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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Joint Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Socio-Economic Committee

Athens, 28 May - 1 June 1990

Report of the joint meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Socio-Economic Committee

Introduction

- 1. The Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution (Athens, 3-6 October 1989), decided to convene every year, on the same dates, the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Socio-Economic Committee to review both separately and together the progress of the Action Plan and to prepare the decisions of the Contracting Parties. Since the present meeting would not have to discuss the programme and budget for the next biennium, it had been decided to convene a joint meeting of the two Committees.
- 2. The meeting was convened in the premises of the Co-ordinating Unit in Athens, from 28 May to 1 June 1990.

<u>Participants</u>

- 3. The following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related protocols were represented at the meeting: Cyprus, European Economic Community, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey and Yugoslavia.
- 4. Albania attended the Meeting as an observer.
- The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations were represented by observers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), International Commission for Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean (ICSEM), the European Environment Bureau (EEB), European Investment Bank (EIB), Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace International, Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET), Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Atelier du Patrimoine de la Ville de Marseille. The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean (REMPEC), the Regional Activity Centre for the Blue Plan (RAC/BP), the Regional Activity Centre for Priority Actions Programme (RAC/PAP), and the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) were also represented.
- 6. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

Agenda Item 1 - Opening of the meeting

7. The participants were welcomed on behalf of the Executive Director, Dr. M.K. Tolba, by the Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan, Mr. A. Manos, who provided information on significant developments since the progress report had been circulated.

- 8. He informed the Meeting that the Government of Albania had formally decided to accede to the Barcelona Convention and confirmation was awaited from Spain, the Depositary State. Progress was being made on the Adriatic Initiative and contacts between Italy and Yugoslavia, with Albania and Greece were in progress.
- 9. The ministers responsible for the Environment of the Mediterranean States and the member of the Commission of the European Communities responsible for the environment, meeting at Nicosia (Cyprus) from 26-28 April 1990, under the auspices of the European Commission prepared a charter on Euro-Mediterranean Co-operation concerning the Environment in the Mediterranean basin. They reaffirmed the commitment to the objectives of the Barcelona Convention, to the Mediterranean Action Plan and to the Genoa Declaration. The Charter specifies a number of priority actions and contains a specific calendar and relevant economic provisions.
- 10. So far as the financial situation was concerned he said that although the finances of the Co-ordinating Unit had improved, it was still vital that Contracting Parties should accelerate payments of agreed contributions; he noted that three countries were two years in arrears, one was three years in arrears and one, owing to exceptional circumstances, several years in arrears.
- 11. As concerns the offshore protocol, he explained that as a result of the substantial agreement reached in the Group of Government-nominated experts held in Athens (7-11 May 1990) the Bureau was expected to authorize the Executive Director to convene a Conference of Plenipotentiaries early in 1991 for the final negotiation and adoption of the offshore protocol.
- 12. The relevant documents concerning three coastal area management projects those in Rhodes, Izmir Bay and the Syrian coast were ready and would be sent to the countries for signature. That for Kastela Bay would soon be completed.
- 13. Mr. Manos noted that no progress could be reported as regards the preparation of a programme concerning the transport of toxic waste, and liability and compensation, two complex and still unresolved issues.
- 14. He reported that the first specific agreement on funding MED POL programmes by the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and UNDP was currently being considered by UNEP Headquarters.
- 15. With regard to the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre, he was able to inform the meeting that the Headquarters agreement between the Government of Malta and IMO had been signed and that the recruitment of a chemist was envisaged for the near future for the Centre.
- 16. In concluding, he drew attention to the two main issues submitted to the Joint Meeting for approval: the assessment and proposed measures on organophosphorus; as well as the draft Annex IV, on airborne pollution, to the IBS protocol.

Agenda Item 2 - Rules of procedure

17. The Secretariat stated that the rules of procedure adopted for the meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6 Annex XI) would apply <u>mutatis mutandis</u> to the joint meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Socio-Economic Committee, as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Agenda Item 3 - Election of Officers

18. After informal consultations, the meeting unanimously elected the following Officers:

Chairman : Mr. Elmohamady Eid (Egypt)

Vice-Chairmen : Mr. Jacques Vaccarezza (European Economic

Community)

: Mr. Mohamed Hentati (Tunisia)
Rapporteur : Mr. Edward Scicluna (Malta)

Agenda Item 4: Adoption of the Agenda and organization of work

19. The meeting considered and approved the provisional agenda (document UNEP)OCA)/MED WG.12/1) and the timetable suggested in the annex to the annotated agenda (document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.12/2). It was agreed to conduct the work only in plenary sessions, with the proviso that <u>ad hoc</u> working groups or drafting committees might be formed in consultation with the Secretariat. The list of documents appears as Annex II to this report.

Agenda Item 5 - Progress report on the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan during 1989/1990

- Agenda Item 5.1 Programme management and co-ordination for the Mediterranean Action Plan
 - (a) Programme approval through decision-making meetings
 - (b) Programme co-ordination
 - (c) <u>Legal component</u>
- 20. The Co-ordinator introduced the progress report on the activities carried out since the last joint meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Socio-economic Committee (June 1989), contained in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.12/3.
- 21. In the ensuing discussion, the representatives of Greece, the EEC and Turkey announced that payments of contributions had been made by their authorities to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF). The representative of Monaco asked the Unit to ensure that letters requesting payment should be sent at the beginning of the financial year.

- 22. The representative of Albania informed the meeting that the Minister of Foreign Affairs had communicated to Spain Albania's decision to accede to the Barcelona Convention and all four protocols. The meeting welcomed this announcement.
- 23. The representative of Turkey considered that the Bureau's initiative concerning the Black Sea was creating some confusion in the riparian countries. As the only Contracting Party with a Black Sea coast, it was indispensable that Turkey should be consulted. In response to points raised by several representatives concerning the possible extension of the Mediterranean Action Plan to the Black Sea, the Co-ordinator explained that the matter had been discussed by the Bureau, at its meeting held in Cairo, as reflected in its report (document UNEP/BUR/36/4), and it was expected that any developments would be reported to the Bureau meeting to be held in Rome in September 1990.
- 24. Several participants wondered whether the draft protocol on Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Sea-bed and its Sub-soil (document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.15/4) could be considered by the Bureau without the convening of another expert meeting to consider outstanding legal and technical issues. However, the Contracting Parties could transmit to the secretariat, by 15 August 1990, any further comments concerning the draft protocol (para. 19 of doc. UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.15/4). The Co-ordinator pointed out that in view of the substantial agreement reached there was no need for another technical meeting. The Bureau would review the document and comments made by the Contracting Parties at its next meeting (Rome, September 1990); it would decide whether a Conference of Plenipotentiaries should be convened in early 1991 or whether technical consultations should continue; in the former case it would decide on the date and place of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries.
- 25. The representative of Libya enquired about the participation of NGOs in activities related to MAP. The Co-ordinator confirmed that their participation did not involve costs to the budget.
- 26. The representative of Israel announced the ratification by his country of the IBS protocol and the issuance of the relevant regulations, with entry into effect on 12 July 1990.
- 27. The representative of Yugoslavia informed the meeting that his country had also ratified the IBS Protocol. The joint Italian-Yugoslav commission for the Adriatic had met in Split (February 1990) and Venice (April 1990) and that the next meeting was scheduled to be held in Portoroz. He announced that the document concerning the legal status of the Regional Activity Centre for Priority Actions Programme (RAC/PAP) in Split had passed through the necessary procedures and would be communicated to the Secretariat soon.

