p>Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as different MAP strategies, including the MSSD.</p>
<p>Agenda item 6: Five-year rolling work programme of MAP</p> <p>The meeting agreed on two cross cutting thematic issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Environmental governance <p>It was also agreed to develop a 5 year rolling programme of work for three other cross cutting issues such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Integrated coastal zone management / ecosystem management, b) Harmful substances and hazardous waste and c) Resource efficiency sustainable consumption and production. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>6) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Coordinating Unit should prepare, in close consultation with all MAP Components, the five-year rolling programme of work on Environmental Governance. 2) Blue Plan should finalise the proposal on Climate Change for discussion by the fourth ECP meeting. Amendments on the document by the concerned MAP components should be submitted to BP on time. 3) PAP/RAC should prepare the proposal on Integrated Coastal Zone Management /Ecosystem Management. 4) MEDPOL& REMPEC& CP/RAC should prepare the proposal on Harmful substances and hazardous waste. 5) CP/RAC, SPA/RAC, Blue Plan should prepare the proposal on Resource efficiency - sustainable consumption and production 6) MAP components should circulate the final versions of their proposals to ECP members well in advance of the fourth ECP meeting and definitely by the end of November 2008.
<p>Agenda item 7: Status of Implementation of the joint Programmes of work EC/MAP and EEA/MAP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The meeting was informed of a call for application by the EC for a project on synergies EC/MAP. b) The ECP expressed its opinion that issues related to EC/MAP synergy and cooperation should be addressed in the framework of the institutional cooperation MAP/EC and decided to take the opportunity of the forthcoming EC/MAP meeting to obtain more information about the objectives of this 15 month consultancy work. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Coordinator should send a template, including the timeframe, to all components regarding the preparation of the progress report on the implementation of the joint programme of work EC/MAP. b) The joint meeting EC/MAP will be held on 3 December 2008. c) MAP components should submit their inputs on the future programme of work MAP/EEA before 7 October 2008.

<p>EEA. c) The meeting also addressed the implementation of MAP/EEA joint programme of work and exchanged views on future cooperation priorities.</p>	<p>d) The Secretariat will discuss MAP proposals at the meeting with EEA on 8-9 October 2008 in Athens.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8: State of the Environment (SoE) and Development Report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>On the basis of the remarks made by the Bureau and introduced by the Secretariat, the meetings agreed on the following points:</p> <p>a) Since the publication of SoED will be the first one after almost 20 years, the fulfilment of this task is very challenging to MAP.</p> <p>b) The SoED report should be comparative</p> <p>c) Different models/templates can be used for SoED report preparation, such as those elaborated by the EEA, UNEP as well as SoED reports prepared by the Mediterranean countries;</p> <p>d) SoED report should address terrestrial and marine ecosystems in an integrated manner.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>a) The final draft of the SoED shall be ready by the end of summer of 2009</p> <p>b) Amendments to the Table of Contents by MEDPOL, SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC shall be sent to BP by 10 October at the latest.</p> <p>c) The chapters that will be drafted by the other components of MAP shall be submitted to Blue Plan by the end of March 2009, at the latest.</p> <p>d) Harmonization of the text and the analysis of the gaps by Blue Plan as well as the completion of data by all components will be done in June- July 2009</p> <p>e) SoED Report will be printed in September-October 2008</p> <p>f) A brief/executive summary to highlight the main findings of the report for the attention of decision makers will also be included.</p>
<p>Agenda item 9: Draft mandates of RACs and MEDPOL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>a) Substantial work is still required from all RACs and MEDPOL regarding the finalization of the draft mandates for all MAP Components.</p> <p>b) The draft mandates should be elaborated in line with the requirements of the Governance paper.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>a) MAP components shall prepare their draft mandates in line with the requirements of the Governance paper.</p> <p>b) MAP components shall submit the draft mandates to the Secretariat by the end of October 2008 for discussion at the fourth ECP meeting.</p>

