



**UNITED
NATIONS**

EP

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.443/5



**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

12 July 2017
Original: English

Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 12-15 September 2017

Agenda item 5: Specific Matters for Consideration and Action by the Meeting

Draft Decision: Outcome of the Work of the Compliance Committee 2016-2017

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2017

Note by the Secretariat

1. During the current biennium, the Compliance Committee held its 12th Meeting (Athens, Greece, 24-25 January 2017) and considered a number of issues, in particular the progress made in the implementation of Decisions IG. 22/15 and 22/16 of the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 19) (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016) as well as the revised reporting format.
2. The 13th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (Athens, Greece, 26-27 September 2017) will review the status of reporting for the period 2014-2015 following action taken by the Secretariat and formulate the relevant recommendations for COP 20.
3. In addition, at its 13th Meeting, the Compliance Committee is expected to finalize its 2018-2019 Work of Programme, and recommend it to COP 20.
4. During the current biennium, the Compliance Committee reviewed and developed ways and means on how to best support Contracting Parties in implementing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, thus reinforcing its own role in facilitating and promoting compliance. Feedback from MAP Focal Points was invited by the Compliance Committee and will be presented to its 13th Meeting. This will enable the Committee to formulate to COP 20 recommendations with a view to enhancing compliance mechanisms and procedures effectiveness.
5. The 13th Compliance Committee Meeting is expected to conclude the work on the admissibility criteria under Paragraph 23.bis of the Procedures and Mechanisms on Compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, for consideration by COP 20.
6. The attached draft decision addresses the following: (i) the activity report of the Compliance Committee for the Biennium 2016-2017; (ii) recommendations related to compliance with reporting obligations; (iii) the draft Guidance on Admissibility Criteria and Procedure for Committee initiatives under Paragraph 23.bis of the Procedures and Mechanisms on Compliance; (iv) the Programme of Work of the Committee for the biennium 2018-2019; and (v) recommendations to strengthen the role of the Compliance Committee and its procedures and mechanisms.
7. Finally, the draft Decision will have one annex related to the proposed nominations for consideration of COP 20 to ensure the partial renewal and/or elections of members or alternate members of the Compliance Committee. This annex for the renewal and/or election of members and alternate members will be finalized after the MAP Focal Points Meeting of September 2017.
8. The implementation of this decision is linked to Output 1.2.1 of the proposed Programme of Work. It has budgetary implications on MTF, reflected in the proposed budget.

Draft Decision IG.23/2

Outcome of the Work of the Compliance Committee 2016-2017

[The 20th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols,

Having regard to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols, in particular Article 27 thereof on compliance,

Recalling Decision IG.17/2 of the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 15) (Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008) on Procedures and Mechanisms on Compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as amended by Decision IG. 20/1 of COP 17 (Paris, France, 8-10 February 2012) and Decision IG. 21/1 of COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013),

Recalling also Decision IG. 19/1 of COP 16 (Marrakesh, Morocco, 3-5 November 2009) on Rules of Procedure of the Compliance Committee, as amended by Decision IG. 21/1 of COP 18,

Emphasizing the role of the Compliance Committee in assessing specific situations of actual or potential non-compliance by individual Contracting Parties and general compliance issues, and in providing advice and assisting Contracting Parties to facilitate and promote compliance with the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the Compliance Committee during the biennium 2016-2017,

Seeking to promote identification, as early as possible, of the challenges faced by Contracting Parties in implementing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and ensure that the most appropriate and effective measures are taken to address these challenges,

Conscious of the need to further enhance compliance mechanisms and procedures effectiveness, thus strengthening the role of the Compliance Committee in facilitating and promoting compliance with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols,

Reminding Contracting Parties of the importance of timely providing nominations to the Compliance Committee to ensure its renewal and proper functioning,

Having considered the 2016-2017 Meetings Reports of the Compliance Committee to COP 20¹,

1. *[Endorses/Takes note of] the activity report of the Compliance Committee for the biennium 2016-2017 and its recommendations as contained in Annex I to this Decision,*
2. *Adopts the Guidance on Admissibility Criteria and Procedure for Committee Initiatives under Paragraph 23.bis of the Procedures and Mechanisms on Compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as contained in Annex II to this Decision,*
3. *Adopts the 2018-2019 Programme of Work of the Compliance Committee, as contained in Annex III to this Decision,*
4. *Elects and/or renews, in accordance with the Procedures and Mechanisms on Compliance, the membership of the Compliance Committee, as shown in Annex IV to this Decision,*
5. *Requests the Compliance Committee to report to COP 21 on the work it has carried out to fulfil its functions in accordance with Paragraph 31 of the Procedures and Mechanisms on Compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.]*

¹ UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG XXX