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Introduction

1. In accordance with the decision of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996), the Third meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) was held in Sophia Antipolis (France) from 28 to 30 October 1997, at the kind invitation of the Government of France and the authorities of the Conseil Général des Alpes-Maritimes.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by the following 26 members of the MCSD. Albania, Algeria, Association de Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement de Kairouan (APNEK), Association des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie de la Méditerranéenne (ASCAME), Bosnia & Herzegovina, Centre des Régions Euroméditerranéennes pour l'Environnement (CREE), Chamber Group for the Development of Greek Islands (EOAEN), Cyprus, EcoMediterrania, European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC/EUROCHLOR), European Community, Foundation for International Studies (FIS), France, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Medcities Network, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), Monaco, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.

3. The following Regional Activity Centres of MAP also attended the Meeting: Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), Regional Activity Centre for the Blue Plan (BP/RAC), Regional Activity Centre for Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC), Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) and the Regional Activity Centre for Environment Remote Sensing (ERS/RAC).

4. The following United Nations Specialized Agencies and other intergovernmental organizations attended the meeting as observers: Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) and the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE).

5. The full list of participants is attached as **Annex I** of this report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

6. The Third meeting of the MCSD was opened in Sophia Antipolis, France on Tuesday, 28 October 1997 at 09.30 a.m. by the Vice-President of the Bureau of the MCSD, Mr. M. Ennabli (Tunisia) who was appointed by the President of the Commission to assume his duties during his temporary absence (Rule 22).

7. Welcoming the participants, the President thanked all participants for their cooperation and expressed his thanks to the Government of Morocco for its presidency of the Commission and its dynamic role in launching the MCSD. He also recognized the importance of the work done by MCSD for a better critical and constructive assessment to be presented to the Contracting Parties.

8. Mr. Roger Duhalde, Vice-President of the Conseil Général des Alpes Maritime made an opening statement on behalf of the Conseil Général des Alpes Maritimes. Welcoming the participants to the Alpes Maritimes Mr. Duhalde presented the features of this department in general and of its activity park in particular, in the sustainable development perspective. Thanks to its wealth and the variety of its assets, this region enjoys significant advantages which make it a particularly appropriate area for sustainable development provided that these assets are managed in an environment and quality conscious approach. Problems are nonetheless present and the Conseil Général, based on a ten-line action policy, is trying to reconcile environmental protection and economic development in a joint effort with local authorities and the stakeholders concerned. In particular the department of the Alpes Maritimes is very active in the fields of coast management (so-called "green fabric" policy), water management and sustainable tourism ("Plan Départemental des Itinéraires de Promenade et de Randonnée") so that Beauty may have protection for her dwelling in the Alpes Maritimes.

9. The representative of France, Mr. Serge Antoine, welcomed the participants on behalf of H.E. Mme Dominique Voynet, Minister for Physical Planning and the Environment of France. He expressed his thanks to the Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and to the Regional Activity Centre for the Blue Plan (BP/RAC) for their excellent preparation of the meeting.

10. The Coordinator of MAP, Mr. L. Chabason, welcomed participants on behalf of Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director of UNEP and offered his special thanks to the Government of France and the authorities of the Conseil Général des Alpes-Maritimes for hosting the meeting. He also thanked BP/RAC for undertaking the logistic preparations. Taking stock of the Rio + 5 meeting, he referred to the importance of meetings like the one in Kyoto on climate change that will certainly have an impact on our region. Referring to the present Asian economic crisis, he stressed the fact that Asian economic growth was always presented by experts as a model of development, but now a rather unsustainable case from which the Mediterranean should learn. He emphasized the importance of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership in the Mediterranean.

Agenda item 2: Rules of Procedure

11. The Commission decided that, while awaiting finalization of its own Rules of Procedure and their adoption by the Contracting Parties, the Rules of Procedure applicable to meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex IX) should apply mutatis mutandis.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the provisional agenda and organization of work

12. The meeting adopted its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda contained in document UNEP(OCA)/MED 134/Rev.1. The meeting decided to give proper time before the end of the meeting for a critical and constructive discussion on the work achieved till now and on the new direction that could be given to the MCSD, including the form in which its conclusions would be presented to the Contracting Parties.

Agenda item 4: Progress report by the Secretariat

13. The Coordinator introduced his progress report on the work of the MCSD UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.134/3), insisting mainly on the general outline of the report as the particular items would be discussed subsequently in detail on the agenda.

Agenda item 5: Progress reports by the Task Managers for short-term activities

Management of Water Demand

14. On behalf of the task managers for this theme (Morocco and Tunisia), Mr. Mohamed Ennabli presented the work achieved mainly at the Fréjus (France) Workshop (12-13 September 1997), referring to the concise summary presented in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.134/3, but also to the report of the Workshop as it was more extensive. He expressed his thanks to the support Centre (BP/RAC) and to other supporting bodies (City of Fréjus, CEDARE and PAP/RAC).

15. In order to ensure the best possible preparation of the Workshop, a questionnaire was sent to participants in order to gather and then to summarize the water use systems throughout the Mediterranean countries. An in-depth discussion on the relative significance of the various failures in the utilization systems and the necessary tools to rectify the situation, took place during the Workshop. All reference documents were circulated to MCSD participants including the Fréjus report and the framework documents of the Workshop. The Workshop's main conclusions, included in the Secretariat report, were submitted for discussion without overlooking the examination of the necessary follow-up actions.

16. Referring to the documents, a few participants expressed the wish that the findings and draft recommendations be listed according to the four groups of countries as identified in the framework document in order to make a clear separation between the regional Mediterranean area and the national level.

17. Several participants insisted that the MCSD should send out a clear political message towards the Contracting Parties. Before discussion, the findings of the group should be born in mind; the approach of managing the demand is already in itself a reversal of the trend noted so far which has been the management of the supply and resources available. Incidentally, supply management has led to deadlocks in some countries. States are organized at the institutional level in order to ensure resource management and to increase supply. Demand management is far more complex. The political message does exist, but a significant effort should be undertaken to convince and help Mediterranean countries understand how far they are from a correct management system, and to ensure that water problems are included in development policies within far more comprehensive social and economic strategies. This is probably the first draft recommendation that should be made.

18. Other participants requested that the drinking water issue be highlighted as a major topic in the political message. If humans are to be kept in the centre of the picture, the drinking water issue which is already a priority for all countries, would then be particularly linked to poverty to provide access to drinking water for all.

19. Several participants emphasized the need to draft extremely practical recommendations as guidelines to action, in order to prompt countries to reflect on the various uses they make of their water. For presentation purposes, the choice was between a traditional list of steps in catalogue fashion or a summary of the items examined accompanied by a few recommendations in order to allow for improvement at the implementation stage. This second option was thought to provide real added value.

20. The wish was expressed that the final document be made available for the Ministerial Conference in Helsinki, next November, and for the World Meeting on Water scheduled to take place in France in 1998. It was also pointed out that the MCSD should not forget to "market" the final document among potential partners and at the appropriate forums to sensitize the public to the water problem and the recommendations proposed, and thus prepare the way for future funding.

21. The representative from France pointed out that his country would see that the MCSD would have its place at the World Conference on Water which will be held in Marseille. Moreover, the Minister of Environment of France together with the Agence de bassin Rhone-Méditerranée-Corse will collaborate in seeking extra funding for the follow-up of the recommendations in three Mediterranean countries.

22. The participants acknowledged the quality of the work done by the thematic group whilst observing that it only represented an intermediate stage which would be completed by specific recommendations for action.

23. In order to integrate the various points raised in the discussion, the Working Group held a break out session and reviewed accordingly the text to be transmitted to the Contracting Parties (text attached in **Annex II**).

Sustainable Management of Coastal Zones

24. On behalf of the task managers of this theme (Morocco and Medcities), Mr. Mohamed Boussraoui presented the conclusions of the Benidorm (Spain) Workshop (21-23 September 1997) as contained in document UNEP(OCA)/MED 134/3. He expressed his thanks to the support Centre (PAP/RAC), but also to the EcoMEDiterranea and the Savings Bank for the Mediterranean (Caja de Ahorros del Mediterráneo - CAM) for their substantial support.

25. The structure of the document submitted was found to be of major interest for the other groups, even if it was specified that the recommendations should be very practical, should not only propose objectives but also set deadlines, and should indicate who would be concerned, what path should be followed and which resources would be required. It is wished that a distinction should be made between recommendations that need years to come of age, and those eligible for integration and implementation on the short and medium terms.

26. This document is an excellent starting point, because it formulates ambitions. Ideally, this stakeholder approach should be part of the integrated management. Some participants suggested that a distinction should be made between coastal area management, integrated management and sustainable management. Integrated management is rather fashionable, but to be realistic one must admit that ICZM is not a panacea. Coastal areas are not isolated in a country and the ideal objective should be not to deter single issue initiatives in the short-term.

