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Fourth Meeting of the Mediterranean
Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

Monaco, 20-22 October 1998

**REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MCSD)**

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Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision taken by the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development at its Third Meeting (Sophia Antipolis, 28-30 October 1997), the Fourth Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) was held in Monaco from 20 to 22 October 1998, at the kind invitation of the Principality of Monaco.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by the following 33 members of the MCSD: Albania, Algeria, Association pour la Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement de Kairouan (APNEK), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Centre des Régions Euroméditerranéennes pour l'Environnement (C.R.E.E.), Chambers Group for the Development of Greek Islands (EOAEN), City of Dubrovnik, City of Rome, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecomediterrania, European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC/EUROCHLOR), European Community, Egypt, Fédération des Industries Diverses (FID), Foundation for International Studies (FIS), France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Medcities Network, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), Monaco, Morocco, Municipality of Silifke, Mediterranean Water Network (Red Mediterranea del Aqua-RME), Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.

3. The following Regional Activity Centres of MAP also attended the meeting: Blue Plan (BP/RAC), Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC), Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), Environment Remote Sensing (ERS/RAC), Cleaner Production (CP/RAC), Secretariat for 100 Mediterranean Historic Sites.

4. The following United Nations specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations attended the meeting as observers: United Nations Division for Sustainable Development (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN/DESA), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Health Organization (WHO), UNEP/Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), UNEP/Global Resources Information Database (DEIA/GRID), UNEP/Regional Office for Europe (UNEP/ROE), CEDARE, Centre of Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe, Commission Internationale pour l'Exploration Scientifique de la Mer Méditerranée (CIESM), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (METAP) and RAMOGE.

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

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

6. The Fourth Meeting of the MCSD was opened by the President of the Bureau of the MCSD, H.E. Mr Ahmed Iraqi, Secretary of State for the Environment of Morocco, who thanked the Monegasque authorities for the warmth of their welcome and the efficient organization of the meeting. He referred briefly to the achievements of the Commission, drawing attention to the role played by the outgoing Presidency of the Bureau. The Commission's recommendations should be widely disseminated to all the actors involved and should be translated into concrete projects. For this purpose, consideration should be given to the creation of national follow-up committees. The full text of his statement is attached as Annex III, Appendix I.

7. In his opening address, HSH Hereditary Prince Albert of Monaco recalled the active role played by the Principality during the important phases that led to general awareness of environmental issues: in 1910, the creation of the ICSEM, the 1992 Rio Summit, the United Nations General Assembly session to assess the implementation of Agenda 21, the RAMOGE and ACCOBAMS Agreements. In the area of biodiversity, Monaco was presently endeavouring to bring to fruition the project for a marine sanctuary covering the coasts of Corsica, Liguria and Provence. The full text of the Prince's statement is attached as Annex III, Appendix II.

8. The Coordinator of MAP, Mr Chabason, welcomed the participants on behalf of Mr Tøpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, and offered his special thanks to the Principality of Monaco for hosting the meeting.

9. Mr Chabason informed the meeting of the tragic death of Mr Ros, who had for many years been the representative of Spain. He had been an enthusiastic and energetic supporter of MAP's activities, and particularly the revision of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. During the course of the meeting, many other speakers paid tribute to the life and work of Mr Ros.

10. The meeting observed one minute's silence in tribute to Mr Ros.

Agenda item 2: Rules of procedure

11. At their Tenth Ordinary Meeting (Tunis, 18-21 November 1997), the Contracting Parties had approved the Rules of Procedure of the MCSD, which are contained in document UNEP (OCA)/MED WG.140/Inf.4, together with the other constitutive documents of the MCSD, namely its Terms of Reference and its Composition.