<p>Agenda item 10: UNEP's future role in the Barcelona Process-Union for the Mediterranean</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>The ECP expressed its satisfaction for the interest of UNEP in this process.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>a) MAP coordinator shall circulate for comments by end of October at the latest, the presentation by the Coordinating Unit, for the internal UNEP meeting to be held in Paris in November 2008 on "UNEP's role in the Barcelona Process-Union for the Mediterranean"</p> <p>b) The Coordinator shall make inquiries if all RAC directors can be invited to the above mentioned meeting.</p>
<p>Agenda item 11: Financial Management Audit</p> <p>All MAP components exchanged views on the ongoing financial management audit following the visits to the Centres by the auditors.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>The Audit report will be circulated to MAP components for comments immediately after its submission by the auditors to the Coordinating Unit.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12: Meeting of MAP components on the application of the ECAP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>The main priority activities identified under this project were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Preparation of the Assessment Reports for the four areas as agreed by the second meeting of Government-designated experts on ECAP and b) The Socio Economic Analysis on the marine and coastal ecosystem services. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>The meeting endorsed the conclusions of the preparatory consultative expert meeting on ECAP held on 24 September 2008 in Split, as presented in Annex III to this report.</p>

Agenda item 13: Adoption of the report	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and timetables</u></p> <p>a) The meeting adopted the draft report prepared by the Secretariat as orally amended.</p> <p>b) The fourth ECP meeting will be held on 16 December, 2008 in Athens.</p>
Agenda Item 14: Closure of the meeting	The meeting was closed by the Coordinator on 26 September at 12:30.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
3. Matters arising from the Second ECP Meeting
4. Outcome of the meeting of the Bureau
5. Implementation of the Programme of Work
6. Five Year Strategic Programme of Work of MAP
7. Status of Implementation of MAP-EC Joint Work Programme and MAP-EEA Joint Work Plan
8. State of the Environment and Development Report
9. Draft Mandates of RACs and MEDPOL
10. UNEP's future role in the Barcelona Process – Union for the Mediterranean
11. Financial Management Audit
12. Meeting of MAP Secretariat on the application of the ECAP
13. Adoption of the report
14. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX III

CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING OF ALL MAP COMPONENTS ON ECAP IMPLEMENTATION

24 September 2008, Split, Croatia

1) Repatriation of tasks among MAP components

a) Preparation of the assessment reports for the four areas

I. Marine and coastal ecosystem status

Chapter 2, MEDPOL

Chapter 3 SPA/RAC

Chapter 4 SPA/RAC

II Pressure and Impacts

Chapter 1 Medpol

Chapter 2 Medpol

Chapter 3 Medpol

Chapter 4 RAC/SPA

Chapter 5 PAP/RAC

Chapter 6 MEDPOL

Chapter 7 PAP/RAC

Chapter 8 REMPEC

Chapter 9 SPA/RAC

b) Socio economic analysis - Leading Component Blue Plan

c) Communication and Public Awareness Plan: Leading Component INFO/RAC

d) Planning for the future (Planning Document): Leading Component: Coordinating Unit

e) Case Studies (a joint activity of MEDPOL/SPA-RAC to be moderated by the Project Manager while the funds are to be allocated under the MTF, programme of work for 2009.

f) PAP/RAC to compile assessment methodologies

2) Budget allocation

a) Socio economic analysis 77 100 euro (ECAP EC project 47 100 euro + SPAMI EC project 20 000 euro + 10 000 euro from ECAP budget lines of the Coordinating Unit)

b) Assessment component 116 250 euro (70 000 euro for consultants-drafting the report and data collection, 38 750 euro for the kick off meeting - 2 day duration and 7500 euro for conference services)

c) The budget for the third ECAP government designated expert meeting as it is planned in the project document 61700 euro

d) The coordinator of MAP to approach the EC and inquire on the time frame for approval of the project and availability of funds as well as unofficially inform them on the changes to be made in the project document if and when allowed by EC rules and regulations.

3) Management issues

- The Coordinator should send the letter to request MAP focal points to appoint their contact points or coordinators for the assessment component. ToRs for the country contact points or coordinators should be sent together with the letter. The ToRs should be drafted by MEDPOL and RAC/SPA and circulated for comments to all other components.
- A precise operational scheme for carrying out all the assigned tasks should be prepared by the leading components and circulated for comments to all other components.
- Implementation of all tasks will start once the funds are made available.