- 28. The representative of Malta informed the meeting that a Parliamentary Secretary for Environment with ministerial rank had been appointed within the Education and Interior Ministry, an action which testified to his country's concern for the environment.
- 29. Supplementing the general information given concerning the Nicosia Charter, the representative of the EEC referred to the broad lines of the actions and measures envisaged in the Charter:
 - Technical action (waste water, discharges, ballast water)
 - Action in the field of information, public awareness, training and legislation and regulation

All these measures were governed by a specific calendar.

30. At the end of the discussion on sub-item 5.1(a), (b) and (c), the meeting took note of the relevant sections of the progress report.

Agenda item 5.2. - Implementation of the Land-based Sources Protocol (LBS) and the Dumping Protocol

- (a) <u>Progress report on the implementation of the IBS protocol and the Dumping protocol</u>
- 31. The secretariat introduced section 5.2. (a) of document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.12/3 which described the major events since the last Joint Committee meeting.
- 32. With reference to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol, the meeting stressed the importance of having more information on dumping permits issued by national authorities as well as, if possible, on dumping permits denied. At present, in fact very few countries reported to the Co-ordinating Unit data on permits or "competent authorities" or national experts and institutions capable of providing technical assistance in the matter of dumping of wastes at sea. The meeting agreed that the secretariat would report to the next Joint Committee meeting on information received from Contracting Parties, including that transmitted in previous years, in order to identify possible gaps.
- 33. The secretariat urged delegates to ensure that national annual reports on dumping activities be sent regularly.
- 34. In addition to Malta and Libya, as already reported in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.12/3, the representatives of Yugoslavia and Israel informed the meeting that the instruments of ratification of the IES protocol had been deposited by their respective Governments.

- 35. As to the IBS Workplan activities, the meeting briefly discussed the progress in the implementation of the survey of pollutants from land-based sources and stressed that completed questionnaires should be submitted to the secretariat as promptly as possible. Information was given by the secretariat on progress in the implementation of the pilot project on monitoring of carcinogenic, teratogenic and mutagenic substances, the pilot project on monitoring of detergents, as well as the conclusions of the pilot survey on persistent synthetic materials.
- 36. The meeting was also informed of the preparation of the documents concerning assessment of pollution by radioactive substances, pathogenic organisms, carcinogenic/teratogenic/mutagenic substances, persistent synthetic material and elements of item 1 of Annex II of the LBS Protocol. The EEC delegation stated that, concerning radioactivity, in addition to national, Community and International regulations (International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP), IAEA), there is also the EURATOM Treaty.
- 37. In discussing research activities, the secretariat stated that research achievements and findings were regularly reported in the MAP Technical Report Series. In addition, a few volumes of the MAP Technical Report Series had been prepared covering pollution assessments as well as bibliographies related to a number of IES substances.
- 38. The representative of UNEP's Industry and Environment Office briefly described the main objectives of his organization, which were to encourage the incorporation of environmental criteria in industrial development plans, to facilitate the implementation of procedures and principles for the protection of the environment, to promote the use of safe and "clean" technologies and to stimulate the exchange of information and experience throughout the world.
 - (b) Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by organophosphorus compounds and proposed measures
- 39. Introducing the discussion on this sub-item, Mr. G. P. Gabrielides, the representative of FAO, drew attention to the relevant document (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.12/4) which had been prepared by the secretariat in close co-operation with FAO, WHO and IAEA.
- 40. He specifically mentioned that so far as the recommendations appearing in the document were concerned, the secretariat was in fact requesting an extension of the deadline in order to suggest concrete marine pollution control measures. The extension was necessary since it had not been possible to collect accurate production and consumption figures and information on levels. Data on the effects of organophosphorus compounds on the marine environment were also lacking.

- 41. During the discussion a number of delegates expressed the view that measures could already be proposed since the Contracting Parties had adopted the precautionary principle. A proposal to create a task force to study the problem of pesticides as a whole was also put forward.
- 42. The delegate of Greece expressed the view that concrete reduction measures could not be proposed at the present time, due to the lack of actual information on background data on organophosphorus compounds production and consumption levels, the insufficient knowledge of their precise substitutes and the non-satisfactory existing control mechanism ensuring the implementation of reduction measures.
- 43. The meeting took note of the draft recommendation included in the document, especially pointing out the difficulty of collecting on a continuing basis reliable and relevant data on the quantities of organophosphorus compounds produced and consumed as well as on concentration levels in the environment, their fate and impact.
- 44. In conclusion, the meeting agreed that every effort should be made by all Contracting Parties to provide the secretariat by the end of September 1990 with i) quantities of organophosphorus compounds produced and consumed in each country, ii) present national legislative and administrative measures implemented at the national level for the control of pollution by organophosphorus compounds, and iii) available data on effects and levels of organophosphorus compounds in the Mediterranean coastal and estuarine areas.
- 45. On the basis of the above-mentioned information, the secretariat would then propose, if it was deemed necessary, a new set of recommendations for the next Joint Committee meeting in 1991 which, if approved, would be transmitted to the Contracting Parties for adoption.

(c) <u>Draft annex IV (airborne pollution) of the LBS Protocol</u>

- 46. The secretariat introduced document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.12/5 which contained a draft text for Annex IV to the LBS protocol. The document had been prepared by a consultant in close consultation with WMO and the Co-ordinating Unit.
- 47. In the course of the discussion that followed the presentation of the document, participants requested a number of explanations. The representative of the EEC stated that he did not have the mandate to negotiate the annex and could only take note of it. He also asked for additional explanations on paragraphs 5 and 6 of the draft annex. Other delegates requested more time to study the document and its implications.
- 48. The representative of Monaco noted that the data concerning his country on page 1 of document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.12/5 are not valid.

