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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of MAP Focal Points

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**WORK PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION BETWEEN
MAP COORDINATING UNIT AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

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Concerning the Strengthening of Cooperation between the MAP Coordinating Unit and the European Commission in the Field of Environment

1. Taking into account the recommendation I.A.4.1.2 of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Catania, 11-14 November 2003, requesting the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Secretariat to elaborate a work programme for cooperation with the European Commission;
2. Recalling that in the Athens Declaration adopted by the 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference in July 2002, the EU Foreign Ministers acknowledge the importance of the strengthening of ties between the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the Mediterranean Action Plan;
3. Realizing that MAP secretariat and the European Commission should move from political declarations to concrete collaborative actions in areas of mutual interest in order to drive forward cooperation and improve synergies between the Mediterranean Action Plan and EU initiatives in general and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in particular;
4. Acknowledging also that, at the level of policy planning and policy integration, MAP institutions can contribute regional expertise and existing networks for promoting environmental protection and sustainable development of the region;
5. Recognizing that the establishment of such a reinforced collaboration between the MAP Secretariat and the European Commission will aim at achieving mutual information exchange, consultation with regard to policies and initiatives, as well as coordination of activities in order to avoid duplication of work where possible,;
6. Acknowledging that, at the level of implementation, capacity building is an important means for achieving the environmental and sustainability goals in the region and that the strengthening of institutional and technical capacities in the region would benefit from increased synergy between MAP actions, the European Neighbourhood Policy activities, the enlargement process involving countries in the Mediterranean basin, as well as the Commission's activities in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership;
7. Acknowledging the importance, in this regard, of Commission cooperation with MAP Regional Activities Centres (including the Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Region – MED POL) on priority areas such as those concerning maritime traffic pollution, the link between environment and development, sustainable coastal zone management, protection of Mediterranean biodiversity, pollution from land based sources, protection of the marine environment, and cleaner production;
8. Stressing, also, the need for improvement of the cooperation between the MAP secretariat and the European Commission in the field of data, indicators and information related to the state of the environment and trends of development in the Mediterranean region;
9. Taking into account the Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP and the European Commission of 20th September 2004;

The European Commission and the MAP Coordinating Unit hereby agree on this Joint Work Programme with the aim of consolidating, developing and intensifying their cooperation and increasing their effectiveness to achieve their common goals and objectives in the field of environment, as detailed below:

Priorities for the Joint Work Programme

This Joint Work Programme identifies a number of issues for action within the scope of the Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols. Among these issues, particular attention will be given to:-

1. Enhancing the cooperation at the Institutional Level by facilitating meetings between the two sides at the highest level possible to promote coordination on strategic matters of common interest;
2. Increasing the cooperation between the European Commission and MAP Coordinating Unit's Regional Activity Centres, through MEDU, so that the experience and expertise of the MAP's Regional Activity Centers can support Commission activities in the implementation of relevant European Community environmental policies and the European Neighbourhood Policy as well as actions in candidate and potential candidate countries in the Mediterranean basin, and to derive all possible profit from the EU Directives to better reach MAP objectives;
3. Strengthen the environmental dimension of public policy and the promotion of sustainable development policies and actions in the countries bordering the Mediterranean.

Work Programme

1. Institutional Cooperation

- 1.1 The Commission and the MAP secretariat will hold annual bilateral meetings on strategic policy matters of common interest, in accordance with an agenda agreed in advance by the two parties, aiming also at monitoring of the Joint Work Programme. These bilateral meetings will be held between representatives of the Commission and the Coordinator of MAP, or their nominated representatives to review the progress of work in the priority areas of cooperation and to discuss issues related to furthering the objectives of the Joint Work Programme;
- 1.2 The European Commission will explore how the relevant instances of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, such as the Euro-Med Committee, the Foreign Ministers and/or the Environment Ministers can best discuss the Barcelona Convention and the role of MAP, with a view to increase the synergy between the MAP and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, taking into account relevant aspects of the European Neighbourhood Policy;
- 1.3 MAP Coordinating Unit will invite the E.C. to update the other Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention on progress in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership as well as other subjects of mutual interest, at the next Conference of the Parties;
- 1.4 The Commission and the MAP secretariat will regularly examine the possibilities for financial cooperation within the framework of existing community instruments and with due regard to the relevant Commission and MAP rules and procedures (including full

respect for the established rules and practices for programming and allocating Community funds) for the implementation of EU policies in the Mediterranean countries, which would be in common with the commitments under the Barcelona Convention;

- 1.5 The Commission and the MAP secretariat will organize a joint meeting of MAP Regional Activity Centers (including MED POL) and related Commission Services to discuss future policy cooperation and identify specific activities, which could be implemented jointly for mutual benefit;
- 1.6 The Commission and the MAP secretariat will cooperate to achieve closer coordination between the MAP and the relevant European Community reporting systems;
- 1.7 The Commission and the MAP secretariat will promote joint meetings of the respective MAP Focal Points, the Short and Medium Term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP) Correspondents and the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (METAP) Focal Points, when possible, in order to create better synergy among them for the exchange of information and expertise;