27. As regards the institutional instruments proposed, participants expressed doubts concerning the setting up of new agencies, and highlighted the fact that this is really a question of consensus-seeking between the players. Coastal areas are subject to tremendous pressures, from tourism in particular, and the problem of conflicting uses is quite difficult to manage.
28. The significance of legislative instruments, the so-called "coastal areas" laws at a national level, was noted, although the Commission is aware that the law alone cannot provide solutions to problems, particularly if it is not enforced, or effectively implemented. The law should be backed up by coastal development plans or programs. The representative from France pointed out that the enforcement of "coastal areas" law produced markedly contrasting results in his country. Space planning may well use valuable tools but they do not solve field management problems.
29. As far as information and knowledge is concerned a lot still remains to be done and raw data is most necessary for analyzing problems and implementing projects. Yet the transition from gross data to useful information and its dissemination requires the utmost care.
30. The importance of financial mechanisms was highlighted, as was their role in preserving natural areas. But several participants referred to the difficulty in raising new taxes and preferred dues which are not compulsory levies and any mechanism which could act as an incentive for integrated "coastal areas" development. In this regard tax systems may be considered as dynamic driving forces and not simply as collecting mechanisms.
31. Several participants recalled the importance of pilot projects whilst underlining the need to collect information on them, assess these experiences and draw the necessary lessons. One representative pointed to the logical approach followed by PAP/RAC which highlighted the failures and the successes of the CAMPs of the MAP.
32. The majority of participants advocated a greater role for the civil society in the management of coastal areas and expressed the wish that the recommendations go further in this direction. The problem of participation requires a real change in mentalities, particularly in the countries to the South and the East of the Mediterranean where Non-governmental Organizations are not very strong. This means implementing a learning process which demands efforts on the local level to put into place and build up a consensus between the various stakeholders concerned, allowing for the fact that they have different interests and expectations.
33. As regards the idea for a Mediterranean Protocol proposed by the Benidorm Workshop, one representative recalled that the Council of Europe had under preparation a draft model act on the integrated and sustainable management of coastal areas and a draft code of conduct for the coastal areas, while the preparation of a Convention was found to be too premature. In the same spirit, the EC also referred to the experiences within the E.U., the difficulty to have a unique legal instrument and the importance of demonstration projects undertaken to help in the elaboration of relevant national legislation and mechanisms. During the discussion that followed, several representatives shared the view that a Mediterranean Protocol on coastal area management could be premature.
34. The observer of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) stressed the importance of a scientific basis as an integral part of Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM). IOC's programmes address such issues as sea-level rise, management of marine

biodiversity as well as the development of marine science and technology. IOC was willing to lend its experience in these fields which include training programmes.

35. In order to integrate the various points raised in the discussion, the Working Group held a break out session and reviewed accordingly the text to be transmitted to the Contracting Parties (text attached in **Annex III**).

Agenda item 6: Preliminary reports by Task Managers for medium-term activities

36. For the information of the Contracting Parties on the progress of the medium term activities, it was decided that a one page summary would be prepared by each task manager concerned (see text in **Annex IV** to this report).

Sustainable development Indicators

37. On behalf of the task managers for this theme (France and Tunisia), the representative of France introduced the preliminary report contained in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.134/3. In the absence of an official session for the working group, the subject benefited from a "brainstorming" meeting organized by the Blue Plan (10-11 July 1997), involving the major stakeholders working on the issue of sustainable development indicators around the world. He pointed out the specific relation between the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) and its group of experts on Indicators for Sustainable Development (ISD) to which MAP has been invited to participate for the Mediterranean region. As a consequence, UNCSD intends to cooperate closely with the MCSD, mainly concerning the country test on ISD for which a regional workshop would be organized during the first half of 1998.

38. The Director of the Blue Plan/Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC) presented the progress of the work on indicators concerning various subjects such as water, agriculture, tourism, etc.

Sustainable tourism

39. On behalf of the task managers for this theme (Egypt, EOAEN and Spain), the representative of Spain informed the meeting that as no comments were received on the document submitted during the Second Meeting of the MCSD held in Palma de Majorca, she considered that the included proposal was accepted. However, this will be further discussed by the working group of this theme. Considering that UNCSD will study the tourism question in April 1999, she proposed to prepare the MCSD related final document by the end of 1998, in order to present it as MED input to the UNCSD meeting.

40. Moreover, Mr. Chabason raised the important question of the confrontation between the economic interest and the environmental issues related to development of tourism.

Information, awareness, environmental education and public participation

41. Referring to the activity developed by his group, the Task Manager (MIO-ECSDE and CREE) stressed that its work is being carried out without any specific funding, that the theme to be tackled is horizontal which requires complementarity with reflections from other groups on the participation aspect, for which several working sessions were already organized, and background documents have been prepared and circulated.

42. A questionnaire was circulated to the members of the Commission during the Third Meeting in order to sound the ground. The answers will be treated and results communicated during the meeting to be held in Thessaloniki in December 1997, in the framework of the "International Conference on Environment and Society-Education and Public Awareness for Sustainability". In addition MIO-ECSDE is preparing guidelines on public participation to be used as inputs to the group's work. All this is background information to the prepare the final document and the proposals for recommendations to be discussed in a workshop scheduled for late spring or autumn of 1998, if funds become available from within or outside the MAP framework. Its work will be completed by the end of 1998.

Industry and sustainable development

43. Making reference to the text of the Coordinator's report, the Task Manager stressed that the main objective is to arrive at the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties with practical proposals to prompt the industries to reduce pollution. The stakes are high for the MAP and for the strategic action plan that will be submitted to the Contracting Parties in next November.

44. The representative of the support Centre, MEDPOL programme, pointed out that the group's efforts have been focused on the difference between theory and good practices. In this connection the representative of France suggested to start making an inventory of good practices right now.

Management of urban/rural development within the context of sustainable development

45. In the absence of the task manager, the Blue Plan, in its capacity as support centre, presented the group's activity which has so far essentially focused on exchanges between the task manager and the Blue Plan's experts.

46. Without prejudice to the discussion and exchange of ideas of the group's members, it was proposed to work on two options, taking into account to the available resources and a set of priorities and stages.

Free-trade and environment in the Mediterranean context

47. The representative of the Foundation for International Studies (FIS) stated that unfortunately no progress had been made in this respect for reasons of internal financial difficulties and absence of medium term external funding which would have made possible a solid study. She expressed her regret and intention to withdraw from her assignment as task-manager for free-trade, but this should have no effect on the part the FIS plays on the MCSD's various working groups including the working group on free-trade. Various participants paid tribute to FIS' frankness.

48. This however in no way diminishes the significance of the theme, and the Lebanon has offered to discharge the duties of task manager. Furthermore, the representative of Lebanon has proposed to host a meeting of the working group in her country and to pay for part of the relevant cost. To that effect, a formal confirmation letter will be dispatched in the forthcoming weeks by the Minister of Environment of Lebanon.

General comments on Agenda items 5 and 6

49. Following the various presentations made by Tasks Managers and the ensuing discussions, the Coordinator proposed to discuss the working methods of the Commission. After three meetings of the MCSD the time is ripe to come up with comments and also to consider the remarks submitted in a detailed letter to the Secretariat by the representative of the Office of the Chambers Group for the Development of Greek Islands (EOAEN).

50. Bearing in mind the interests of the significant initiative to include representatives of local authorities, the EOAEN's representative raised questions about the work of thematic groups particularly the risk of changing the MCSD status from a task force to a research institute, the need to draw an inventory of existing evaluations and derived conclusions, and to propose practical initiatives and actions. In addition he expressed the wish to involve specialists in the work of thematic groups which is under the responsibility of the Task Manager in each group. He finally proposed to offer incentives for cooperation between representatives of the public and private sectors by involving professional organizations such as the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Industrial Federations, Trade Associations, etc.

51. A few delegates took the floor to emphasize the fact that the interests are not the same, which makes the MCSD's composition all the more interesting. While this problem occurs for the short-term groups, it is bound to emerge for the future groups when the participation of professional sectors should be more "invigorating". Furthermore one should not overlook the fact that a significant part of the MAP's activities have been mostly oriented to the marine issues and that all the expertise required to cover the MCSD themes do not exist within the MAP structure.

52. The Coordinator recalled that from the Coordinating Unit's standpoint, the protection of the marine environment, biodiversity and protected areas are priorities under the Barcelona Convention. This is the standard by which the MAP will be judged. The new actions to work towards sustainable development in the region were launched to find extra resources and mobilize the RACs which possessed the relevant expertise, the Blue Plan and PAP in particular. The MCSD is being put in place without an overly heavy financial impact on the MAP. The Thematic Groups are expected to produce reliable work with preliminary investigations, to understand which circumstances might prompt economic players to change their behaviour and to be able to come up with credible recommendations.

53. For one to properly comprehend the economic stakes an intellectual investment with the right partners is required. The problem is coming up especially for the group on free-trade and environment for which there is virtually no Mediterranean - specific studies on that issue. The Coordinating Unit will be more and more prompted to prepare and submit projects to raise funds and then to produce reliable results.

54. In that respect the Task Manager in charge of Water Demand Management presented the experience of his group in which the work was two-tiered; putting together a panel of 43 experts in the field which were identified beforehand and mobilizing a number of persons dedicated to organizing and circulating work. The work groups and executives should be differentiated which requires heavy human resource investment.