- 49. In conclusion, the meeting agreed that Contracting Parties would send to the Co-ordinating Unit detailed comments on the technical and legal aspects of the Annex by September 1990. A revised text of Annex IV would then be prepared and transmitted to the Focal Points for examination. After that it would be submitted for approval to the Joint Committee meeting in 1991 so that it could then be submitted to the Contracting Parties' meeting for adoption.
- 50. At the end of the discussion on sub-item 5.2 (a), (b) and (c), the meeting took note of the relevant sections of the progress report.
- Agenda Item 5.3 Monitoring of marine pollution in the Mediterranean
 - (a) <u>Progress report on monitoring marine pollution through MED POL</u>
- 51. Mr. L. Jeftic, the Senior Marine Scientist of the Co-ordinating Unit, introduced section 5.3 (a) of document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.12/3, which summarized the main progress in monitoring and related activities of MED POL, and he provided the participants with additional information covering the period after the preparation of the document.
- 52. He referred inter alia to the finalization of an agreement between UNEP and the World Bank on the "Enhancement of institutional capabilities for pollution monitoring". This project, with the financial contribution of the Mediterranean Technical Assistance Programme (METAP), is aimed at upgrading the capabilities of a number of selected national institutions through the implementation of the comprehensive Data Quality Assurance Programme (purchase and installation of instruments, intercalibration exercises, training, etc.). The secretariat expressed its appreciation for this type of cooperation.
- 53. In reviewing this section, the representatives of France, Libya and Spain informed the meeting that in the course of the year 1989 their respective countries had transmitted monitoring data relevant to different years in addition to the countries which had been listed in document WG.12/3 (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Syria and Yugoslavia).
- 54. All countries' representatives informed the meeting of recent developments taking place in their respective countries concerning monitoring activities and on their involvement in the MED POL programme.

- 55. The representative of Yugoslavia drew attention to a preliminary proposal for the establishment in Yugoslavia of a Mediterranean Centre for modelling and monitoring of atmospheric transport of contaminants. The main objective of the Centre would be to make model calculations and assessments of the atmospheric transport and deposition of contaminants into the region, to collect and analyze monitoring and emission inventory data as well as the results of relevant research and monitoring activities. The major part of the facilities, equipment and services for the Centre would be provided by the Federal Hydrometeorological Institute. The proposal was strongly supported by the representative of WMO. It was agreed that the detailed proposal, including an overview of activities of the existing international centres with similar responsibilities, should be submitted to the next Joint Committee meeting in 1991.
- 56. The National MED POL Co-ordinator for Italy informed the meeting that a Unit for the study of eutrophication and plankton blooms in the Mediterranean region was being established at Grado, Italy, with support from the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, the University of Trieste and the International Centre for Earth and Environmental Sciences in Trieste.
- 57. The representative of Libya referred to an accident that had resulted in the sinking of a cargo vessel off the coasts of his country and solicited regional co-operation for the rescue of the cargo which was thought to contain hazardous substances. It was considered that this subject, as well as the organization of eventual joint activities, could be discussed within the framework of implementation of the Emergency Protocol.
- 58. At the request of some delegations, the secretariat agreed to consider the preparation of guidelines for the monitoring of pollution at dumping sites, sewage outlets, pollution hot spots and aquaculture sites.
- 59. The representative of IOC drew attention to the activities of the IOC/IAEA/UNEP Group of Experts on Standards and Reference Materials which was at present developing guidelines for the supply and preparation of standards and reference materials and their use by laboratories concerned with marine pollution research and monitoring.
- 60. The representative of ICSEM highlighted the activities of the POEM and PRIMO programmes (ICSEM/IOC) dealing with the dynamics and water mass circulation of the eastern and western basins of the Mediterranean respectively and noted that the results of these programmes would be of interest to MED POL.
 - (b) <u>Implications of climatic changes in the Mediterranean region</u>
- 61. The Senior Marine Scientist introduced section 5.3. (b) of document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.12/3, which summarized the activities related to climatic change in the Mediterranean.

- 62. The secretariat informed the Meeting that the volume "High and Dry" had also been published in Arabic.
- 63. A number of representatives informed the meeting of their national initiatives, expressed their satisfaction at the activities implemented and assured support for future action.
- 64. The Co-ordinator drew the meeting's attention to the implications of the Charter on Euro-Mediterranean co-operation which included <u>interalia</u> a consultation among the Coastal States on the problem of climate in the Mediterranean Basin during the Second World Conference on Climate Change, to be held in Geneva at the end of October 1990. The text of the Charter, in English and French, was distributed to the participants.
- 65. The representative of France expressed the wish that MAP activities concerning climate change not deal exclusively with the possible consequences of such change (i.e. problems linked to possible variations in the marine environment), but also with the contribution of the Mediterranean States to the causes of this phenomenon; among the latter, energy consumption surely merits special attention.
- 66. The representatives of ICSEM and IOC addressed the subject of the implementation of a Mediterranean component (ICSEM/IOC) of the CSNIR Programme (Ocean Sciences related to non-living resources) of the IOC the topic of which will be: Insular and deltaic coastal sedimentary dynamics. This research programme will provide interesting results for the study of the implications of climatic change in the Mediterranean.
- 67. The meeting agreed that the secretariat would prepare for the 1991 Joint Committee Meeting a document reviewing projects and activities relevant to climatic changes in the Mediterranean carried out by national and international bodies, together with a workplan for future activities.
- 68. At the end of the discussions on sub-item 5.3 (a) and (b), the meeting took note of the relevant sections of the progress report.

Agenda Item 5.4 - Prevention and combating pollution from ships

- (a) <u>Implementation of the Protocol on Emergency</u>
- (b) <u>Progress report on the work of the Regional Marine Pollution</u>
 <u>Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea</u>
- 69. The Director of the Malta Centre (REMPEC), Mr. J.C. Sainlos, introduced the discussion of this sub-item, supplementing the information given in the relevant sections of the Progress Report (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.12/3). He reviewed the progress made in implementing the programme of activities approved by the Sixth Meeting of Contracting Parties, in particular with regard to development of the

regional information system, assistance to countries that so requested in developing their national capabilities, training, and co-operation and assistance in case of emergency.

The Director stated that, on 27 April 1990, the Prime Minister of the Government of Malta and the Secretary General of IMO had signed the Headquarters Agreement in respect of the Centre.

He stated that the elements of the programme concerning harmful substances had to await the recruitment of the chemist, who would now take up his functions in July 1990. He added that the Centre had received a number of requests for assistance in developing national contingency plans and these raised problems for the Centre's timetable as well as financial problems because the programme and budget adopted only provided for two such operations annually. The problem would be studied by the Centre together with the States in question so as to draw up a timetable consistent with the needs of countries and the Centre's possibilities.

He stressed that the cost of training courses on harmful substances was much higher than that for training courses on oil pollution because of the need to use expertise that was limited and expensive, thereby raising a problem of financing since the training budget was not adapted to such courses.

He informed the meeting that a seminar on liability and compensation as a result of accidents resulting in pollution by oil or other harmful substances would be organized in Malta from 8 to 12 October 1990. He said that the seminar would be an important element in strengthening regional co-operation with a view to providing assistance in the case of major accidents.

He also announced that the Centre would undertake preparatory work on proposals for guidelines on the use of dispersants in the Mediterranean, as well as on proposals for procedures and arrangements relating to financial, administrative, customs and operational aspects of mutual assistance in case of emergency.

He informed the meeting that, following a decision by the Bureau in February 1990 concerning the Centre's communication facilities, an expert appointed jointly by IMO and UNEP would visit the Centre in June 1990 in order to evaluate the Centre's facilities and to propose solutions in order to improve the current situation.

Finally, the Director reviewed the work taking place within IMO on the preparation of an international convention on international cooperation in oil pollution preparedness and response.