Agenda item 3: Election of the Steering Committee of the Commission

12. In accordance with Rule 17 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission elected the following Steering Committee (previously called "the Bureau"):

President: Tunisia
Vice-Presidents: Chambers Group for the Development of Greek Islands (EOAEN) Cyprus
Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable
Development (MIO-ECSDE)
Municipality of Silifke
Spain
Rapporteur: Monaco

13. Taking the chair, H.E. Mr M.M. Mlika, Minister of Environment and Regional Planning of Tunisia, thanked the members of the outgoing Bureau, and particularly the representative of Morocco who had presided over the Bureau since the first meeting of the MCSD in Rabat, in December 1996. He added that he would do his utmost to merit the confidence shown by the Commission in electing him to chair its Steering Committee. The process begun in Rio had found in the Mediterranean scope for action that was in many ways unique in the world, for example, the 1994 Interministerial Conference in Tunis on the Med 21 Action Programme, the revision of the Convention and its Protocols in 1995, and the creation of the MCSD, whose membership, bringing together States and civil society, could serve as an example to other regions. With regard to the eight themes before the Commission, he proposed that eight corresponding action plans should be adopted because the recommendations should not remain purely theoretical, but should be translated into practical measures in each country. Tunisia was already doing this and had taken measures in the areas covered by the first two themes: management of water demand and of coastal zones. The full text of the President's statement is contained in Annex III, Appendix III.

Agenda item 4: Adoption of the provisional agenda and organization of work

14. The Secretary informed the meeting that the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), which had been expected to introduce an issue under agenda item 8.3, was not present and it was therefore proposed that this item be deleted.

15. The meeting adopted the agenda as amended on the basis of the provisional agenda contained in document UNEP (OCA)/MED WG.140/1/Rev.1.

16. With regard to the organization of work, the Secretary said that informal meetings of the thematic working groups could be held outside the plenary sessions if requested by the task managers. Informal meetings could also be convened to discuss two additional important issues, namely, the method of work, which would have to be reviewed and improved after the first two-year period; and cooperation with partners concerned, principally United Nations institutions, in order to avoid duplication of work and increase synergy.

Agenda item 5: Progress report by the Coordinator

17. In introducing the progress report by the Coordinator on the activities of the Commission (UNEP(OCA)MED WG.140/3), the Secretary highlighted a number of aspects. In particular, he noted that it was the first time that the Commission was meeting with its full membership after the appointment of the remaining four members: two in the "Local authorities" category and two in the "Socio-economic actors" category. He added that, in conformity with the decision taken at the last meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, the members of the Commission other than the member States, who were permanent members, would remain in office until the Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties, to be held in Malta in October 1999.

18. Efforts had been made to associate the greatest possible number of recognized experts in the activities of the working groups, particularly in the working groups and workshops on indicators, tourism, industry and free trade. The process of reflection that had taken place upstream of the working groups' activities had been enriching and those countries that had actively promoted the process by organizing, supporting and hosting the aforementioned workshops, including Lebanon, Tunisia and Turkey, should be thanked.

19. In general, the thematic working groups had respected the timetable of work and although some had encountered greater difficulty in doing so, this was due to the complex and innovative nature of the subjects tackled (for example, free trade) in comparison with other topics already studied.

20. Lastly, referring to financing, the Secretary noted that the MCSD's activities had been carried out without increasing MAP's contribution, using the budget allocated as seed money. Several countries had provided substantial logistical, technical and financial support for workshops and meetings, and the task managers, national authorities, and the support centres of RACs, as well as the Secretariat, had taken positive steps to develop a strategy to mobilize resources to carry out and pursue the activities of the thematic working groups.

21. The Secretariat was asked to clarify the Commission's method of work, as there seemed to be some confusion as to whether the Commission or the Contracting Parties were responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Commission's recommendations approved by the Contracting Parties. Other issues concerning the method of work were raised, notably the need to devote time to the implementation of decisions and the possibility of discussing a few subjects in depth rather than attempting to cover too much.