55. The representative of Turkey announced that her country is ready to host one of the workshops being organized by the MCSD. The representative of Spain expressed the opinion that the forthcoming workshop on tourism could be held in Turkey.

56. The meeting agreed that the following members of the Commission would participate in the activities of the working groups as follows:

- Sustainable management of coastal zones: Lebanon, Algeria, FIS
- Management of water demand: Algeria, Turkey, Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Sustainable development indicators: Spain, Slovenia, Turkey, Lebanon, Algeria
- Sustainable tourism: Slovenia, Libya, Algeria, Turkey, Lebanon
- Free-trade: Lebanon as Task Manager, ASCAME, Algeria, FIS, Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Industry and sustainable development: Turkey
- Management of urban and rural development: Slovenia
- Information, awareness and participation: Lebanon

The revised chart relevant to the composition of the various Task Managers and the Thematic Working Groups follows.

TABLE
THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS
(Second revision)
as of 30 October 1997

Themes	Task managers	Members of the group	Support from MAP ¹
Short-term (over about a one-year period)			
- Sustainable management of coastal zones	Morocco and MEDCITIES	CREE, European Community, Greece, City of Rome, Spain, EcoMediterranea, Monaco, WWF, Italy, EOAEN, Cyprus, France, Tunisia, MIO-ECSDE, Egypt, Malta, Albania, Lebanon, Algeria, FIS	RAC/Priority Actions Programme, RAC/Blue Plan, RAC/Environment Remote Sensing and RAC/Specially Protected Areas
- Management of water demand	Tunisia and Morocco	Libya, WWF, APNEK, European Community, Egypt, Italy, France, CEFIC, MIO-ECSDE, Malta, Spain, EcoMediterranea, CEDARE, Cyprus, Israel, Algeria, Turkey, Bosnia & Herzegovina	RAC/Blue Plan and RAC/Priority Actions Programme
Medium-term (until 1999 Contracting Parties meeting and beyond)			
- Sustainable development indicators	France and Tunisia	European Community, Morocco, EcoMediterranea, Greece, Israel, Spain, Slovenia, Turkey, Lebanon, Algeria	RAC/Blue Plan
- Sustainable Tourism	Spain, EOAEN and Egypt	Malta, Monaco, Cyprus, Croatia, European Community, Greece, EcoMediterranea, WWF, MIO-ECSDE, ASCAME, Slovenia, Libya, Turkey, Lebanon	RAC/Blue Plan and RAC/Priority Actions Programme
- Information, awareness and participation	MIO-ECSDE and CREE	European Community, WWF, France, APNEK, Croatia, Egypt, Morocco, MEDCITIES, EcoMediterranea, Albania, Algeria, Libya, Lebanon	MED Coordinating Unit
- Free trade and environment in the Euromediterranean context (strategic impact assessment)	Lebanon	Tunisia, France, European Community, APNEK, Morocco, MIO-ECSDE, Algeria, ASCAME, FIS, Bosnia & Herzegovina	MED Coordinating Unit
- Industry and sustainable development (cultural, economic, technical and financial aspects of progressive elimination of land-based pollution)	Italy, Algeria	WWF, Israel, EOAEN, ASCAME, CEFIC, Spain, European Community, Turkey	MED POL, RAC/Clean Production
- Management of urban/rural development	Egypt	MEDCITIES, FIS, MIO-ECSDE, Spain, Morocco, France, Malta, Turkey, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Algeria, CEDARE, EC, Slovenia	RAC/Blue Plan and RAC/Priority Actions Programme

¹ The Coordinating Unit and the Regional Activity Centres will each provide the necessary support to the different working groups according to their expertise.

Agenda item 7: Review of the draft Rules of Procedure for the MCSD

57. The Senior Programme Officer of MAP introduced the second draft of the Rules of Procedure of the MCSD contained in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.134/4. He pointed out that the first draft prepared by the Secretariat in conformity with the request of the First meeting of the Commission (Rabat, December 1996) was reviewed by the First meeting of the Bureau of the Commission (Athens, February 1997). Various amendments were made and were incorporated into a revised text which was presented to the Second meeting of the Commission (Palma de Majorca, May 1997). However due to time limitations, it decided to defer taking any decision until its present meeting.

58. He stated that most of the comments and suggestions of members of the Bureau of the Commission and the Contracting Parties were reflected in the new text. However, a few issues still need clarification, such as whether or not we need to establish a Bureau for the Commission, the role of the Bureau between two meetings if it was established, and the problems of authority between the two Bureaus.

59. During the discussion on this agenda item, various proposals were made. Most delegations felt that there is a need to have a Bureau for the Commission in order to follow-up on the work of the various working groups and to preserve the character of the Commission. Others felt that we should not establish new institutional mechanisms within MAP which would also induce additional expenditures.

60. After a lengthy discussion, a consensus was reached as follows: There would be a Bureau for the Commission with six (rather than eight) members chosen on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and equitable distribution among the various groups. The Bureau should include three members representing Contracting Parties, one representative from each one of the three categories foreseen by the Terms of Reference of the MCSD. With regard to the role of the Bureau, it was felt that only one meeting of the Bureau between two meetings of the Commission would be sufficient, if needed, in order to ensure the smooth running of the Commission.

61. As time was limited and it was not possible to deal with the draft text article by article, it was proposed that a small drafting group be established to review the whole text and report to the plenary meeting (Italy, France, EU, Morocco).

62. The work of the drafting group was presented to the plenary on 30 October and was reviewed and proposed by the meeting for approval by the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Tunis, 18-21 November 1997). See Annex V of this report.

Agenda item 8: Work programme, provisional agenda, date and venue of the fourth meeting of the MCSD

63. The representative of Monaco reconfirmed his offer to host the fourth session of the MCSD. He proposed that the meeting could be held in June 1998. Exact dates will be confirmed at a later stage. On behalf of the Commission, the President thanked Monaco for its generous proposal.

Agenda item 9: Any other business

64. Taking the opportunity of the Third Meeting of the MCSD, the Blue Plan's new premises, offered by the Department of the Alpes-Maritimes, were officially inaugurated on 30 October 1997 by the French Minister of Environment, together with representatives of local authorities in the presence of all participants of the meeting. Several statements were made at this occasion stressing the importance of the Blue Plan activities within the framework of MAP.

65. The Task Manager for "Industry and Sustainable Development" pointed out that in 1998 there would be a meeting of the UNCSD in New York on the issue of industry. In this connection, he stated that participation in that meeting would constitute an appropriate channel for furthering the goals of the MCSD.

Agenda item 10: Adoption of the report of the meeting

66. The meeting adopted its report on Thursday 30 October 1997.

Agenda item 11: Closure of the meeting

67. Mme Dominique Voynet, Minister for Physical Planning and the Environment of France made a closing statement, of which the full text is contained in Annex VI of this report.

68. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the meeting closed at 18.30 p.m. on Thursday, 30 October 1997.

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ANNEX II

MANAGEMENT OF WATER DEMANDS

The field of the management of water demand is one in which the most significant progress can be expected as regards water policies in the Mediterranean Basin. For the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, controlling the demand for water has become a priority political objective.

GÉNÉRAL ORIENTATION

In most Mediterranean countries, the actual consumption of water is fast approaching the limits of resources available. The water shortages now emerging, whether circumstantial or structural, will undoubtedly spread and worsen over the coming decades. These shortages are due to the heavy increase in water demand. This demand has globally increased over the last quarter of a century by 60%.

Traditionally, this situation has been met by simply increasing the supply. But today this solution is nearing its limits. Mobilising extra resources is encountering obstacles of a social, economic or ecological order.

The time has arrived for water management to approach the equation from the other side by an effective management of the demand. Demand management and supply management with its potential improvement are to be done in an integrated manner.

This obvious fact and the recommendations which follow are thus dictated by the need to manage water demand in the Mediterranean region.

- Such policies need to be targeted to the various uses and users and be part of integrated water management policies, characterized by the setting of specific quantified targets to be achieved within defined time periods. The policies should be constant and on-going, as well as be characterized by appropriate performance monitoring systems.
- This approach must take into account the increasing demand for water coming from populations in both town and country areas, particularly as regards drinking water, but one must not forget the claims of social justice.
- In the adoption, or the modification of economic development policies in all sectors, due consideration should be given, at a strategic level, to their potential impacts on the realization or not of the integrated water management policy and on how they will affect water demand. Such development policies should be appropriately adapted so as not to negatively affect the overriding need to reduce water demands.

APPROACH FOR A COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

in the face of these findings, the MCSD has decided to devote 1997 among other short term priorities to studying the subject of water from the angle of demand management.

THE OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this approach is to control demand within the broader strategic objective of sustainable water management in the Mediterranean. This objective breaks down into four points :

- specifying the characteristics of water use systems with the strong points and the malfunctioning or inconsistencies inherent in the systems adopted;
- identifying the socio-economic, institutional, legal and technical obstacles that hinder or prevent sustainable management of demand as well as their respective importance;
- making a precise assessment of the water saving that could be achieved and estimate the efficiency and cost of this in terms of technical and economic feasibility;
- identifying the socio-cultural, economic, institutional, legal and technical measures to be taken to remedy the defects and eliminate the obstacles to good water-demand management, so as to prevent shortages in the future.