- 70. In the ensuing debate a number of representatives expressed keen interest and their appreciation for the work being done by the Centre. They described measures taken by their national authorities for dealing with emergencies caused by oil spills or other accidents liable to cause pollution at sea.
- 71. The representative of Egypt considered that the Centre should be involved in the application of all Annexes of the MARPOL Convention and its capabilities suitably expanded. He suggested that a two-day workshop of Mediterranean experts be convened with a view to preparing a common position of the Contracting Parties in preparation of the International Diplomatic Conference on Convention on oil pollution preparedness and response scheduled for November 1990.
- 72. The representative of Tunisia stated that his country would welcome assistance from the Centre in the form of experts in implementation of the national plan for dealing with emergencies caused by oil spills. He added that the training programmes of the Centre should be further strengthened in order to be able to provide training for national personnel.
- 73. The representative of Yugoslavia stated that in formulating its national contingency plan for dealing with hazardous wastes in the Adriatic region with the Centre's assistance, his country had co-operated closely with Italy.
- 74. The representative of Israel said that it would be very desirable that the Centre should draw up guidelines concerning dispersants approved for use in the clearing of oil slicks at sea.
- 75. The representative of Italy enquired about the criteria which had been used by the Centre in drawing up the list of companies capable of providing expert assistance in dealing with emergency cases in the Mediterranean.
- 76. The representative of Syria reported that a national plan dealing with emergencies was being finalized. In addition Syria was establishing deballasting facilities for which his country would welcome assistance from MAP.
- 77. The representative of Turkey stated that her country was preparing a plan for dealing with emergencies at sea, for which it had requested the Centre's assistance. She added that her country was planning a feasibility study concerning the installation of reception facilities for oily and other wastes.
- 78. The representative of the EEC thanked the Centre's Director for the information he had given and drew attention to the collaboration between the Centre and the EEC Commission's services, as well as to Community action in implementation of decision 86/85/EEC establishing a Community system for the control and reduction of pollution caused by the discharge of oil and other hazardous substances into the sea (incidents off Sicily and Ireland, and off Spain and Portugal in December 1989).

79. At the end of the discussion the Director of the Malta Centre answered a number of questions asked by various representatives. He stated that the Centre's experience had been used in the preparation of the future IMO Convention. He added that the Centre would be prepared to arrange a co-ordinating meeting of Mediterranean countries at the Diplomatic Conference scheduled by IMO for November 1990. So far as training was concerned, he said that the Centre would be prepared to give technical support to Tunisia in organizing a national training course. As regards the dispersants to be used for dealing with oil spills, he said that the Centre could prepare draft guidelines subject to available resources.

In reply to the enquiry relating to the list of companies capable of giving assistance, he said the list was drawn up on the basis of the Centre's experience of contacts with such companies. With regard to another point raised during the discussion, he said that as soon as necessary financial resources became available, the Centre would endeavour, in co-operation with the UNEP Office for Industry and Environment, to arrange a training course on the subject of port pollution.

- 80. The Co-ordinator urged all Contracting Parties that have not already done so to establish national contingency plans which was a precondition of international support. He added that so far as Syrian request for assistance in the establishment of port reception facilities, that it was hoped that financial support could be expected from EEC.
- 81. At the end of the debate on sub-item 5.4(a) and (b), the meeting took note of the relevant sections of the progress report.

Agenda Item 5.5 - Protection of the common Mediterranean heritage:

- (a) <u>Implementation of the protocol concerning Specially Protected</u>
 <u>Areas</u>
- (b) Progress report on the work of the Specially Protected Areas/Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)
- 82. The Director of SPA/RAC, Mr. Haj Ali Salem introduced the discussion on this sub-item. He stated that the SPA Protocol had been ratified by 15 Contracting Parties. He announced that the text of the host country agreement with UNEP existed and was awaiting final approval by UNEP Headquarters and the Tunisian authorities. He said that the personnel situation of the Centre was stable and that a documentalist would be appointed in the near future, a step which would facilitate the operation of a databank that was receiving a constant flow of fresh information. He referred to the publications of the Centre and expressed his appreciation for MAP's co-operation. He stated that whereas hitherto the Centre had been largely concerned with

the preservation of sites of biological and ecological value, it envisaged in the future to concentrate on the preparation of a directory of sites referred to in Article 3(b) of the SPA Protocol in co-operation with UNESCO. So far as the protection of marine plants was concerned he referred to the document entitled "Red Book of the Mediterranean Marine Plants"; on this subject a course with limited participation was envisaged to be organized by the Centre in summer of 1990.

- 83. The Co-ordinator reported that the text of the revised draft of the host country agreement had been received in Athens on 28 May 1990 and had been referred to UNEP in Nairobi. He expressed his appreciation to IUCN for its support and flexibility.
- 84. During the discussion on this sub-item, a number of speakers expressed their appreciation for the work being done by the Centre. Several representations described actions taken in their countries for the protection of sensitive areas and for the protection of endangered species.
- 85. The Libyan representative emphasized the importance of the activities related to the protection of the marine environment, particularly special areas which were considered to be fragile and sensitive. He hoped that the problems facing the Centre would be solved soon.
- 86. The representative of Israel stated that his country had not been invited to participate in the international meeting held in Tunis for all Mediterranean countries nor to the training course on marine plants. He also referred to the difficulty experienced by his authority in postal communication with Tunis Centre. He stressed that, in his opinion, the Centre was not conforming with its commitments or with the United Nations Charter.
- 87. The representative of Greece informed the meeting on the very recent legal measures in respect to the delineation of the boundaries of the Amvrakikos Gulf Ramsar area. In addition to reporting on various projects carried out in Greece, in co-operation with EEC and WWF, on monitoring, surveys, studies and public awareness programmes, relating to the marine turtles and the monk seals she referred to the tentatively scheduled in field training course in Greece, for 23 July to 10 August 1990, for the conservation of marine turtles, which intended to complement the one in Cyprus. Furthermore, she stressed the importance for close co-operation between SPA/RAC and the relevant focal points, in view of including new sites to the existing network at specially protected areas
- 88. The representative of Turkey announced that her country would organize a workshop on the preservation of the breeding sites of marine turtles on 11-12 June 1990. In addition, it was planned to arrange a workshop on the implementation of the Action Plan for the protection of the monk seal.