22. It was agreed that those questions would be discussed under agenda item 9.

Agenda item 6: Activity report by the task managers

6.1 Sustainable development indicators

23. Mr Mohamed Ennabli (Tunisia), joint task manager for the theme, introduced the relevant section of the progress report (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.140/4, Part I) and the report of the workshop on sustainable development indicators for the Mediterranean, held in Tunis from 9-10 June 1998. At the workshop, the pertinence and availability of some 250 indicators had been assessed. A shortened list of 75 indicators had then been drawn up and was before the Commission for its consideration. The workshop had also approved a preliminary list of eight proposals on the implementation and use of sustainable development indicators for the Mediterranean region for approval by the Commission and subsequently by the Contracting Parties.

24. Mr Antoine (France), joint task manager for the theme, emphasized how much the working group had benefited from the dual North-South approach to the question of indicators of sustainable development. Unfortunately, only one NGO had been able to participate in the Tunis workshop and a way must be found to finance participation by experts, notably NGOs, in future workshops. Furthermore, use of the Internet to develop the exchange of information and participation should be fostered. Participants in the workshop had requested that proposals be made on facilitating and enhancing the capacity of States to utilize indicators as decision-making tools at the national or regional levels.

25. In developing the indicators before the Commission, particular attention had been paid to reflecting the specificity of the Mediterranean, but the list was not exhaustive. Further work needed to be done on collecting data, which did not necessarily have to be quantified, on actors in society, enterprises, etc., and on policies, legislation and regulations. Blue Plan was already striving to ensure that the data collected was reliable and was disseminated. It was working to promote exchange between observatories and between environmental experts and statisticians who were not experts in these fields. A linkage should also be established with geographical information systems. The relationship with centres and agencies working at the international level was a matter of constant concern to the working group. The final version of the list of indicators had to be fully harmonized with the work being done in other institutions that had already been working in this field for a number of years.

26. While welcoming the list of indicators, several participants considered that they should be put into effect gradually. Priorities should be defined, bearing in mind that it would sometimes be necessary to adapt certain indicators to the specific situation in a particular country. Some indicators could be put into effect with little delay, while others could be implemented in the medium-term or long-term. It was suggested that some indicators could already be tested to see how they worked in practice. They could then be assessed and, if necessary, refocused. One participant expressed the view that a report on the Mediterranean based on the indicators should be prepared three years after their adoption as the five-year period proposed was too long.

27. Many participants pointed out that the effectiveness of the indicators depended to a large extent on the capacity of national statistical offices to gather and disseminate information and some countries would need assistance in building up the capacity of their national offices. It was not only necessary to ensure that statistics were harmonized, but the method of data collection should be uniform if statistics were to be reliable and there should be exchanges of experience on data collection methods. Once the indicators had been adopted by the Contracting Parties, national statistical offices should be encouraged to incorporate them in their regular work programmes. The way in which data from different sources interacted would also have to be studied.

28. The transparency of information was cited as an essential element. It was not only an important principle *per se* but would also help in encouraging participation by society as a whole in the sustainable development process. Ways had to be found to interest and involve society in the Commission's work. Although the Internet could be a useful tool, it was not omnipresent, particularly in the southern Mediterranean at the local level.

29. Several participants referred to the need for synergy. Other bodies were working in the same direction and the Commission should take advantage of their work on indicators, at the same time ensuring that there was no overlap. The task managers of the other thematic working groups should also be associated in the work on economic indicators because the latter were related to all the themes being dealt with by the Commission.

30. A number of suggestions were made for the addition or amplification of indicators: the issue of migration, the legislative and regulatory framework and enforcement, participation by industry, governance, biodiversity and ecosystems were mentioned in particular.

31. It was proposed that a bulletin on Mediterranean indicators be published so that the situation could be regularly assessed.

32. In response to the comments made, Mr Antoine, joint task manager, said that he was well aware that many indicators were lacking, but the aim had been to identify the minimum indicators necessary at the present stage and then pursue the work. He assured participants that there was already synergy with other organizations. Regarding priorities, he considered that if national statistical offices were asked what information they could already provide, this would help to prioritize. He had noted with interest the amplification and additions proposed and said that the indicators would in any case be reviewed, *inter alia* in the light of the work being carried out in other groups.