THE APPROACH FOLLOWED

IN A PRIMA FACIE ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATIONS OF THE 21 COUNTRIES AND ENTITIES RIPARIAN OF THE MEDITERRANEAN,

made it possible to situate these countries and entities in four groups all having a relatively similar situation in regard to the risk of shortages threatening them and to the future and present water demand:

1. *Group 1: countries where there is no risk of shortages even beyond the year 2025* (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Monaco, Slovenia, and Turkey);
2. *Group 2: countries where there is an occasional, more or less local, risk of shortages* (Cyprus, Lebanon, Morocco, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic);
3. *Group 3: countries where there will be occasional or structural shortages from the year 2000 despite present low demand for water* (Algeria, Israel, Malta, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia);
4. *Group 4: countries where there will be structural shortages from the year 2000, exacerbated by high demand for water* (Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya).

IN THE INFORMATION ON WATER DEMANDS AND SYSTEMS OF WATER USE,

was collected from national experts through questionnaires and is presented in three reference documents that objectively clarify the context of the mediterranean countries.

1. *Problems of water demand management in Mediterranean countries.* This introductory study reiterates the objectives, methods, means and tools of demand management, as well as approaches to assessing the feasibility of the water conservation predicted.
2. *Summary of country information sheets.* This represents an effort to improve, harmonize and update information on water use in Mediterranean countries.
3. *Compendium "Principal criteria and statistics relating to water demand in the Mediterranean",* which completes the summary by showing the most important figures available.

IN A WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE FINDINGS AND THE MEANS FOR BETTER MANAGEMENT OF WATER DEMANDS,

gathered experts and officials from 16 countries and 14 intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations, private firms and local authorities in Frejus (France), the 12-13 september 1997. The orientations of the discussions are provided in the *Framework document* of the workshop, and the *Summary record* details proposals, conclusions and general recommendations.

A SHARED ASSESSMENT

The findings brought to the attention of the community responsible for designing and implementing water policies in the Mediterranean lead them to highlight five main points.

1. ECOSYSTEMS ARE USERS IN THEIR OWN RIGHTS

The environmental demand for water by natural systems is an essential aspect of water demand in the Mediterranean.

Water withdrawal from natural media must respect the maintenance of an "acceptable minimum level" for the ecological conservation of ecosystems, which are also users in their own right;

2. WATER USE SYSTEMS ARE FAR FROM PERFECT

A large part of the water extracted appears to be badly or little used in most Mediterranean countries.

- At least one third of the volume of water produced and distributed as drinking water in towns and villages leaks out through the network or is wasted by misuse.
- Almost one half of the volume of water supplied for irrigation is lost through leakage during transport, badly adjusted modes of supply to the fields, low efficiency of the irrigation systems, and choice of overly water consuming crops.
- Many industries, with defects in recycling, leakage and loss, and inefficient production processes, withdraw volumes of water that far exceed their needs, lowering its quality.

3. CLEARLY IDENTIFIED CAUSES

Three fields are involved:

- Legislative and political: the concept of demand management has not been incorporated in all planning action and legislation because, for historical reasons, some countries lagged behind, but the balance of power is changing;
- Socio-economic: water start to move from being seen as a natural asset to a rare economic asset, a product. But water also has social, cultural and environmental aspects that must be preserved. Awareness of this development is not sufficiently widespread among all actors in the water economy.
- Technological: in general, the technology exists, but it is not always utilized. At the present time, not every country has access to the most modern technology.

Defects in water demand management lead to loss of resources, both in terms of quantity and quality, as well as economic losses, and consequently lower profitability.

The volume of water lost or wasted is an unexploited "water bank". Therefore water demand management will be more efficient than other water supply alternatives. The possibility of saving water must be considered at each stage of water management, from extracting the water for use to the discharge

of wastewater into the environment. Demand management should focus principally on the weakest link in the chain of use.

4. AN UNEXPLOITED "WATER BANK"

For all the Mediterranean countries, a preliminary estimate of the amount of water that could be saved by more rational management of use and consecutive lower demand shows a significant volume (75.5 km³/year) compared with the additional water to be supplied to cover growth in demand forecast for the next twenty to thirty years (+ 85 km³/year for the year 2010 on a high hypothesis, and + 148 km³ in 2025).

- the most beneficial savings in terms of volume would be in the irrigation sector : reduced losses during transport together with greater efficiency (71 per cent of the total, more than half of which due to improved efficiency).
- next in order of importance comes better recycling by industry (18 per cent) .
- then reduction of loss, leakage and wastage of drinking water in local communities (10 per cent), although these would be of greater value in view of the higher cost of producing and distributing drinking water.

5. POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

It is technically possible to conserve a large part of the water lost or wasted and this would cost a lot less than the cost of providing new supplies to cover future additional needs.

Water demand management thus seeks both to reduce "non-use" of water extracted or produced and "misuse", in other words, material and/or economic wastage under both aspects. These comprise: practical defects in use systems (loss, leaks, lack of efficiency), unnecessary or superfluous use, excessive use of high-quality water when a lower quality would suffice, badly chosen use and reuse, defects downstream of use . It is necessary simultaneously:

- to reduce demand or at least slow down its increase;
- to harmonize demand and supply possibilities as far as possible;
- to coordinate and maximize multiple uses of limited water resources;
- to alter the factors governing water requirements and adapt the sectoral structure of water use, promoting the most effective.

Water demand management utilizes means that differ according to the type of defect to be remedied. Certain means, particularly those of a technical nature, are direct water conservation factors; other more indirect means facilitate and govern the application of the former and affect the behaviour of the users (economic and financial, socio-cultural, legal and regulatory tools). All demand management tools should be utilized in harmony. Such a synergy enhances the effectiveness of management provided that application of the tools is coordinated by the same management authority;

Although they all have the same purpose, demand management strategies, together with the choice of priority solutions and the "orchestration" of the different management tools will depend to a large extent on the major types of defect, the competing supply/demand levels, and the socio-economic means and situation in each country.

GUIDELINES FOR ACTION

To incorporate water demand management effectively in national water strategies, development and environmental policies.

- Promote effective incorporation of demand control objectives in water planning policies and in all sectoral development policies as well as water conservation policies that have an impact on water requirements:
 - *trying to set deadlines to achieve such objectives.*
 - Undertake feasibility studies on water conservation possibilities (potential savings, methods, costs, time limits, legal, financial and control criteria, etc.):
 - *evaluate more precisely the feasibility of demand control operations (volume of water to be conserved at competitive cost) under different circumstances and in different socio-economic and cultural situations.*
 - Promote investment in activities that use water as efficiently as possible (particularly in agriculture) and in industry:
 - *ensure that investment (restoring or building new networks, use methods, crop patterns) is preceded by feasibility studies on scenarios that also incorporate comparisons of the effect on demand;*
 - *ensure that the recycling efforts by industry are advantageous for it.*
1. To develop among the public, economic stakeholders, managers and decision-makers awareness of the importance of loss and waste of water, both in economic terms and in volume of water, and to awaken a sense of responsibility among users with a view to better management of water demand.
- Implement awareness promotion campaigns at all levels:
 - *sensitizing each user about waste and water-saving opportunities, by combating wastage through simple behaviour, illustrated by practical examples;*
 - *make people aware of the value of water and the risk of shortages, followed by medium-term and long-term action;*
 - *use the support of associations and utilize all types of audiovisual communication media, educational materials and action ("water classes") adapted to each country.*
 - Facilitate access to information on water demand:
 - *provide information on water prices and charges;*
 - *utilize the active participation of expert water networks in the Mediterranean and study the possibility of facilitating exchange of information through the development of the Euro-Mediterranean information system on know-how in the water sector, agreed upon at the water management conference held in Marseille.*