- 89. The representative of Italy reported progress made in his country towards conservation of existing SPA's and the creation of considerable number of new ones. Far reaching legislation on the subject was pending in the Italian Parliament.
- 90. The representative of Tunisia explained that the delays in the conclusion of the host country agreement had been due to legal difficulties. A special committee attached to the Prime Minister's office had been formed to study the question. A draft agreement had been prepared the text of which had been transmitted to the Coordinating Unit. The Tunisian Government was committed to providing favourable conditions for the SPA Centre's activities. He added that Tunisia had set up a national agency to be specifically responsible for the preservation of nature, for the Government took a keen interest in the matter. As regards the international meeting held at Tunis to which the Israeli delegation said it had not been invited, he explained that that had been an international seminar on the Ishkeul Park entirely organised by Tunisia to which the Director of the Centre had been invited, as had the other directors of the centres of MAP and of the Co-ordinating Unit.
- 91. Observers for EEB, MEDASSET and Greenpeace made statements emphasizing their special concern with certain matters and urged vigorous actions for international co-operation and co-ordination in this respect. In particular, the observer for MEDASSET stated that in her opinion the budget adopted during the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties for the implementation of the marine turtle Action Plan in 1990 was insufficient. Problems for marine turtles conservation were increasing constantly and hence substantial funds for the conservation of this endangered species were needed.
- 92. The Co-ordinator expressed the hope that the Action Plans for Marine Turtles and the Monk Seal would become reference points for countries and that the Tunis Centre would co-ordinate the various activities.
- 93. Some delegations referred to the recommendation of the Sixth Contracting Parties meeting (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/5, Annex V, p.17, para.e) to "support other action concerning additional endangered speciesimportant for their protection"; they also referred to the actions being undertaken by the working group on Mediterranean small cetaceans of the Bern Convention Standing Committee and to the memorandum of understanding on small cetaceans of the final declaration of the Third International Conference on the protection of the North Sea.
- 94. The meeting requested SPA/RAC to prepare a draft action plan for the conservation of Mediterranean cetaceans, taking into account the abovementioned elements, to be presented and discussed during the next committee meeting with a view to submitting it to the 1991 Contracting Parties Meeting. It was also agreed that the Co-ordinating Unit would study the possibility of securing outside funding to catalyze this work from OCA/PAC of UNEP and/or other sources.

- 95. The observer for ICSEM stated that in January 1990 the Bureau of ICSEM had adopted a recommendation encouraging scientific research concerning the protection of these species. He added that an international research programme was in progress and that a computerised record of the distribution of these species was being compiled. The expert group of the programme might co-operate with SPA/RAC.
- 96. The Director of SPA/RAC took note with satisfaction of the recent developments reported by the speakers in the course of the discussion. As regards participation in the training course on marine plants, he explained that the course was the first of its kind and that participation would be limited due to lack of funds. He added, however, that there would be a future course to enable other countries to participate. In the case of the International Seminar on the Ichkeul protected area, the government of Tunisia and not SPA/RAC had been the inviting authority.
- 97. At the end of the discussion on sub-item 5.5(a) and (b), the meeting took note of the relevant sections of the progress report.

(c) Preservation of the 100 historic sites

98. The Director of the Atelier du Patrimoine, City of Marseille, Mr. Daniel Drocourt, introduced the discussion on this sub-item. He reported on the progress of work carried out since 1 January 1990 according to decisions taken by the Contracting Parties at their meeting in October 1989. A number of countries had asked for assistance from the network of the 100 historic sites in accordance with the terms of the "Orientations for the knowledge, protection, planning, and management of the historic sites of common Mediterranean interest" (Algeria, Malta, Egypt, Tunisia, France, Italy).

With reference to the object and activities agreed upon at the 1989 meeting of the Contracting Parties, he stated that bilateral action had been undertaken with UNESCO in respect of sites mentioned both in the list of the World Heritage and in the list of 100 historic sites. Co-operation with the authorities responsible for coastal historic sites had concerned, as recommended in the 1990-1991 programme, such matters as the deterioration of the structure and fabric of buildings due to changes in environmental conditions, as well as measures of protection, conservation and management of underwater archaeological sites, including ancient shipwrecks (Algeria, Sicily, Malta).

Promotion of co-operation with the authorities responsible for historic sites, especially those responsible for comparable sites, who were concerned with identifying the territorial area of the site in question and with the protection of the sites against fresh hazards due to extraneous sources or to the intensification of the tourist traffic (Sardinia, Corsica, Hippo-Annaba, etc.). As regards training in knowledge, protection, planning and management of historic

Mediterranean sites, he said that a number of responsible officers from Tunisia, Yugoslavia and Algeria had come to the Marseille Centre in order to gather documentary and bibliographical material, to learn about data processing and about the urban management of a large historic city. A publication concerning the first subject of "Orientations" was being distributed to the responsible authorities and officers concerned. Other publications were envisaged, in particular the Arabic version of "Orientations" and a brochure concerning the 100 sites accompanied by maps, photographs and descriptions prepared in close liaison with the persons responsible for the particular sites in question.

- 99. The Co-ordinator expressed thanks to the authorities of France and to the City of Marseille for their support of the activities carried out by the Marseille Centre. As a consequence the operation of the Centre had had up to now no financial implications for MAP. Funds from MAP would be released in the future following agreement between MAP and Marseille Centre.
- 100. The representative of Libya reported that in his country a special committee had been established to consider measures for the preservation of the old City of Tripoli as his country's main historic site. He also drew attention to the destruction or risk of destruction of underwater historical sites by subsidence of coastal land in consequence of the pressure of human settlements.
- 101. A number of delegations asked for more precise information about the way in which the Marseille Centre operated. In particular, the representative of Israel enquired what were the criteria on the basis of which historic sites were chosen? How were funds allocated? What were the criteria used by the Centre for selecting trainees?
- 102. The representative of Syria and the representative of Yugoslavia, who proposed the inclusion of the site of Budva in the list of 100 Mediterranean historic sites, enquired whether the additional sites they had suggested would be included in the list of historic sites.
- 103. In replying to questions, the Co-ordinator explained the relationship between the 100 sites programme and the historic settlements component of PAP. He stressed that any new proposals would be examined on the basis of the criteria adopted by the Fifth Ordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties prior to their approval by the Contracting Parties. He also stressed the need for national authorities to identify the responsible office, or official, with whom the Marseille Centre should deal for each site.

104. As regards the operation of the network of the historic coastal sites of Mediterranean interest, a number of suggestions were put forward:

- A. The Co-ordinating Unit with the advice given to it, including advice by the Atelier du Patrimoine, would consider ways and means of enlisting the support of extra-budgetary funds (sponsorship, international tourism) for strengthening action for the conservation of the sites. The World Bank and the EIB should be associated as necessary. A possible target of 5 million dollars annually might be envisaged.
- B. A meeting of authorities responsible for the historic sites should be held in 1991. The Cities of Naples or Thessaloniki which had offered to organize the meeting should be invited to confirm their offer. It was understood that the Italian delegation would approach the City authority of Naples.
- C. The work of protecting and utilizing the historic sites would benefit if it could rely on pilot sites voluntarily made available for some particular action (eg. multilingual notices, security against the looting of underwater sites, techniques of conservation, lyophilization). In that way exchanges of information would benefit from specific experience.
- D. The Contracting Parties should communicate to the Coordinating Unit particulars of measures taken to protect the sites (in particular underwater sites) against looting and damage.
- E. Before the publication concerning the 100 sites, scheduled for 1990, the focal points for MAP should receive the proofs for any possible corrections.