33. Mr Ennabli, joint task manager, agreed with the need to prioritise, but pointed out that, as some countries would be unable to provide certain data, prioritisation would occur automatically. He noted that, in general, national statistical offices were more concerned with economic statistics so they would have to be encouraged to incorporate sustainable development indicators.

34. The representative of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN/DESA, underlined the importance of aggregation, which was an important element in the CSD's work programme. Regarding the list proposed, he drew attention to the need to make provision for countries' specificities.

35. The Coordinator emphasized that the indicators should be dynamic; they should also indicate the trends, for example, in pollution and the speed at which it was occurring. It was far more relevant to identify trends than a situation at a given moment.

36. Finally, after congratulating the task managers, the meeting invited them to complete the relevant section of the progress report in the light of the comments made; reviewed document including the terms of reference is attached in Annex II, Appendix I.

It was noted that the next workshop, to be held in Sophia Antipolis with the support of France, would have to take place in May 1999 rather than September as the fifth meeting of the MCSD would be convened in June 1999 and the indicators had to be submitted to the Contracting Parties at their 11th Ordinary Meeting to be held in October 1999.

6.2 Tourism and sustainable development

37. Ms Amparo Rambla Gil (Spain), joint task manager, reviewed the progress made by the thematic working group (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.140/4, Part II), including the circulation of a questionnaire and the holding of a Workshop in Antalya in September 1998, where the responses to the questionnaire had been reviewed, several case studies presented, the objectives in this area determined and a first set of recommendations defined. She thanked all those who had provided information, the Government of Turkey for hosting the Workshop and the Blue Plan for the substantial technical support it had provided. The main objective was for tourism to become one, if not the major vector for sustainable development in the Mediterranean. Information, training and awareness-raising activities would be required to attain this objective, together with tools at the local level such as financing mechanisms for environmental measures, pilot areas, local Agenda 21 plans or specific eco-labelling systems. The measures adopted to achieve the integration of tourism and sustainable development would need to be adapted to the specific needs of each area. The impact of tourism policies on the other sectors of the economy should be clearly taken into account, particularly since the environment was not just a product to be offered or sold to tourists. For example, island tourist destinations faced their own specific problems. It would be necessary to work with other partners, such as the European Union, to develop a detailed programme of action for the implementation of the recommendations.

38. Mr Giourgas (EOAEN), joint task manager, after welcoming the quality of the contributions made to the work of the thematic working group, emphasized the importance of ensuring that its work contained its own added value and was of practical value. Tourism was so important for the countries of the Mediterranean that harming this industry, a major source of revenue, should be avoided. However, by raising the awareness of all the actors concerned, it should be possible to associate them in action to create a much healthier environment for both tourists and local residents.

39. All the participants emphasized the importance of the tourist industry to the countries of the Mediterranean, although they also noted that it was much more developed in certain countries than in others. Tourism was a global industry, subject to the pressures of a globalized market, and it was difficult for individual countries or destinations to influence its development. The tourism industry also showed certain parallels with other industries, particularly the fact that the associated environmental problems differed according to the type of tourism. In many cases, highly developed areas had reached saturation point. In contrast, in certain specially protected areas, a low level of environmentally-friendly tourism offered one of the few development options available. Several participants referred to the need to develop indicators of the carrying capacity based on the characteristics of each area, including its ecosystem and its economic and social situation, as well as indicators to assess the impact of tourism on the other sectors of the economy and society. There had to be efficient management and planning of tourism, and particularly construction, at the local level. Moreover, strategic impact studies could be usefully carried out.