2. **To improve among the public, economic stakeholders, managers and decision-makers, knowledge and evaluation of the potential advantages to be gained from more economical management of water demand, laying emphasis on total transparency.**
 - Set up mechanisms for collecting data in order to have a better knowledge of the efficiency of the networks and use systems, including by,
 - *metrology (installing equipment to measure water outflow, quality, etc...). Control and maintenance of metering systems at all levels: production, distribution, consumption, are preconditions for any approach to saving water.. There must be strict follow-up and maintenance policy and appropriate equipment;*
 - *more comprehensive, more precise and more regionally-focused information on water use in each sector (quantities and variability, real needs and use yield, but also quality, modes of supply, role of intermediaries, payment of costs, flexibility, price variations, etc.);*
 - *institutional strengthening permitting regular analysis of relevant measures and data in order to give decision-makers objective elements on which to base decisions and subsequent monitoring and to supply the public with transparent information.*
 - Prepare and take into account indicative objectives and standards for the major forms of use in terms of quantity and quality:
 - *standards help to identify real needs and serve as a reference point for estimating wastage;*
 - *promoting research in this area.*
3. **To undertake practical demand control activities**
 - Carry out pilot projects to improve the efficiency of use systems (networks, processes, etc.):
 - *aim in particular at proper capitalization and utilization of the results in order to develop such strategies.*
 - Improve the output of water distribution and use networks, whilst focusing on maintenance:
 - *improve control of water distribution (flow, pressure), especially downstream control (drinking water, irrigation);*
 - *envisage privatizing water distribution services with caution, gradually and transparently, when this can help to improve distribution networks;*
 - *set quantified good management targets of general interest for distribution bodies, for example, through contracts drawn up when the State allocates resources;*
 - *develop more economical irrigation procedures (mini-sprinklers, droplets) promoting them through economic measures (including agricultural prices);*
 - *promote the expansion of use of low-quality water (saltwater, brackish water or seawater, as well as treated urban and industrial wastewater) instead of drinking water, wherever this can be done at reasonable cost.*
 - Develop sophisticated and graduated systems of prices and charges:
 - *this implies that awareness of the real cost of producing, distributing and treating water should be more transparent, i.e. there must be clear accounting procedures in the management bodies so that the water cost/price differential, and consequently the impact of various political options for setting prices, can be estimated better;*
 - *take into account demand management objectives properly (according to the different forms of*

use, extraction methods, water quality ...). The method used to fix water charges must be clear in order to be understood, easy to use in order to be applied, realistic in order to be accepted. Gradual fixing of charges by volume for agriculture and for drinking water is deemed preferable.

- Make users directly understand the meaning and objective of financial incentives in the form of penalties (taxes, charges ...) or encouragements (subsidies). These incentives can be other tools to orient consumption.
- Promote better incorporation of the imperatives of demand management in all sectoral development policies so as to reduce demand:
 - *better understanding of the interaction between water management strategies and sectoral development policies that have an impact on water demand in each country;*
 - *strengthen the role of coordination institutions at the national level in relation to water demand (regime to authorize the extraction of water, etc.);*
 - *institutionalize participation by users in decision-making (association of farmers using irrigation, etc);*
 - *if there is an authorization regime, an effective water police provided with the human and financial resources.*
 - *improve water harvesting and recharge technics for groundwater.*
- 4. **To encourage cooperation among groups of countries facing the same demand management problems and future shortages:**
 - Encourage the transfer of know-how by and for managers:
 - *transfer of technology and training for proper mastery of effective water conservation technologies;*
 - *exchange of experience among countries that face common problems but have different and complementary strategies;*
 - *ensure that water demand management becomes an area of training that is just as important as resource management for technical managers of water planning and use.*
 - Implement economic and technical cooperation on water in line with the objectives of water demand management:
 - *promote cooperation that will lead to water savings;*
 - *ensure that the strengthening of economic partnership, through the establishment of a free trade area by the year 2010 and through financial cooperation, will not have a negative effect and thus lead to environmental degradation in the management of natural resources, including water, and will ensure the food security of the most vulnerable countries. These are two essential requirements for the establishment of the components of sustainable development within a systemic and rational approach.*

ANNEX III

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL ZONES

*Draft Recommendations concerning the Integrated
and Sustainable Management of Coastal Zones*

Taking note of the findings of the working group convened in Benidorm under the guidance of the two task manager, Morocco and Medcities¹ (21-23 September 1997), and in light of the work of RAC/BP and RAC/PAP, on the rapid degradation of many coastal areas, such as islands, with its inherent risks to certain economic activities, the MCSD adopted the following draft recommendations:

- (i) To improve institutional mechanisms for the integrated management of coastal areas by creating if necessary and/or strengthening inter-ministerial or inter-administrative structures and frameworks for the coordination of the actors involved in coastal development and management and the integration of their activities.

Such structures should be set up at the level relevant to each country (national, regional, local).

Local and regional authorities should be invited to play a significant role in the preparation of integrated coastal management strategies.

- (ii) To establish or strengthen and enforce legislative and regulatory instruments:
- On the regional scale, to prepare guidelines for implementing appropriate national legal instruments:
 - On the national scale, the legislative instruments should:
 - define the coastal areas concerned
 - require that for all coastal areas subject to development pressures, management plans be prepared
 - ensure that management plans be accompanied by environmental impact studies
 - establish regulations for development and protection to promote sustainable management of coastal areas including regulations on the protection of sites of ecological and landscape value on preventing dispersed urban development, or development too close to the shore and on ensuring proper provision of environmental infrastructure for areas already urbanised.
 - Until regional or local development plans are in force, conservation provisions to protect natural and coastal areas should be adopted and implemented.

¹ PAP report MCSD/18/97/W1

- Finally, provisions should be made to ensure the implementation of the foregoing provisions; to that effect:
 - the organisations responsible for coastal development and protection should be strengthened; staff should receive appropriate training as needed;
 - effective law enforcement mechanisms should be provided or strengthened
 - when necessary and with respect to national conditions, court action should be made easier everywhere to oppose planning decisions
 - an efficient system for liability and sanctions should be established.
- (iii) To ensure access to information in order to raise awareness and training for the largest possible number of actors. Capitalizing on and disseminating information should be encouraged through exchanges of experience and transfer of know-how by making use of MAP structures.
- (iv) To establish appropriate systems of incentives for the integrated management of coastal areas by developing economic, financial and tax instruments which would ensure that the costs of the protection and management of natural areas would be linked to as well as balanced by the financial resources generated by development. Funds from multilateral services, bilateral cooperation and domestic resources should be better coordinated.
- (v) To develop with the support of relevant international organizations and of the European Union, practical pilot projects in the field of coastal areas management and disseminate the results.

Priority should be given to projects concerned with:

- coastal areas subject to potential or actual conflicting uses
- other areas of environmental, economic or social significance like islands and deltas
- (vi) The role of the public is very important within the context of sustainable development of coastal areas, according to a principle of joint responsibility which should be encouraged. The main object is to increase opportunities and improve the effectiveness of active public participation.
 - to that effect, participation mechanisms, such as advisory committees, public enquiries and hearings and actual participation in the management should be developed
- The MCSD further proposes:
 - setting up good practice guidelines on the integrated management of coastal areas
 - drafting a regular report on the state of the environment of coastal areas and putting assessment tools in place with the support of public stakeholders
 - developing new forms of partnership between the public and other stakeholders to encourage innovative ideas
 - inviting the public to participate in the decision-making processes
 - strengthening the cooperation which promotes exchange of experience and

adds incentives for the public to implement integrated management programmes and projects for coastal areas

National, regional and local strategies and Mediterranean partnerships should be promoted in order to ensure a sustainable management of coastal areas

ANNEX IV

MEDIUM-TERM THEMATIC ACTIVITIES

- A) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS
- B) SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
- C) INFORMATION, AWARENESS, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
& PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- D) INDUSTRY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
- E) MANAGEMENT OF URBAN/RURAL DEVELOPMENT

WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

Sustainable development indicators are considered a horizontal theme which call for an all-encompassing Mediterranean policy and they are also a priority for states and civil societies of riparian countries. Such policy will be gradually framed to produce legal provisions to be submitted to the Contracting Parties in the 1999 meeting.

With the support of the Blue Plan, this theme managed by Tunisia and France, was the subject of two working papers (disseminated on April 15, 1997 and July 20, 1997) with clear reference to Chapter 40 of MED 21, (December 1994), and was supported by a meeting of the major institutions concerned by this issue for the past two or three years, organized by the Blue Plan in July 1997; for example UNCSD, the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, OECD, European Environmental Agency, Eurostat, SCOPE and IFEN. Two short meetings were held in Palma de Majorca and Sophia Antipolis.

It appeared from the above that at this stage, the documents were merely information steps but a few orientations or lines of action to be the subject of an ad hoc meeting scheduled in Tunis in March 1998, were already emerging.

The following could be suggested:

- Building up the indicator production and collection system established at the States and subregions' levels, particularly the coastal and the Mediterranean region's as a whole. In the decisions to be taken by political authorities and sustainable development actors, the dissemination via Internet in 1998 of such a statistical concern both in quantity and quality terms, will be completed by provisions to be applied at home.
- A list of 150-200 indicators covered by some 35 headings referring to those retained by the Rio Agenda 21 together with new topics which do not appear in Agenda 21 (energy, domestic transport, external transport, communication, tourism, intra and extra Mediterranean trade), and a few groups or modifications, (waste, coastal areas), or deletions (native populations). This requires to mobilize various authorities and partners and calls for solidarity between those Mediterranean countries which are ahead on some aspects and those lagging behind.

A priority should be given to indicators used by international organizations and also to those which characterize the Mediterranean future, those with long-term prospects, performance and response indicators on which policies can be based and followed up. Cost/benefits/efficiency indicators which assess political and financial decisions (e.g. by evaluating the cost of a pollution and of preventive and remedial steps) should be given particular significance.

On the scale of the countries, cross audits for two countries are suggested every year as practiced within the OECD. Moreover, natural accounts ("comptabilité patrimoniale") should be implemented in each country.

On the scale of the Mediterranean region it was suggested to also promote an active cooperation to work out every 4 years a presentation of the state of the region in terms of sustainable development, highlighting the common features and diversity of the nations and their evolution in the order of the next 25 years.

