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Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the
Coastal States of the Mediterranean Region
for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea
against Pollution from Land-Based Sources

Athens, 12-17 May 1980

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION MEETING OF
THE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF THE MEANS TO CONTROL
THE POLLUTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

(Nicosia, 25 - 27 February 1980)

Note by the Executive Director

The second meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU) Sub-Committee for the Study of the Means to Control the Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea was held in Nicosia, 25 - 27 February 1980. Attached herewith, for the information of participants to the Conference, are the recommendations adopted by the IPU Sub-Committee.



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3 March 1980

SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF THE MEANS TO CONTROL THE POLLUTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

(Nicosia, 25 to 27 February 1980)

Final recommendations

The Sub-committee for the Study of the Means to Control the
Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea,

Having held its second meeting at Nicosia (Cyprus) from 25 to
27 February 1980,

Having considered the action carried out by the National Groups
of the coastal States to give effect to:

- (a) The provisions of the Final Act of the Inter-Parliamentary
Conference of Coastal States on the Control of Pollution
in the Mediterranean Sea (Rome, March-April 1974);
- (b) The recommendations of the Special Committee for the Study
of the Means to Control the Pollution of the Mediterranean
Sea (Monaco, October 1975);
- (c) The final recommendations of the Sub-committee for the Study
of the Means to Control the Pollution of the Mediterranean
Sea (Athens, October 1978),

Welcoming in particular the fact that this action has contributed
directly and indirectly to numerous decisions taken by the Parliaments and
Governments concerned designed to preserve the Mediterranean marine
environment,

Convinced that the situation of the Mediterranean remains alarming,
and that consequently the action and work of the National Groups and the Sub-
committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in this respect must be maintained
and strengthened,

I. WORLD-WIDE JURIDICAL INSTRUMENTS

1. Notes the progress made, particularly by the Mediterranean coastal States, in ratifying the various international instruments listed in the Annex;
2. Recommends that all the National Groups of the Inter-Parliamentary Union whose countries are users of the Mediterranean Sea make a sustained effort with their Parliaments so that, where this has not already been done, their countries become parties to those instruments;
3. Draws attention, in particular, to the need for action to be taken by all the National Groups of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to accelerate the ratification of the following international instruments deposited with the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO):
 - (a) International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974;
 - (b) Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974;
 - (c) International Convention on Standards for Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978;
 - (d) and the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, bearing in mind especially the fact that IMCO has set the target date of June 1981 for the entry into force of this important instrument;
4. Recommends that Parliaments of States parties to such instruments promote the necessary national legislation and regulations and ensure the effective and continuing supervision of their application;
5. Reiterates its recommendation aiming at the recognition of the Mediterranean as a "special zone" with regard to the types of pollutants mentioned in Annex II to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973;

II. MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

6. Welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan and recommends that National Groups encourage the Governments of their countries to participate fully in its activities;
 - (a) Mediterranean instruments
 7. Welcomes the fact that almost all of the Mediterranean coastal States have ratified the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and

Aircraft and the Protocol concerning co-operation in combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, which entered into force on 12 February 1978;

8. Urges the National Group of those countries which have not yet ratified all the above-mentioned instruments to take the necessary action with their Governments and Parliaments so that their countries may become parties thereto as soon as possible;

(b) Control of Pollution from land-based sources

9. Notes with satisfaction the progress made in the framework of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) towards the adoption, at a Conference of Plenipotentiaries to be held at Athens from 12 to 17 May 1980, of a Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources, to be ratified as soon as possible;
10. Recommends to the National Groups of the coastal countries to encourage their Governments to make use, straight away and as far as possible, of the Findings of the Inter-Parliamentary Symposium on Environment in Europe (Geneva, 22 to 24 October 1979), particularly as regards environmental impact assessment studies, the promotion of low- and non-waste technology, the setting of water quality standards and the introduction of monitoring systems as tools in the fight against pollution from land-based sources;
11. Stresses the solidarity of States in their responsibility for rivers under their jurisdiction which flow into the Mediterranean;

(c) Action to combat pollution resulting from the exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the sea-bed and its subsoil

12. Recommends to the National Groups of the coastal countries to encourage their Governments to take all appropriate measures to prevent, abate and combat pollution of the Mediterranean resulting from any form of exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the sea-bed and its subsoil;

(d) Zonal agreements

13. Addresses an urgent appeal to the Italian Chamber of Deputies to authorize the ratification as soon as possible of the RAMOGE Agreement, so that it may be effectively applied in the Ventimiglia-Genoa sector;
14. Recommends to the National Groups of the countries concerned to ensure the effective application of existing zonal agreements (Italo-Yugoslav and Italo-Greek Agreements) and to encourage the conclusion of other agreements, particularly as regards Spain and France for the Catalonia-Languedoc-Roussillon area;