2. Preventing Pollution from Land Based Sources:-

- 2.1 The Commission and the MAP secretariat will enhance cooperation in the prevention of pollution from land based sources and in the implementation of National Action Plans in the framework of the Strategic Action Programme in the Mediterranean;
- 2.2 The Commission and the MAP secretariat will determine specific commitments with regard to the exchange of information and reciprocal participation in activities related to the IMPEL/MED POL Network for compliance and enforcement, European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER), MED POL PRTR, bathing water standards and wastewater treatment;
- 2.3 On the basis of the results of the MEDPOL/Global Environment Fund (GEF) pre - investment studies and the work carried out on pollution hot spots, the Commission and the MAP secretariat will work together to identify funding possibilities for specific investment projects to address these problems;
- 2.4 The Commission and the MAP secretariat will identify specific initiatives on how the EC could play a major role in the Donors Committee established in the framework of the Strategic Action Programme and in particular for the long term implementation by the countries of the National Action Plans (NAPs) for pollution reduction;
- 2.5 With the involvement of the European Environment Agency (EEA) as appropriate, the Commission and the MAP secretariat will attempt to formalize systems for the exchange of data resulting from monitoring. Particular attention will be paid to ensuring the access of MED POL to data sent to the European Commission or the EEA, where legally possible;
- 2.6 Involving the EEA as appropriate, the Commission and the MAP secretariat, working through the MED POL programme, will continue to cooperate in the definition and the production of marine environment indicators, in the framework of the implementation at regional scale of the EU Thematic Strategy for the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment;

- 2.7 Involving the EEA as appropriate, the Commission and the MAP secretariat, working through the MED POL programme, will explore means to assure a better Mediterranean contribution to the assessment exercises on the marine environment;
- 2.8 The continued contribution of MAP, through the MEDPOL programme, to the process of development and implementation at regional level of the EU Thematic Strategy for the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment, with a view to providing a holistic framework to deal with the protection and conservation of the marine environment.. Within this framework, MED POL and the Commission will explore means to assure the implementation of Mediterranean and Community environmental policies in a coordinated and mutually supportive way;

3. Cooperation to prevent, prepare for and respond to pollution of the marine environment from maritime activities

- 3.1 The European Commission will closely cooperate with MAP's Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean (REMPEC);
- 3.2 The Commission and the MAP secretariat, taking account of REMPEC's role and capabilities, will cooperate in the development in particular of two main projects:
 - a. risk assessment related to marine transport in the Mediterranean region, and
 - b. the surveillance of maritime traffic and monitoring of illicit discharges
- 3.3 The European Commission and REMPEC will cooperate regarding prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships. In the field of preparedness for and response to pollution emergencies, REMPEC will coordinate activities with the European Commission which will involve the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) as appropriate. Activities related to prevention of pollution from ships will also be coordinated with the European Commission. The cooperation with the European Commission will in particular address implementation of the new 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, as well as implementation of the EU policy in Member States and its harmonization with the global regime established by International Maritime Organization Conventions and other legal instruments applicable to other Contracting Parties
- 3.4 The European Commission and the MAP secretariat, taking account of REMPEC's role and capabilities will work together towards the implementation of sub-regional and national contingency plans for emergencies and pollution incidents and for the setting up of port reception facilities throughout the Mediterranean in the interest of the protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean;

4. Cooperation for the protection of specially protected areas and biodiversity

- 4.1 The European Commission and the MAP secretariat will cooperate to encourage the protection of natural sites in the Mediterranean in marine zones under national jurisdiction in EU countries, which are covered by both the Habitats/Birds directives and the MAP Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Center (SPA/RAC) activities;
- 4.2 The European Commission and the MAP secretariat through SPA/RAC will investigate mechanisms for the Posidonia meadows mapping and the assessment and mitigation of fisheries impact on marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean;

- 4.3 The European Commission and the MAP secretariat will cooperate for promoting the implementation by SPA/RAC of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP-BIO);
- 4.4 The European Commission and the MAP secretariat through SPA/RAC will work together to identify further joint measures and projects relative to the conservation of sensitive habitats and species;
- 4.5 The European Commission encourage the active participation of SPA/RAC in the European Commission's working group on implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directive in the marine environment, including with the aim to promote the harmonization between the two inventory systems (Natura 2000, Standard Data-Entry Form);
- 4.6 The European Commission and the MAP secretariat will investigate how SPA/RAC can contribute to protecting Mediterranean biodiversity through Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) mechanisms;
- 4.7 The European Commission and the MAP Secretariat will work together to develop and implement the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) on marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean, based on the experience of the EEA in information technology.