The Mediterranean Environment and Development Observatory to be involved in the above work, could set up a twelve member scientific panel on a four year term, in charge of designing guidelines, follow-up and assessment criteria for the work. The countries will build-up their own indicator measurement or collection tools, with their own priorities and national observatories, this within the framework of enhanced regional cooperation to develop exchanges of experience while ensuring a minimum of consistency.

Finally the group will contribute to the "test indicators" exercise and develop cooperation with the UNCSO to promote the Mediterranean as an eco-region and especially as a bridge between global and national concerns. A joint workshop would be organized in the Spring 1998.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Taking stock from the document presented by Spain, the Work group retained the following ideas and recommendations:

- Mediterranean tourism is essentially focussed on coastal areas and not on the countries as a whole.
- The working method should concern itself with the specific features of Mediterranean tourism and start with existing data.
- The task managers should rely on the MAP centres, particularly the Blue Plan, to achieve their objectives.
- Conclusions and recommendations must be realistic and take into account the ability of countries to implement programmes.
- The document proposed by Spain will be completed by other important subjects such as
 - noise;
 - relations between the seaboard and the hinterland;
 - transport;
 - diversification of the supply;
 - indicators;
 - the development of local economies;
 - sensitizing and informing.
- The document must not only underline the environment problems of tourism but also show how tourism may be an incentive for sustainable development.
- In order to cover all the problems raised by the development of tourism it is necessary for the various administrations concerned (particularly departments of tourism and that of the environment and local authorities) to reinforce their cooperation in this field.
- Implementing pilot projects on sustainable tourism could prove very useful.

The forthcoming activities of the group might be the following:

- Task managers and Blue Plan managers acting as support centres shall meet to work out a questionnaire which shall be sent to Commission members by next Spring.
- With the information from the questionnaire and the existing studies, it would be good to organize a workshop in Autumn 1998. It would be indispensable that the participants should be experts in this field.

INFORMATION AWARENESS, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. The subject of the working group cuts across all other thematic areas elaborated by other working groups and there is, therefore, a need to consider the recommendations deriving from the sectoral approaches, but the group has also offered its services to those who might wish to cooperate with it more closely.
2. Given the limited resources available to the working group, it was decided that the work will focus on "adding value" to existing initiatives and on seeking complementarity with other activities planned within or outside the MCSD and MAP/UNEP.
3. Using the opportunity of MCSD meetings, the working group met four times (two in Palma de Majorca and two in Sophia Antipolis) while the Task Managers (MIO-ECSDE and CREE) met with a sub group of the working group twice again in Montpellier (16-18 October).
4. The following documents and inputs will be considered as background material for elaborating the final document with the recommendations that the working group will make to the MCSD:
 - i) The document circulated in Palma de Majorca (6-8 May 1997).
 - ii) An overview paper on "Public Participation in Environmental Matters in the Mediterranean".
 - iii) Furthermore, MIO-ECSDE, according to a memorandum of understanding signed with MAP/UNEP, will produce a set of "Guidelines for Public Participation" by the end of 1997, in order to assist in the organisation of round tables on the issue of public participation with various partners. These guidelines will be also used as an input to the work of the working group.
 - iv) The Task Managers have elaborated a questionnaire which has been discussed with the working group and which has been circulated to the members of MCSD in Sophia Antipolis. The purpose of the questionnaire is to sound the ground and understand the expectations and limitations foreseen by the various members in developing the work and recommendations of the working group on participation. Obviously, the answer will be treated and presented to the working group and used as an input, too. The circulation of the questionnaire is also a demonstration and tool for introducing participating processes within the MCSD.
 - v) The recommendations already made by the working group on water and ICAM, as well as those expected by other working groups, will also be used as valuable inputs.

5. The tentative agenda for the working group, provided resources will be secured, is the following:
- i) Till December 1997, collection and treatment of questionnaires.
 - ii) December 9 or 10, 1997, meeting of the working group at the information conference on " Environment and Society: Education and Public Awareness for Sustainability " organised by UNESCO and the Greek government, where MIO-ECSDE has the responsibility of the secretariat to take place in Thessaloniki (8-12 December 1997). It is noteworthy that at the conference and prior to it (6-7/12/97) MIO-ECSDE will organise a meeting of Mediterranean NGOs open to all members of the working group and the MCSD, on the same subject.
 - iii) Late spring 1998, drafting of the working document for circulation to the members of the working group and if need be organisation of a workshop with experts designated by the various members of the MCSD and members of the working group.
 - iv) Summer 1998, second draft for circulation to the members of the MCSD with a view to presentation at the meeting of the contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention and possibly to be used as an input to the UNCSD (April 1999 where Education will be discussed as one of the priorities).
 - v) A meeting of the working group will take place at the next MCSD meeting.

INDUSTRY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPEMENT

(Cultural, economic, technical and financial aspects of progressive elimination of land-based pollution)

The Thematic Group has focalized its attention on drawing a scheme of pilot-project with the objective to provide the regional countries with the advice on how to foster the small and medium industries to improve their environmental performances in order to promote a modernization of their productive processes and, at the same time, a progressive reduction of pollution. Such a scheme should be a very important goal for the implementation of some relevant PAM programmes; in particular for the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan. In developing such an action, the approach dealt with, take into account the positive effects on the employment sector exploiting the existing initiatives in the Mediterranean area in this field.

A first sketch of sequence of recommendation in this sense has been performed on the track of the experience gained by the Catalan Chamber of Commerce and by the Centre of Cleaner Production of Barcelona (CP/RAC).

This ambitious work has started by defining, step by step, their components, giving priority to low cost actions and implementing some experiences and initiatives carried out by other institutions or fora. Such a pilot project will be defined in all its aspects before the XI Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties. At present, priority has been suggested to the following issues:

a) Information, sensibilization, formation and capacity building. The need of establishing new professional figures related both to goods and services production and to environmental safeguard and management requires a multi-disciplinary approach which takes note of the modern knowledge on socio-economics, organization, and advanced production techniques and technologies.

Only under a frame of common knowledge and of constructive cooperation it is possible to establish, step by step, situations of "par condicio" between the Mediterranean countries.

b) Eco-management and eco-audit. The present trend of governments, industries and civil societies in general is to support the present regulated framework with a new self-regulated framework.

It has been taken, as model, the environmental practices developed by ISO/CEN and by the European Union. The ISO 14000 series standards and guidelines and of the eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) are a key for promoting a review of the actual strategies and production processes towards a cleaner operations in order to improve environmental performances.

c) Network for transfer of technologies and knowledge. Information, formation, partnership, and environmental policies could not be conceived and implemented consistently without the transfer of technologies and knowledge. It is necessary that the performances of best technologies and practices have the greatest diffusion in order to

satisfy, but also to stimulate the need of knowledge. The Group took into account already existing networks sponsored by the Italian Embassy in Madrid. The project, named RE.T.E. (REte di Trasferimento Euromediterranea = REde de Transferencia Euromediterranea), is led by the Italian National Council of Research and involves the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Spain and, in few months, will involve several Chambers of Commerce, the CP/RAC and other specialized institutions around the Mediterranean.

d) Financial support. Some aspects have been considered in order to propose innovative instruments aimed to obtain financial resources at national and institutional level, by private and public sectors. That with the aim to reach the MED 21 objectives concerned with the industrial modernization for a sustainable development. A progressive reduction of subsidies has been also taken into consideration, when interventions or activities are considered not environmentally sound.

The analysis of these aspects has outlined the necessity of further investigation before going on with all the projects.

MANAGEMENT OF URBAN/RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Taking stock on the on-going activities at the Blue Plan on this subject a preliminary meeting was held at Sophia Antipolis on 3 and 4 July 1997. Participants included one expert from the North and one from the South, the task manager, and members of the Blue Plan team. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the key aspects of the activity, to fix priorities for future activities, and to make proposals to conduct the activities of the workshop.

The key aspects are concerned with:

- * The population growth patterns in rural and urban zones.
- * The forms of migration at national level (rural exodus and city to city migration).
- * Infrastructural development, a powerful space reorganization factor.
- * Land-use ways on the one hand the changes in the rural landscape as a result of abandonment of the land or diffuse urbanization and on the other the increase in built-up areas along the coast.

Consequently, the problems concern:

on the one hand, the Mediterranean coastal plains,
on the other hand, the coastlines, where there is now keen competition for space, water and labour

The following priorities will govern the work to be conducted:

To that effect it is proposed to analyze the phenomenon of urbanization/movement towards the coast within specific urbanization spaces, such as:

- * Metropolitan areas
- * Medium-sized cities
- * Small towns situated close to a large city or in an essentially rural area
- * Tourism areas along the coast

For each of these areas, it is necessary to take into account:

- * Competition for natural and human potential
- * Population migration and its consequences
- * Excessive pressure on the coastal areas due to the development of polluting industries and tourism facilities that are too dense and too close to the sea
- * Policies of Mediterranean States on agriculture and rural areas, industrialization and tourism development

Four types of data are required for the study:

- * Population data (populations, cities and migration)
- * Economic data on the various activities
- * Natural data (relief, climate, vegetation, hydrology, etc.)
- * Data on national regional development policies

Modular proposals for the work:

The work to be done could be carried out in the following stages, on the hypothesis that the resources required are available. The project could be implemented in the form of modules that are relatively independent of each other.