40. Many participants referred to the need to develop partnerships with those most closely involved in tourism, for example, tourists themselves, the NGOs and consumer organizations representing the general public, tour operators and professionals, with a view to promoting the sustainable development of the tourist industry. It was necessary to convince all concerned that the environment was a factor in the development of tourism and not an obstacle to its growth. The participation mechanisms to be established should cover all the partners involved and information and awareness-raising activities should be targeted both at tourist destinations and sending countries. One important forum for such participation was the framework of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

41. Many participants stressed the need to extend the partnership framework within which the working group was operating. Tourism was a sector with clear partners, which could be associated more directly with the work of the MCSD. For example, approaches should be made to professional associations, which might be interested in financing certain aspects of the MCSD's work on this theme, and the work of NGOs should be given more importance. The work carried out by other partners on the same subject should also be taken into account.

42. Several participants expressed the view that the special chapter on tourism contained in MED 21 should be more widely used and disseminated and some added that it was important for the recommendations on this theme to be presented to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development as well. The representative of UNEP noted in this respect that the recommendations would provide a very substantive input into the UNEP report to be submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

43. Several participants described the action taken to increase awareness, particularly the production of information material on the environment and the organization of campaigns to sensitise tourists to environmental issues.

44. It was noted that there were already a number of examples of good practice for the promotion of environmentally friendly tourism, particularly the possibilities opened up by eco-tourism. Several participants called for the working group to be more active in publicising these good practices and analysing their effectiveness as a means of promoting their replication.

45. While certain participants believed that initiatives such as eco-labelling and eco-taxes could play an effective role in creating greater awareness of environmental issues and facilitating the adoption of ecological measures, others warned of the difficulties involved. The working group should study this question in greater detail in order to identify the appropriate levels for such measures, as well as the possibility of establishing voluntary systems of contributions.

46. The MCSD agreed that the recommendations would be reviewed by the working group, to take into account the points raised during the meeting; the document (including the terms of reference for further activities) has been reviewed on the basis of the discussions and is attached in Annex II, Appendix II. The task manager and the working group have been requested to finalize the recommendations, which could be submitted to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. It would also develop more detailed recommendations for action, which would be submitted to the fifth meeting of the MCSD and then to the Contracting Parties in Malta in 1999.

6.3 Information and awareness

47. Mr Scoullos (MIO/ECSDE), speaking on behalf of the joint task managers, explained that, although the progress made on this theme had been slower than expected the number of participants collaborating with the working group was growing. He reviewed the work undertaken, and particularly the organization of a meeting in Thessaloniki (Greece, December 1997), in parallel with the International Conference on Environment and Society: Education and Public Awareness for Sustainability, organized by UNESCO and the Greek Government. The objective was to develop a series of tools to strengthen public information and awareness activities and to increase the capacity of the various stakeholders to participate in environmental activities. The main issue was to improve the access of all the parties concerned to the relevant information and develop participation mechanisms. These questions were now gaining a higher profile on the public agenda, as illustrated by the adoption of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, signed in Aarhus (Denmark) by 35 countries and the European Union. Generally speaking, the progress, which had been made, had not been sufficiently highlighted. Nine of the signatories were Parties to the Barcelona Convention. He also noted that the report of the working group was nearing completion, but that it would be necessary to organize a meeting at the beginning of 1999 at which more members of the MCSD should actively participate in the work on this theme. Moreover, a major workshop on "Promoting education and public awareness for environment and sustainability in the Mediterranean", bringing together all the players concerned (professionals, public authorities, local authorities, etc.) will be organized by MIO/ECSDE on 17 and 18 December in Athens. Up to now, the work carried out had been largely based on the expertise and resources of MIO-ECSDE and CREE. It was however urgent to involve more partners, particularly Contracting Parties, and to find the necessary financing to carry forward the work which had been commenced. A report on this theme is nearing completion and will go to the next MCSD meeting, following discussion with the members of the working group.