105. The observer for the WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature informed the meeting about the great danger for Venice, one of the 100 Mediterranean crucial historic sites, if it should be designated as the site for the Expo 2000. In view of the opposition to this designation expressed by the European Parliament, the Commission of the European Communities, the World Heritage Committee and a vast number of personalities all over the world, the WWF expressed serious concern and a negative evaluation of the project that could cause irreversible damage to the very fragile ecosystem of the historic town and the Venice lagoon. The concern of WWF and other organizations was shared by several other delegations and the NGOs attending the meeting who expressed the wish to draw the attention of the authorities to possible negative effects related to environmental protection and particularly conservation of the World's Cultural Heritage before such a decision was taken. Italian delegation pointed out that the matter was not on the agenda and hence should not be discussed by the meeting.

106. At the end of the discussion on sub-item 5.5(c) the meeting took note of the relevant section of the progress report.

Agenda item 5.6 Environmentally sound management of the Mediterranean coastal zone

- (a) Prospective analysis of the relationship between Environment and Development
 Progress report on the work of the Blue Plan/Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC)
- 107. Mr. M. Batisse, President of the Regional Activity Centre for the Blue Plan, recalled that the Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties had recommended that in the future the Blue Plan should be increasingly oriented towards integrated planning of coastal regions so as to respond to the practical needs of countries, in particular, within the framework of pilot projects. He added that, despite the relatively short lapse of time since the Contracting Parties' meeting, this new orientation was already being followed and the experience of the new Director of Blue Plan, Mr. B. Glass, was consistent with this development, while Mr. Grenon remained on a part-time basis as Scientific Adviser to the team at Sophia Antipolis.

He referred to the activities carried out to conclude the work already begun. Dissemination of the report in French had continued and it had been well received by decision-makers and by the French-speaking Press. Information meetings had been held in France and in other EEC countries. The English version of the report had been published by Oxford University Press and copies had been given to delegations. The typescript of the Arabic version was ready. A Spanish version had prepared by courtesy of the Spanish authorities, and a summary in Serbo-Croat was to be published in collaboration with RAC/PAP. The fascicles on fisheries, forests and nature conservation were being printed and those on water resources and islands would be printed shortly. He said that the data base was being updated, the transfer to Athens having been completed, and co-operation with Genoa on environmental data would be finalized as soon as possible.

Turning to future activities, he emphasized that the objective of the Blue Plan focused on prospective work and systems analysis and that work had begun on practical projects related to integrated management, including conservation, in coastal regions. This work was taking place in close co-operation with PAP/RAC and SPA/RAC and increasingly with the World Bank, which had made extensive use of the Blue Plan report in preparing its Mediterranean programme, initiated in co-operation with the European Investment Bank.

108. Mr. B. Glass, Director of BP/RAC, describing what he regarded as his main function in his new office, stressed the need for better communication with decision-makers through documentary material. In addition, it was vital to make the younger generation and the media aware of the Blue Plan activities. He emphasized the need to improve

and refine the quality of statistical data on the environment that were fed into the data base. He added that co-operation with the World Bank and the EIB as well as the other regional activity centres was indispensable. He added that BP/RAC was working on the methodology of large-scale scenarios, based on the Blue Plan, and taking into account the case of the French Riviera and the Bay of Iskenderun.

- 109. The representative of Morocco, after congratulating BP/RAC on the quality of its work, suggested that the Centre should show greater initiative and encourage countries to be more closely associated with the work of the Blue Plan, in particular with the preparation of national scenarios and integrated development plans.
- 110. The representative of Libya reported on progress made in his country concerning the preparation of the national scenario. He added that a national workshop on the methodology to be employed for this purpose was envisaged for this year in co-operation with BP/RAC.
- 111. The representative of France expressed the hope that experts of other Mediterranean countries, especially from Southern countries, would participate in the work of the team at Sophia Antipolis. He further expressed the hope that the data base which had been transferred to the Athens office would be accessible to Contracting Parties. Referring to the contacts between BP/RAC and the University of Genca he expressed the hope that the meeting to be held at Genca on environmental statistics, at both the Mediterranean and the national level, might suggest improvements in existing systems.
- 112. The Italian delegation requested those in charge of BP/RAC to initiate, in the near future, co-operation with the Genova-Ricerche Centre with a view to updating the Blue Plan data base, as agreed in the course of contacts during 1989.
- 113. Several delegations expressed the view that BP/RAC had reached a turning point in its evolution and that in a time of rapid changes it was necessary to consider how to re-orient its future activities in spite of its past praiseworthy accomplishments. They considered that it would be desirable to establish a task force to advise on how the future work of BP/RAC might be reoriented. They syggested that the Co-ordinating Unit should convene a working group in 1991, before the Contracting Parties' next meeting, to consider and outline the future development of the Blue Plan. This suggestion should be referred to the September meeting of the Bureau. They added that whatever might be the working group's recommendations they should be without prejudice to the completion of national scenarios by countries which had not yet completed them.

114. At the end of the discussion, the President of BP/RAC thanked the delegates for their useful suggestions and answered a number of questions and comments. He explained that it was not always easy to reconcile rival scenarios, for example those of Mediterranean wide scope, those of national scope and those of local scope. While BP/RAC had not ignored national concerns, the fact was that some national scenarios were not always satisfactory and should be revised by the countries in co-operation with BP/RAC. He considered that the idea of convening a working group was a good one, for such a body should be able to submit sound ideas to the 1991 meeting of the Contracting Parties. The seminar envisaged in the 1991 work programme might offer an opportunity for such an exchange of views. He hoped that the team at Sophia Antipolis would be strengthened by the participation of nationals of a number of Mediterranean countries especially from the Southern region possibly sponsored by the World Bank.

115. The Co-ordinator welcomed the support expressed for the Blue Plan and the suggestions for additional activities, but reminded the meeting that the first obligation of the Secretariat was the implementation of the 1990-91 programme as approved in October 1989.

116. At the end of the discussion of sub-item 5.6(a), the meeting took note of the relevant Section of the progress report.

(b) Coastal planning and management
Progress report on the work of the Priority Actions
Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)

117. The director of PAP/RAC Mr. Arsen Pavasovic introduced the discussion on the sub-item. Supplementing the information given in the progress report, he informed the meeting about some recent actions, such as the training course on water resources management organized in Malta in March jointly with the Maltese institutions and a French research institute; the training course on designing urban waste treatment plants for big Mediterranean cities organized by the City of Marseille and PAP in May; and the training course on long-term energy-environment alternatives planning (IEAP) organized jointly with a Swedish institute. He also informed on the progress of the two ongoing co-operative projects. While the project on erosion mapping and monitoring hosted by Spain had started with the participation of Tunisia, Turkey and Morocco, difficulties had been encountered on securing harmonization and co-operation with the UNDP project on seismic risk reduction in the Mediterranean (SEISMED), originally developed as a PAP/MAP project

Activities related to identifying, testing and disseminating of methodologies and tools for integrated planning and management of coastal zones had produced encouraging results in various fields, such as the methodology of integrated planning, application of geographic information systems (GIS) on PC level in the planning process, development of simplified procedures on preparation of EIA and on hazard assessment and risk management. However in future more attention should be given to management tools and techniques.