Stage 1: State of the art

Stage 2: Present situation. Overall view of conditions in the Mediterranean

Stage 3: Recent developments and future prospects

Stage 4: Major problems

Stage 5: Policies and strategies to be implemented

Two hypotheses can be considered:

1. A maximum hypothesis, which implies resources (consultancy, case studies, working meetings, etc.), in which all the work can be completed.
2. A minimum hypothesis in which the working group will focus on two essential points. The first concerns recent developments and future prospects for urbanization and rural development at the country and coastal regions levels (see Stage 3). The second consists of a catalogue of policies implemented in Mediterranean countries in relation to agriculture and rural areas, industrialization of coastal areas, development of tourism and the infrastructure (see Stage 5).

Timetable for the programme of work according to the minimum hypothesis

- 27-29 October 1997. Meeting of the MCSD and the working group
- June 1998, Working Group meeting
- Early 1999 - Workshop
- Mid 1999 - Final report

ANNEX V

RULES OF PROCEDURE

of the

Mediterranean Commission on

Sustainable Development (MCSD)

Introduction

1. The Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996), decided that the Rules of procedure of the Commission shall be the Rules of procedure of the meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, until the Rules of procedure of the Commission are proposed by the Commission and adopted by the meeting of the Contracting Parties.¹
2. At its first meeting held in Rabat on 16-18 December 1996, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) requested *"the Secretariat to draft rules of procedure, which would be reviewed by the first meeting of the Bureau of the Commission (February 1997) and submitted to the next meeting of the Commission with a view to their adoption by the next meeting of the Contracting Parties. The Rules of procedure should provide that the Commission adopt its decisions by consensus"*.²
3. During its First meeting (Athens, 20-21 February 1997), the Bureau of the Commission thoroughly reviewed the draft Rules of procedure of the Commission as proposed by the Secretariat, made various amendments and requested the Secretariat to revise the draft text on the basis of its discussion and comments, and submit it to the Second meeting of the Commission to be held in Spain, for its consideration before it is presented to the Contracting Parties meeting in Tunis for adoption.³
4. At its Second Meeting (Palma de Majorca, Spain, 6-8 May 1997), the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) reviewed the revised draft text of the Rules of procedure and due to time limitations, it decided to defer taking any decision relevant to the draft text to its third meeting, to be held in France during October 1997.⁴
5. The present draft has incorporated all comments and concrete amendments as proposed during the Third Meeting of the Commission (28-30 October 1997).⁵

¹ Document UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.8/7, Annex V

² Document: UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.120/4 (Report of the First meeting of the MCSD)

³ Document: UNEP/MCSD/BUR/1/5 (Report of the First Meeting of the Bureau of the MCSD)

⁴ Document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG. 124/5 (Report of the Second Meeting of the MCSD)

⁵ Document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.134/5 (Report of the Third Meeting of the MCSD)

**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MCSD)**

(Draft)

PURPOSE

Rule 1

The Rules of procedure shall apply to the meetings of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) as provided in section B.4 of its Terms of Reference.⁶ They complement the framework for operation of MCSD, as described by the "Terms of Reference" and the "Composition of the Commission" in the annexed documents adopted by the Contracting Parties.

DEFINITIONS

Rule 2

For the purpose of these rules:

1. the word "Commission" shall apply to the "Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development";
2. the term "Barcelona Convention" shall apply to the 1976 Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution as amended in 1995;
3. the term "Coordinator" shall apply to the Coordinator or the Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan or his designated representative;
4. the term "Secretariat" shall apply to the Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) as provided in article 17 of the Barcelona Convention as amended;

PLACE OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION

Rule 3

The meetings of the Commission shall be held at the seat of the Coordinating Unit of MAP, unless convened in other Mediterranean venues in pursuance of a recommendation of the Commission approved by the meeting of the Contracting Parties.

- During the time between the Parties' meeting the approval maybe given by the Bureau of the Parties to the Convention.

⁶ Document: UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.8/7, Annex V

- For reasons of optimal use of available resources, the meetings within the MCSD context may be coordinated as appropriate with other relevant MAP meetings.

DATES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION

Rule 4

1. As provided in Section E(7) of the Terms of Reference of the Commission, the Commission shall hold meetings at least once every year, up to the year 2000, then shall meet at least once every two years.
2. The Coordinator shall convene the meetings of the Commission.
3. The Commission shall, at its meeting, fix the opening date and the duration of the next meeting.

INVITATIONS

Rule 5

1. The Coordinator shall invite to send representatives to participate in the Commission's meetings as observers, the United Nations and its competent subsidiary bodies, and the Specialized Agencies if they participate in the activities of the Mediterranean Action Plan, or have direct concern with environment and sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean.
2. The Coordinator shall, in agreement with the Bureau, invite to send representatives to participate in the Commission's meetings as an observer, any state which is a member of the United Nations which so requests and has direct concern with environmental and sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean.
3. The Coordinator shall, in agreement with the Bureau invite to send representatives to participate in the Commission's meetings as an observer, any other inter-governmental organizations, including financial institutions, which would interest itself directly in issues of environmental protection and sustainable development in the Mediterranean, the activities of which are related to the functions of the Commission.
4. Such observers may, as provided in Article 20(2) of the Barcelona Convention as amended, participate in the Commission's meetings and may present any information or report relevant to the work of the Commission and in matters of direct concern to the organizations they represent.

PUBLICITY

Rule 6

Plenary sittings of the meetings of the Commission shall be held in public, unless the Commission decides otherwise. Sittings of subsidiary bodies of the meetings of the

Commission shall be held in private, unless the meeting of the Commission decides otherwise.

AGENDA

Rule 7

In agreement with the Bureau of the Commission, the Coordinator shall prepare the provisional agenda for the meeting of the Commission and shall communicate it to the members of the Commission at least six weeks before the opening of the meeting together with supporting documents.

Rule 8

The provisional agenda of each meeting shall include:

1. all items mentioned in section B.3 of the Terms of Reference of the Commission;
2. all items the inclusion of which has been requested at a previous meeting of the Commission;
3. any item proposed by a member of the Commission;
4. the report of the Coordinator containing information on relevant sustainable development activities, the progress achieved and emerging issues to be addressed;
5. reports of the Task Managers and the Thematic Working Groups;
6. all items pertaining to the financial arrangements relevant to the Commission.

Rule 9

The Coordinator shall, in agreement with the Bureau of the Commission, include any question suitable for the agenda which may arise between the dispatch of the provisional agenda and the opening of the meeting in a supplementary provisional agenda which the meeting of the Commission shall examine together with the provisional agenda.

Rule 10

At the opening of an ordinary meeting of the Commission, the members of the Commission, when adopting the agenda for the meeting, may add, delete, defer or amend items. Only items which are considered by the meeting to be urgent and important may be added to the agenda.

Rule 11

At the beginning of each meeting, subject to the provision of Rule 10, the Commission shall adopt its agenda for the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda and the supplementary provisional agenda referred to in Rule 9.

Rule 12

The Commission shall normally consider for the meeting only agenda items for which adequate documentation has been circulated to members six weeks before the beginning of the meeting of the Commission.

REPRESENTATION**Rule 13**

All members of the Commission shall participate in the Commission on an equal footing.

Each member of the Commission shall be represented by representative accredited, who may be accompanied by such advisers as may be required.

Rule 14

The names of representatives and advisers shall be officially submitted by the members of the Commission to the Coordinator, before the opening sitting of a meeting which the representatives are to attend.

Rule 15

At the first sitting of each meeting of the Commission, the President of the previous ordinary meeting, or in his absence a Vice-President designated by him, shall preside until the meeting has elected a President for the meeting.

Rule 16

If the President is temporarily absent from a sitting or any part thereof, he shall appoint one of the Vice-Presidents to assume his duties.

BUREAU OF THE COMMISSION**Rule 17**

At the commencement of the first sitting of each meeting, the Commission shall elect a President, four Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution and among the various groups. The Bureau should include three members representing Contracting Parties, one representative from each one of the three categories foreseen by the Terms of Reference of the MCSD.

Rule 18

Should the need arise, the Coordinating Unit in agreement with the President of the Bureau, could convene one meeting of the Bureau between two Commission meetings to ensure the follow-up and smooth running of the work decided by the Commission. The report and working documents are to be circulated to all members of the Commission.

Rule 19

1. The President, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents designated by him shall serve as Chairman of the Bureau.
2. If a member of the Bureau resigns or otherwise becomes unable to continue to perform his functions, a representative of the same member of the Commission shall replace him for the remainder of his mandate.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Rule 20

1. During the course of a meeting, the Commission shall establish thematic working groups and other working groups as it deems necessary, and to refer to them the themes identified by the Commission as of great importance for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region for study, and proposal. Such working groups could sit while the Commission is not in session, ensuring thus, together with the Bureau, the continuity of the Commission between its sessions.
2. Unless otherwise decided, the Commission shall select task managers for each thematic working group and a chairman for other working groups.
3. The Commission shall define the mandate and composition of the working groups and Task Managers.