48. All the participants emphasized the importance of information and awareness activities, environmental education and public participation in building the necessary attitude to achieve sustainable development. The European Union had adopted Directives to improve public access to information and provided financial assistance for information dissemination projects. There were examples of successful information and awareness activities, particularly at the national level, such as the national environment day held in Tunisia. However, some regional initiatives had not been as effective. Important factors in raising public awareness of environmental issues included the higher profile achieved by NGOs, local authorities, businesses and their associations. However, much more needed to be done. Information materials that existed in one language should be translated to ensure their wider circulation. Information was also required on good practices in this field, particularly in relation to participation. An examination should be carried out into successful local and national experiences and their potential for replication at the regional level. Another useful information tool would be a Who's Who of Mediterranean environmental institutions, and even of the participants, experts and partners of the MCSD. In its review of the implementation of Chapter 40 of Agenda 21 in 2001, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development would discuss information and awareness-raising activities in the environmental field.

49. Several participants emphasized the need for the working group to broaden the scope of its activities, with the involvement of more partners, and particularly government representatives. The areas covered by the working group had been narrowed down mainly to questions relating to access to information and participation. Several participants called for more attention to be paid to awareness-raising and communication. It was important to strengthen regional networks of organizations specializing in environmental education, along the lines of the networks, which already existed at the national level. Moreover, no reference had been made to Agenda 21. The MCSD should be active in promoting and contributing to the studies carried out under Agenda 21.

50. A number of participants raised the question of the coordination of the information and awareness activities of this working group, with the themes of other working groups. It was generally felt that there was no inherent contradiction in this division of work, since each theme required its own information and awareness activities. However, there should be more cooperation with the other working groups. At the same time, there were also important general issues related to information and awareness in environmental matters which needed to be addressed specifically. These included the questions of public access to information, the legal status of NGOs and participation mechanisms, including participation in public projects and enquiries.

51. The meeting considered that specific results should be produced for this theme, to be submitted to the next meeting of the MCSD, before the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Malta. The document produced by the task managers was reviewed in the light of the comments made by the participants and is attached in Annex II, Appendix III. Finally the Commission considered that the task managers should continue their work and more of the participants in the MCSD should become actively involved in the activities of the working group. Greater attention should be paid to defining the practical product to be developed by the working group.

6.4 Free trade and environment

52. Ms S.Mehdi (Lebanon), task manager, reported on the meetings held by the working group, mentioning the questionnaire, which had been sent out. A project document had also been prepared on promoting synergy between trade and the environment in the Mediterranean. In view of the complexity of the subject, the focus should be on sectoral, rather than global issues. As the work progressed, it would be necessary to gather information on regional experiences, develop working relations with businesses and NGOs and strengthen cooperation with other working groups. Collaboration should also be developed with other international organizations whose activities touched on the same field, METAP and UNEP in particular.

53. Several participants emphasized the need to strengthen the synergy between free trade and sustainable development, rather than adopting an approach opposing eco-protection and free trade. Everybody needed development, as well as a healthy and sustainable environment. Trade and the environment should therefore become mutually reinforcing aspects of sustainable development. Several participants warned of the need to ensure that eco-protection did not limit the development possibilities of the countries in the region. Small enterprises in the countries on the southern coastline of the Mediterranean tended to experience particular problems in integrating environmental considerations into their operations but others considered that this integration could be a means to develop their activities, mainly for abroad. The participants agreed that the subject of free trade and the environment raised extremely complex issues that were intimately related to the globalization process taking place and it was particularly significant in the context of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The main difficulties lay in the lack of experience of this topic, the need to gather information on practical experience and to develop the analysis of the subject. Indicators on economic liberalization and environmentally sound development could be an interesting source of information.

54. The observer for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) reported on the discussions which had been held with the WTO in order to reach an understanding on the rules for trade in endangered species. Controls were needed to ensure the survival of these species, which meant that trade could not be totally free. Several participants also reaffirmed that rules were necessary and that, even in the context of free trade, international rules would have to be applied in the region.