5. Cooperation on integrated coastal zone management

- 5.1 The European Commission will utilize the operational experience and expertise of MAP Priority Action Programme Regional Activity Center (PAP/RAC) for capacity and partnership building, including the setting up of appropriate institutional and policy frameworks, in the Mediterranean countries for the implementation of activities under the SMAP III programme in the field of ICZM;
- 5.2 The European Commission and the MAP secretariat through PAP/RAC will increase their cooperation and identify initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable urban management, within their respective spheres of competence;
- 5.3 The European Commission will work with PAP/RAC to promote the application of ICZM throughout the Mediterranean, in line with the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2002 concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe (2002/413/EC);
- 5.4 The European Commission and PAP/RAC will collaborate and consult each other on the work which might lead towards a new regional Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) protocol under the Barcelona Convention, in view of the recommendation to the MAP secretariat of the 13th COP of the Barcelona Convention regarding the drafting of an ICAM protocol.;

6. Cooperation on environmental components of sustainable development

- 6.1 The European Commission and the MAP secretariat will establish a mechanism in order that MAP's Blue Plan Regional Activity Center (BP/RAC) will provide continuous strategic assistance and operational expertise to European Commission activities, and participation in relevant meetings in the follow up of its strategies in the following major areas considered particularly critical in the Mediterranean:
 - a. Urban development

- b. Rural area management
- c. Coastal Zone management
- d. Water
- e. Energy
- f. Transport
- g. Tourism

- 6.2 The European Commission and the MAP secretariat will investigate possibilities for structuring through BP/RAC a medium and long term cooperation in order to develop a regional programme for the period 2006/2009 to strengthen capacities and elaborate new regional state of the environment reports for publication by 2009 on specific issues (energy and climate change in 2006, rural development and water in 2007 and tourism in 2008)
- 6.3 The European Commission and the MAP secretariat (BP/RAC) will cooperate and take joint initiatives to promote sustainable development and the integration of environmental concerns into other policies, as well as to publicize the Report on Environment and Development in the Mediterranean countries and make the best of this report to promote environmental awareness and sustainable development approaches in the Mediterranean region.
- 6.4 The European Commission and the MAP secretariat will cooperate to promote the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), once it has been adopted by the Contracting Parties.

7. Cooperation on cleaner technology

- 7.1 The European Commission and the MAP secretariat, through the Clean Production Regional Activity Center(CP/RAC) will cooperate and take joint initiatives to promote the application of the Best Available Technology (BAT) in the whole Mediterranean basin in view of the importance of this concept for sustainable development in the region;
- 7.2 The European Commission and the MAP secretariat will explore how to make compatible the European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER) or successor instruments, and the Mediterranean emissions register based on the Baseline Budget in order for both EU members and non EU Mediterranean countries to develop a similar approach and methodology when monitoring pollution emissions from IPPC industries;
- 7.3 The European Commission and the MAP secretariat (CP/RAC) will cooperate in the promotion and implementation of the Environment Technologies Action Plan (ETAP) by
- a. Drafting a catalogue of existing directories and databases in the field (2005);
 - b. Raising awareness of the business community and consumers;
 - c. Promoting environmental technologies and responsible investments in developing countries in the Mediterranean
- 7.4 The MAP secretariat (CP/RAC) will act as a catalyzing agent to promote environmental management audit systems and eco- labeling in the non EU Mediterranean countries where appropriate;
- 7.5 The European Commission and the MAP secretariat (CP/RAC) will carry out an exercise to determine the trends of the Mediterranean industries taking advantage of the CP/RAC's experience as an observer of the Mediterranean industrial sectors and

companies both in terms of their development, regulatory framework and the main environmental impacts;

- 7.6 The European Commission and the MAP secretariat (CP/RAC) will exchange information on the state of cleaner production in the Mediterranean countries in particular regarding the legal framework, plans, programmes and activities being carried out for the introduction of eco-efficient practices in the Mediterranean countries;

8. Cooperation in the field of Communication and Information Technology

- 8.1 In line with the current reform of MAP's Regional Activity Center in Palermo to refocus its activities primarily on Communication and Information with the aim to proactively increase understanding of environmental and sustainable development issues in the region and the visibility of MAP actions-outputs (and to change its name to INFO/RAC pending the decision of COP14), the European Commission and the MAP secretariat through INFO/RAC will cooperate and take joint initiatives to promote information and communication efforts in the Mediterranean to increase awareness of environmental and sustainable development issues among all EMP, ENP and MAP stakeholders. Practical mechanisms will be implemented that proactively support information coordination, sharing and dissemination across a wide constituency, which includes the public, private and civil sectors.
- 8.2 The European Commission and the MAP secretariat through INFO/RAC will cooperate to promote the diffusion and greater visibility of project results, case studies, lesson learnt from bilateral and regional cooperation stemming from programmes and initiatives financed by the EC, MAP, bilateral and multilateral donors across the Mediterranean region.

Basic Principles

This Joint Work Programme will be submitted for endorsement by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention.

Implementation of the Joint Work Programme will commence from date of signature and will be monitored by both sides. It may be modified at any time by agreement of the MAP Coordinating Unit and the European Commission.

Done at.....on this.....day.....2005

For the MAP Coordinating Unit

For the European Commission

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