(e) Operational activities

15. Recommends that the meetings of the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention act as a Council for the protection of the Mediterranean in serious circumstances;
16. Recommends that bilateral and multilateral programmes of technical assistance, training and the provision of equipment be further developed in a spirit of solidarity among all the Mediterranean countries;
17. Recommends that UNEP assists Governments at their request in decisions concerning methods and equipment for the control of pollution through a specialized technical centre, exhibitions or expert services;
18. Recommends that, with respect to methods and equipment used for the control of pollution from ships, Governments make use of the information and technical assistance available from IMCO and the Regional Oil Combating Centre at Malta;
19. Recommends the strengthening of the Regional Oil Combating Centre at Malta to enable it to play a more active role in helping the coastal States to combat marine pollution by oil, in particular by assisting in the development of sub-regional contingency plans, providing training opportunities and on-the-spot technical assistance in cases of marine pollution emergencies;
20. Recommends in this connection that the possibility of sub-regional centres should be explored;
21. Calls upon the National Groups to urge the development, review, improvement or co-ordination, where necessary, of national contingency plans;
22. Urges other States using the Mediterranean to comply with the environmental protection measures arising from the two Protocols to the Barcelona Convention, which entered into force on 12 February 1978;
23. Recommends that increased attention be given to coastal activities in the field of ports, human settlements, energy, marine parks, soil erosion, reafforestation and leisure activities;
24. Notes with appreciation the interest shown by several countries to host the Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan;
25. Invites the Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan to keep the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Secretariat regularly informed of progress made in the implementation of the Plan;

(f) Financial aspects

26. Notes with concern the delays in payments of contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund and urges the National Groups to encourage their Governments to make their pledged payments promptly and regularly;

27. Recommends that central authorities provide financial help to local authorities to enable them effectively to combat and prevent pollution and that local authorities make full use of the facilities for financing that are available;
28. Recommends that other methods be explored for the financing on a larger, more automatic basis, of the activities of the Action Plan;
29. Recommends that suitable methods of compensation be developed for the potentially high damages which may arise from pollution of the Mediterranean Sea; and, with respect to oil pollution damage, recommends that the National Groups urge the ratification of the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969, and the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1979;

(g) Education and information

30. Recommends that steps be taken to encourage all actions designed to alert public opinion to the overriding need to save the Mediterranean, and particularly recommends that :
 - (a) UNEP, in co-operation with UNESCO and the other competent international organizations, develop programmes of environmental education and of public information, using the mass media and especially such teacher aids as films and audio-visual material, as well as of a publication for decision-makers illustrating the various aspects of the Mediterranean Action Plan;
 - (b) The National Groups of the coastal countries encourage the appropriate national authorities to mark annually by common accord a "Mediterranean Day", in connection with World Maritime Day which is celebrated in the last week of September;

III. MEANS OF ACTION

31. Reiterates its recommendation that the National Groups establish means of direct collaboration relating to Mediterranean pollution control among their Parliaments by such means, for example, as correspondence, visits (particularly in the context of the bilateral sections existing among the Groups), and the organization of multi-lateral meetings for the study and exchange of experience on specific problems;
32. Recommends that the correspondents appointed by the National Groups communicate to the Secretary General of the Union on a continuing basis all relevant information on the parliamentary action taken and envisaged in the field of marine pollution control;
33. Requests the Secretary General of the Union to transmit that information, as well as information received from UNEP, IMCO and other competent international organizations, to all the members of the Sub-committee;

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34. Recalls the belief expressed by the Rome Conference in 1974 and repeated by the Sub-committee at Athens in 1978 that all these technical means for combating marine pollution will only be fully effective in conditions of secure peace for all peoples of the Mediterranean.

LIST OF WORLD-WIDE CONVENTIONS DEALING WHOLLY OR PARTLY WITH MARINE
POLLUTION CONTROL RELEVANT TO THE MEDITERRANEAN

1. Convention on the High Seas, 1958
2. Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972
3. International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Seas by Oil, 1954, as amended
4. International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Seas by Oil, 1954. 1971 Amendments.
5. Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973
6. International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974
7. Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974
8. International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, Amendments
9. International Convention relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties, 1969
10. Protocol relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Marine Pollution by Substances Other than Oil, 1973
11. International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969
12. Protocol of 1976 to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969
13. International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971
14. Protocol of 1976 to the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971
15. International Convention on the Liability of Operators of Nuclear Ships, 1962
16. Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, 1963
17. Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy, 1960

18. Convention Supplementary to the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy, 1963
19. Convention relating to Civil Liability in the Field of Maritime Carriage of Nuclear Material, 1971
20. International Convention on Standards for Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978
21. Convention on the Continental Shelf, 1958
22. Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Underwater, 1963
23. Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil thereof, 1971
24. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, 1972
25. Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone, 1958