He expressed appreciation to a number of institutions and organizations contributing to the implementation of PAP, such as Centro de Investigaciones Energeticas Medicambientales y Technologicas (CIEMAT, Madrid) and Istituto Nacional para la Conservacion de la Naturaleza (ICONA, Madrid), Centre de Formation Internationale à la Gestion des Ressources en Fau (CEFIGRE, Sophia Antipolis, France), Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM, Orleans, France), City of Marseille, Oceans and Coastal Areas/Programme Activity Centre (OCA/PAC-UNEP), Global Resource Information Database (GRID-UNEP, Nairobi and Geneva), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR, Geneva), Water Authority of Malta, as well as the World Bank and European Investment Bank.

He considered that it was necessary to reflect, discuss and prepare in a later stage a proposal for a further gradual refocusing of PAP taking into account the increased role and significance given by the Contracting Parties to integrated planning and management of Mediterranean coastal zones.

- 118. Representatives who participated in the debate expressed their satisfaction with the work being done by the Split Centre. A number of them described national programmes falling within the framework of PAP/RAC and gave information about assistance received from the Centre in connection with those programmes.
- 119. Several representatives voiced concern about the diminishing involvement of PAP/RAC and MAP in the project for seismic risk reduction. In particular, the Representative of Monaco pointed out that the gradual withdrawal of MAP implied the disappearance of experts of some countries, not members of UNDP, from the work and centre of SEISMED. The representative of Italy explained the circumstances in which he had felt bound to withdraw from the chairmanship of the Steering Committee of the project. Concerning the Genoa Centre for Seismic Risk Reduction, the meeting suggested that the Executive Director may convey to UNDP the concerns expressed.
- 120. Several representatives asked for information about training courses organized by PAP/RAC and about the number and origin of participants in such courses.
- 121. The representative of France considered that the range of the activities carried out under the auspices of PAP/RAC had expanded and he strongly urged that a firm order of priorities should be established for these activities. Several other speakers associated themselves with this view. The representative of France stated that he noted the change taking place at PAP/RAC as reported by its Director. He suggested that for the next meeting the Co-ordinating Unit and PAP/RAC should prepare a table setting out all or some of the activities in which approved partners were co-operating closely with MAP. He added that after its many years of operation the Centre at Split had built up a considerable volume of documentary material which, he considered, could prove useful to experts elsewhere; some of the accumulated literature might even be disposed of through commercial channels.

- 122. Several representatives requested the Centre to continue refocusing its work in accordance with the current priorities of the Contracting Parties. The representative of Libya stressed the importance of wind erosion, water resources and solid waste management for the southern region of the Mediterranean.
- 123. The representative of Morocco, while paying tribute to the work of PAP/RAC in general, considered that in some respects the work was perhaps too theoretical; he felt that the Centre should concentrate more on practical matters. He suggested that it might be useful to establish a task force which might recommend how these activities could be refocused.
- 124. The need to face the important aspect of industrial waste management in the framework of PAP/MAP activities was mentioned by the Greek delegate. In that context he suggested that a co-operative scheme between other UN institutions (i.e. UNEP/IEO) and MAP/PAP should be established.
- 125. The Director of PAP/RAC acknowledged that some of the concerns expressed by delegations coincided with those felt by the team working in the Centre at Split. So far as the experience at Genoa was concerned he shared the view expressed during the discussion; though the case was a somewhat special one, it had been instructive.
- 126. The Co-ordinator, commenting on remarks made during the debate, said that it was not always an easy task to establish an order of priorities. At the same time, he agreed that certain activities might have to be reviewed e.g. those relating to tourism. In reply to the suggestion made that PAP/RAC should undertake work in the field of the treatment of industrial waste, he considered that the field was too vast to be fitted into the PAP/RAC.
- 127. At the end of the discussion of sub-item 5.6(b), the meeting took note of the relevant section of the progress report.

(c) <u>Mediterranean coastal areas management programme</u>

128. The Co-ordinator introduced discussion on the sub-item. After briefing the meeting on the development of the four coastal areas management programmes concerning Kastela Bay, Bay of Izmir, Rhodes and the Syrian coastal region, he said he was happy to be able to inform the participants that the final documents relating to these programmes had been prepared. He took advantage of the opportunity to deliver the project documents relating to Izmir, Rhodes and Syria to the respective delegations and asked them to transmit them to their governments for signature.

- 129. He reported on a very fruitful recent meeting he had had with the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), who had expressed keen interest in any agricultural component of coastal area projects. He further mentioned that, in conformity with Nicosia Charter, MAP would establish contact with EEC in order to co-operate with the Community's in developing specific projects in the Mediterranean.
- 130. Several representatives expressed satisfaction with the progress reported by the Co-ordinator, in particular with the completion of the project documents. They considered that it would be useful if other Mediterranean countries could be informed regularly of the experience with such projects.
- 131. The representative of Yugoslavia stressed the importance of MAP/PAP activities for the very sensitive Adriatic region which needed increased attention. He also welcomed the interest shown by EEC and international financial institutions (WB, EIB) for the protection of the Adriatic sea. He reported that in the framework of the Adriatic initiative and based on MAP/PAP experience, Yugoslavia was preparing projects for the Adriatic coast, and for Rejeka bay and Kotor bay similar to the Kastela bay project.
- 132. The representative of Italy referred to the support given by his country to the Kastela Bay project and to the contribution made by the University of Bologna to the hydrological survey. In addition, Italy was making a contribution to the restoration of historic monuments on the island of Rhodes.
- 133. The Co-ordinator confirmed that after the signature of the project documents by the governments concerned, the Contracting Parties would receive copies. Furthermore, the Bureau would be informed at its six-monthly meeting of the development of the projects. An appropriate column would appear in MEDWAVES. He added that future projects would be ready in time for the 1991 meeting of the Contracting Parties.
- 134. At the end of the discussion on sub-item 5.6(c), the meeting took note of the relevant section of the progress report.

Agenda Item 5.7 - Information

- 135. The Co-ordinator introduced the sub-item. He said that information material had been sent to the Contracting Parties in connection with the celebration of the 1990 Mediterranean Environment Week. He asked governments to communicate to the Unit information about events arranged for that week.
- 136. He added that the new format of MEDWAVES was being published in three languages, and the MAP Exhibition had become outdated and needed to be phased out.