55. Several participants reaffirmed the need to carry out this work in close collaboration with the institutions concerned, in particular the European Union, METAP, UNEP, UNIDO and the WTO. The observer for METAP described the studies carried out over the past two years on national capacity to integrate environmental and trade considerations. On this subject he would look into the possibility of making the intellectual and professional resources of METAP available to the working group on this theme, it being understood that METAP could not commit itself financially for the future.

56. The participants agreed on the need to continue working on this important theme, while at the same time setting realistic objectives. The working group should be allowed the necessary time to reflect on the approach to be adopted and clearly define the objectives to be reached and the various stages involved, so that the outcome of its work would shed new and constructive light on the subject. It should therefore not endeavour to submit a finished product to the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Malta in 1999. The document before the Commission, and more particularly the terms of reference drawn up by the task manager for the group's further activities, was reviewed to take into account the comments made by the participants and is attached in Annex II, Appendix IV of this report.

6.5 Industry and sustainable development

57. Mr.G.Guerrieri (Italy), joint task manager for this theme, reviewed the activities of the working group and stated that, with the support of MED POL and CP/RAC, it had endeavoured in particular to determine ways of encouraging governments and all the other partners concerned to promote policies encouraging local private enterprises to take environmental issues into account, particularly through education, information and legal and institutional measures. Although not the only category of enterprises concerned, SMEs needed greater support. The working group had recognized the need to analyse the situation and trends of industry in the various countries, and in particular the need to work according to the different branches of industry. The placing on the Internet of "Yellow pages", which would be updated periodically, had been considered necessary and the working group was anticipating calling upon chambers of commerce and professional associations in the region to disseminate the information. Last October, a meeting had been organized jointly with UNIDO/ICS in Trieste which had recommended the establishment of a two-way dialogue with enterprises of the countries in the region, the preparation of a regional evaluation of industrial pollution, the development of an information system on the Internet covering the effectiveness of environmental performance, the establishment of a list of case studies of clean production and the organization of training at various levels. Meeting in parallel on the first day of this meeting, the working group had approved these proposals and sought the agreement of the MCSD on its future activities.

58. Several participants expressed the opinion that the activities of the working group should be planned in a long-term perspective which went beyond the meeting of the Contracting Parties in 1999. Mr Chabason added that many of the aspects of the theme still needed to be explored, including the strategies of multinational enterprises, the company modernization process, the financing required for their upgrading and systems to obtain authorization from the public authorities. Transfer of technology, mainly North-South, should also be taken into account. The task managers would therefore need a longer period to complete their examination of these questions, in which the collaboration of occupational associations, such as the FID, would be essential. In response, the representative of the FID expressed his willingness to join the working group as a joint task manager, and to be responsible for coordination with the industrial federations around the Mediterranean. He felt that it was necessary to establish a proactive framework, particularly in the countries of the south. Although leading enterprises had long been aware of the need to protect the environment, SMEs needed more support if they were to make the same progress. In Morocco a national centre of eco-technology was being set up for this purpose by his organization with the support of UNIDO and the private sector had already reacted very positively to this initiative. Moreover, the regional and national centres working in this sector, particularly the UNEP/IE(Paris), UNIDO (Vienna and Trieste), the CP/RAC (Barcelona), and the CITET (Tunis) should also be more closely involved.

59. The representative of UNIDO/ICS expressed the genuine interest of his Organization in the activities of the working group, to which it had already contributed, in particular through the joint organization of the workshop held in Trieste on 5-6 October 1998. He also presented the UNEP/UNIDO-ICS document on "*Industry and environment: Proposal for a framework of activities towards sustainable development*", and which had provided a basis for the discussions of the experts meeting. For his part, the representative of UNEP stated that his organization was also ready to work on this theme through its specific components. He drew the attention of the participants to the international declaration on clean production adopted recently in Korea, which should be disseminated widely among decision-makers.