Rule 21

The Coordinator shall act as Secretary of any meeting of the Commission. He may delegate his functions to a member of the Secretariat.

Rule 22

The Coordinator shall provide the staff required by the Commission and shall be responsible for all the necessary arrangements for meetings of the Commission.

Rule 23

The Secretariat shall arrange for interpretation of speeches, receive, translate and circulate the documents of the meetings of the Commission and its working groups; publish and circulate the decisions, reports and relevant documentation of the meeting of the Commission. It shall have custody of the documents in the archives of the meeting of the Commission and generally perform all other work that the Commission may require.

LANGUAGES OF THE COMMISSION

Rule 24

English and French are the working languages of the meetings of the Bureau of the Commission. English and French are also the working languages of the Commission unless the financial

conditions relevant to the organization of the meeting allow for the use of the four official languages of MAP.

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 25

The Rules of procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties concerning Conduct of Business (Rules 30-41) shall apply mutatis mutandis to the Conduct of Business in the meetings of the Commission.

PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

Rule 26

Proposals of the Commission shall be adopted by consensus. These proposals will be presented to the Contracting Parties' meetings.

RECORDS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION

Rule 27

Sound records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the Secretariat in accordance with the practice of the United Nations.

AMENDMENTS OF PROCEDURE

Rule 28

Any amendments of the Rules of Procedure should be approved, after proposal of the Commission, by the meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

ANNEX VI**ADDRESS BY MME DOMINIQUE VOYNET
MINISTER OF PHYSICAL PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT OF FRANCE**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be present at the Third Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on sustainable Development. France is very proud to have been chosen as the host country after Morocco and Spain and I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all those that have contributed to the organization of this meeting, and most especially the Department of Alpes-Maritimes.

My presence at Sophia-Antipolis is not a mere sign of support to the Commission. In this connection I would like to share with you some thoughts, convictions and proposals.

The Mediterranean is a priority area for France's cooperation policy at international level. It is my firm conviction and I am happy for it too, that beyond the ups and downs of history there exist strong and precious links that bind the peoples living around the Mediterranean basin. This is an asset for the future. However, my conviction must be shared by many.

Therefore, France was one of the first countries to express the will to forge strong links between the European Union and the "third" Mediterranean countries.

The success of the Barcelona 1995 Euro-Mediterranean Conference, launched under French Presidency of the European Union and the launching of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership were decisive steps in that direction. I believe that in time this initiative should bring together all the coastal Mediterranean states. This is a difficult task in the current regional context but at the same time a necessary goal. Europe cannot move forward without taking its neighbours into consideration. To the South, as to the East, they are its privileged, its "natural" partners.

Along the same lines, I would like to express my satisfaction for the fact that at the end of November 1997 the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers for the Environment will be held in Helsinki; this will constitute an important step in the concrete realization of our objectives. I will participate in that Conference. The short and medium term Action programme will be to a large extent based on the conclusions of the first two meetings of your Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development. This makes clear the depth of your deliberations and the relevance of your proposals.

This example also illustrates to what extent the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development set up in the wake of the Rio Summit in 1992 and launched by the Republic of Tunisia in 1994 has since become an essential instrument to develop policy for the future of the Mediterranean. You have pointed out Mr. Chairman, that 5 years after Rio uncertainty and disillusionnement have set in. The lack of success of the New York Summit shows clearly the gap between the euphoric commitments in Rio and action. However I am pleased to see that the Mediterranean countries, rather than be discouraged, have moved forward and through innovatory action kept the faith. Indeed you are in the vanguard, since yours is the only regional Commission on Sustainable Development.

By bringing together the two sides of the Mediterranean, your Commission is a concrete example of the dialogue between the North and the South, between "developed" and "developing" countries, even if I do not believe that these concepts are relevant. Yesterday's advantages may not prove tomorrow to be serious handicaps? Aren't the developed countries mostly badly developed ones? Countries that will have to pay dearly for the contempt in which they held their water, air, natural spaces and populations? In any case, your exemplary approach allows us better understanding, away of working together and the opportunity to afford our countries a real chance for sustainable development which respect the particularities of each country.

One of the great advantages of this Commission is also to be able to count on the support of the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Blue Plan and the other Regional Activity Centres, which from their inception have selected as one of their priorities development and environmental protection issues. Fifteen years before Rio the idea of "sustainable development" had already spring up; your reflection and your working method remain exemplary.

A further proof of that is another characteristic trait of the Commission which gives me great satisfaction, i.e. The important role it reserves for the public. Twenty-one representatives of the Coastal States and fifteen representatives of environmental NGOs, economic and social actors and the local authorities participate on an equal footing. I trust that this example still unique in the world, will be followed by others.

For all these reasons, I would like to encourage you to formulate as soon as possible your first concrete proposals on water and coastal areas, the two themes that you have selected in order to start thinking about what would constitute "sustainable coasts".

I endorse the choice of your priorities for 1998 and confirm my country's will to do its utmost to facilitate your work.

On water, the recent work carried out at Marseille and Fréjus in which participated the directors of ministries dealing with water issues and representatives of the various water boards from around the Mediterranean, reached conclusions which could contribute to your work.

In addition, in accordance with the announcement made last June, at the Special Session of the UN General Assembly, France will organize next spring a World Conference on Water and Sustainable Development; it will take place in Paris, March 19-21 1998. It will make, it is

expected, concrete contributions to developing the necessary strategies to improve the supply and management of fresh water resources, in order to counter the scarcity which will threaten the planet in the next 20 years, if current trends continue. At my request, the conference will include its deliberations on desertification and thorough concrete proposals, further the implementation of the desertification convention. In all these areas, I am convinced that the Commission will be able to make a valuable contribution.

Turning to coastal areas, I am pleased that France can put at your disposal the experience of several existing bodies; the Conservatory of Coastal spaces and lakeshores, the Delegation to Physical Planning and Regional Action (DATAR), as well as the Federation of regional nature parks.

The Conservatory of coastal spaces, which, as it is obvious from its name, acquires parcels of coastal land in order to protect it, is already involved in a large-scale project on the protection of wetlands in the Southern coast of the Mediterranean.

In my Ministry, DATAR is currently working on a conference project concerning French cooperation to promote regional and local development at Mediterranean level, especially in the coastal areas. This initiative could constitute a strong incentive for decentralized cooperation in the Mediterranean and I hope that all our countries will support it.

I am also convinced that the French Federation of Natural parks will share its know-how with you. For many years now, the federation has brought together several partners to work on a project of development and environmental protection. This example of partnership, at the local level, is very interesting for the type of cooperation we wish to develop in and among our countries.

However, I would like to go a little further on what to me is a crucial issue: the involvement of the public, the Mediterranean public which has been included in the structure itself of your Commission.

In order to promote, as we all wish, a Mediterranean public we must listen to the voice of the representatives of local authorities, of various organizations, and of professional circles to enrich the exchange of views which is the essence of Mediterranean societies. My proposal therefore would be to promote the setting up of effective networks and partnerships at Mediterranean level. Bodies such as the Marseille Mission for Mediterranean exchanges should allow us to multiply stays in a different country. We must encourage such efforts. The will of the government to make more flexible the policy of granting visas to students, researchers, and those responsible for networks on know-how transfers in past years from this perspective and I am glad for it. I will support such measures and from this hall I call upon the regional authorities to do their utmost to facilitate such exchanges.

Cooperation at Mediterranean scale also means a more active cooperation among local authorities which is not just twinning of any two cities. Since ancient times, this region of the more developed on the strength of networks of cities. However, today, despite the 7-year

existence of Medcites and the Conference of Mayors (convened three years ago in Marseille and two years ago in Barcelona) results have not met expectations. If we analyze the exchange trends among Mediterranean cities we will see that they account for only 10% of the exchanges among cities in the North and the South.

This is not enough ! we must strive for true forms of North - South cooperation and encourage concrete priority of sustainable development. Exchange of expertise and know-how on waste management, energy, urban transport, "codes of conducts" are some practical issues which might have a real impact on the promotion of sustainable development.

More should also be done in respect of technology exchanges, especially in environmental protection and sustainable development. Good initiatives have just been launched in Tunisia and Spain in the framework of MAP Regional Activity Centres. I am delighted. As far as I am concerned, I will work on the setting up of a Mediterranean-scale network of centres for applied research in the field of sustainable development.

These interwoven strands of relations among countries presuppose decentralized cooperation at all levels and is the only way to make sure that the intentions to create a Mediterranean-wide economic space do not end with commercial exchanges or monetary and political issues. A strong public will transform this economic space into an environmental and social space as well. I will personally make sure that the meetings on the follow-up of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation make the most of environmental issues and sustainable development.

Let me wish you success in your work. It will be a great pleasure for me next month when at the Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties I will be in the position to adopt the various recommendations submitted by your Commission.

May our Commission prosper!