- 137. The representative of Egypt suggested that MAP should consider organizing training courses for environmental information officers; that a general directory of focal points and NGO's interested in the Mediterranean environment should be established; that the national environment information networks should be interlinked through the Unit, that the Mediterranean countries should be informed of the procedures followed in case of accident, and that national libraries should be supplied with publications of MAP.
- 138. The Representative of Libya indicated the importance of the developing an activity concerning public awareness parallel to priorities of activities carried out by PAP/RAC.
- 139. A number of representatives described activities carried out in their countries for the purpose of raising public awareness of the importance of maintaining and protecting the quality of the Environment. One of them suggested that the Co-ordinating Unit should submit proposals for the wider dissemination of information material about the environment. Another suggested that a theme should be designated for the 1991 Mediterranean Environment Week that would be in harmony with the theme chosen by UNEP.
- 140. The Director of the Atelier du Patrimoine stated that an exhibition concerning the 100 historic sites presented at the last meeting of the Contracting Parties, was available on loan from the Marseille Centre.
- 141. The Co-ordinator, in reply to the representative of Egypt, stated that the MAP had no financial resources for acting on her suggestions; but names of focal points could be made available, as requested.
- 142. At the end of the discussion on sub-item 5.7, the meeting took note of the relevant section of the progress report.
- Agenda Item 6 Date, place and organization of the next meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Socio-Economic Committee
- 143. On the suggestion of the Co-ordinator, the meeting decided to convene its next meeting in Athens from 6 to 11 May 1991. The meeting would be organized in such a way that the two committees would meet jointly in a plenary session on 6 May to consider matters of common interest; they would then meet separately from 7-10 May to review their respective programme components, and jointly again on 11 May to adopt their final report.

Agenda Item 7 - Other business

- 144. The Co-ordinator informed the meeting that on 30 May the Office of the Mediterranean Association to Save the Turtles, MEDASSET, had been inaugurated in Athens in the presence of the Minister of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works of Greece, representatives of Mediterranean States and NGOs.
- 145. He also referred to the meeting scheduled to be held in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) and recalled the wish expressed by the Bureau at its meeting in Cairo that its President participate in that meeting.
- 146. The representativke of France reported the establishment of a rescue centre for Mediterranean monk seals. The centre had a free-phone line and its team of veterinaries was capable of arranging for the transport of these arrivals. The centre was administered by the Port Cros Park and had received support from the Commission of the European Communities.
- 147. The delegate of Malta referred to the Bergen Conference which was a follow-up to the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and to the adoption of the "Agenda for Action" and the "Ministerial Declaration" at that Conference. He requested that the contents of those documents be made known to all the Mediterranean coastal States by the secretariat in view of their relevance to the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development.
- 148. The representative of Italy informed the meeting that, as part of the celebrations to mark the 500 Anniversary of the discovery of America (Colombo'92), the organizing committee had agreed to finance in 1991 a meeting of coastal States of the Mediterranean, Caribbean, and Latin America participating in Regional Seas programmes. The meeting will provide an opportunity to compare approaches and promote an exchange of experience. The Co-ordinator thanked the Italian authorities for the generous offer.
- 149. The representative of France requested that the Secretariat provide information on any requests sent to governments as well as other commitments on which there had been delays. In response, the Secretariat distributed an informal table inviting the participants to fill in any missing information and to take any other action required.
- 150. Several delegations requested that their authorities should receive further particulars of co-operative activities concerning not only the "regional seas" but also other seas, e.g. the Black Sea, the Baltic, the North Sea and the Atlantic. The representative of EEC said that he was ready to provide the authorities with information at his disposal.

151. The representative of Greece and France, supported by others, referred to the relevant decisions taken during the 1989 Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties on preparations for the 1992 World Conference on Environment and Development. The secretariat had been asked to send the available information to national authorities concerned, and to move towards the required report on this Conference. During the discussion some delegates expressed the wish that they meet formally through the MAP or informally in Nairobi in August 1990 on the occasion of the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for 1992 Conference, to formulate their common Mediterranean concerns at the Nairobi meeting. The Co-ordinator recalled that a note from the Secretariat entitled "Contribution of Mediterranean Coastal States to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development" [UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/Inf.8] had proposed to the 6th Ordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties to hold a meeting of experts or an expanded Bureau on the subject but that the meeting had not approved this proposal and requested only "that the Secretariat, including its Regional Activity Centres, should prepare a synthetic report based on data and policy reports supplied by governments for the Conference" [UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/5, paragraph 153]. The Secretariat would prepare an outline of the synthetic report for the next Bureau meeting (Rome, 6-7 September 1990) taking into account the decisions of the Preparatory Committee for the 1992 Conference (Nairobi, 6-31 August 1990). The Bureau might consider whether any specific meeting was needed to assist in the preparation of the document requested by the Contracting Parties.

152. The observers for EEB and Friends of the Earth reported on the NGO's preparatory meetings for the 1992 Conference and asked that NGO's in the Mediterranean region should be involved in MAP activities related to this question at the same level of participation as in the Bergen Conference.

153. The representative of the EEC reported on proposed new Community directives for the protection of the environment, viz. a directive concerning the treatment of urban waste water, and a directive amending directive No. 76/464/EEC concerning pollution caused by certain substances discharged into water (substances deemed to be of priority importance for the determination of tolerances and of quality targets).

Agenda Item 8 - Adoption of the report

154. The meeting adopted its report on 1 June 1990.

Agenda Item 9 - Closure of the meeting

155. In his concluding remarks the Co-ordinator recalled some of the achievements, outstanding problems and additional actions expected of the secretariat. Among the first, was the large and active participation in the meeting, progress in the Adriatic Initiative towards an operational phase, the opportunities offered by the METAP Programme, the possible establishment on a self-financing basis of new specialized centres, the publication of the Blue Plan in English and Arabic, the progress made in the defining of coastal area management programmes. Several outstanding problems had been solved or were nearing solution, such as the legal status of the Regional Activity Centres, while the additional time requested for consideration of the organophosphorous compounds and the Annex IV to the IBS Protocol would, be hoped, facilitate their adoption at their next review.

Finally, the meeting's debate had provided guidance to the secretariat on several important issues including the preparation for the 1992 Conference, the progressive reorientation of PAP, future development of Blue Plan, the action plan for small cetaceans, climatic change and information. He renewed his appreciation to the specialized agencies for their continued close co-operation.

156. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairman declared the meeting closed on Friday, 1 June 1990.

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ANNEX I

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Annex II

<u>List of documents</u>

Working	documents

UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.12/1 Provisional Agenda

UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.12/2 Annotated Provisional Agenda

UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.12/3 Progress report on the implementation of

the Mediterranean Action Plan during

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UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.12/4 Assessment of the state of pollution in

the Mediterranean Sea by organophosphorus

compounds and proposed measures

UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.12/5 Draft Annex IV (Airborne pollution) of

the LBS Protocol

UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.12/6 Report of the Meeting

Information documents

UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.15/4

UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.12/Inf.1 List of documents

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Report of the Meeting of the Working Group of experts on the draft protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution resulting from exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the sea-bed and its

sub-soil (Athens, 7-11 May 1990)

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Mediterranean region

<u>Reference Documents</u>

UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/5 Report of the Sixth Ordinary Meeting of

the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its related protocols (Athens, 3-6

October 1989)

UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.10/4	Report of the Informal Consul	tation on
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UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.13/2 Report of the Meeting with Directors of Regional Activity Centres (RACs) for

programming and co-ordinating of MAP activities (Athens, 17-19 January 1990)

UNEP/BUR/36/4 Report of the Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties (Cairo, 19-2

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