60. Certain participants noted that the document before the MCSD placed emphasis on information, awareness and exchange of experience and that the effective implementation of its recommendations required a better dissemination of information and voluntary approaches. The information component was so important in this respect that greater cooperation should be established with the working group on information and communication. One participant considered that the concept of "Yellow pages" was costly and ineffective. The working group, which is to be joined by MIO-ECSDE, should reach more precise definitions and formulate concrete programmes for their implementation. In order to do so, it would need in-depth analyses of the situation in the region and in specific countries. Another participant wondered whether the proposals made by the working group went beyond the terms of reference of the MCSD.

61. One participant pointed out that the Land-based sources Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme adopted in Tunisia provided a framework for the activities of the working group, including in particular provisions on the best available techniques and environmental best practices. Emphasis should therefore be placed on the legal framework and financial incentives should be introduced amongst other things, to encourage industry to take environmental issues into consideration. The representative of MED POL added in this respect that the legal framework, which was already well developed, would not have provided added value to the activities under examination if these had been limited to the formulation of recommendations. It was for this reason that the working group had decided to emphasize practical action and had therefore adopted a different approach to the other thematic groups. This consisted of encouraging cooperation and interaction between the various partners, disseminating information to clearly targeted groups and working on capacity building, particularly in collaboration with UNIDO.

62. In response to these comments, the joint task manager confirmed that the working group had endeavoured to bring out the practical side of its work and not limit itself to theoretical recommendations. The objective was ambitious, namely to create a new culture in the industrial sector through information and awareness, without imposing rules from above. The task was very complex and the pitfalls many - a great volume of information needed to be compiled and its reliability assured, since a field as sensitive as this permitted no errors of evaluation.

63. Taking into account the main points raised in the discussion, the working group would continue its work with a view to formulating proposals for action which would be finalized at a meeting in early 1999. These proposals and the related activities would then be refined and tested at a workshop to be held in Massa (Italy), before being submitted to the 12th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2001.

6.6 Management of urban/rural development:

64. Mr Aldieb (Egypt), task manager for this theme, introduced the working group's progress report (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.140/4, part VI), drawing attention to the technical meeting of experts held in Split on 24 and 25 June 1998. Several papers and case studies had been presented at the Split meeting and discussions had been most fruitful. A scheme had been proposed for the purpose of clarifying the scientific and practical aspects of future work, as shown in the progress report. It had been agreed that a workshop would be held in April 1999 to consider national reports on urban/rural management. These reports would focus on four main points: major problems identified on the basis of the priority problems pinpointed in the feasibility study; the implementation of policies; coordination mechanisms; and necessary action. A timetable had been proposed for preparation of the documents required for the workshop so that recommendations could be finalized in time for the fifth meeting of the MCSD.

65. Differing views were expressed by participants regarding a proposal that the focus should initially be on urban management. Some participants considered that, as there were so many cities around the Mediterranean, urban management was more relevant to needs, particularly in the southern Mediterranean. Others believed, however, that urban and rural management could not be dissociated and should be considered in tandem.

66. Highlighting the complexity of the theme, a number of participants requested that the group's work focus on urban development within the context of land-use planning. Nevertheless, because of its important impact on the region's equilibrium, rural development should not be neglected.

67. Consequently, it was decided that the group's work should focus initially on urban development, in cooperation with the Medcities network and Turkey, and with greater participation by NGOs and the other socio-economic actors. For this purpose, a meeting of experts would be held in April 1999. In addition, draft terms of reference for a working group on rural development, with the support of Tunisia and Cyprus, would be prepared for submission to the next Meeting of the MCSD.

Agenda item 7: Follow-up of recommendations for short-term activities

7.1 Management of water demand

68. Mr Ennabli (Tunisia), joint task manager for this theme, recalled that the Contracting Parties had adopted the MCSD's proposals concerning the management of water demand at their Tenth Ordinary Meeting (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.11/10, Annex IV, Appendix V). The Commission had before it recommendations regarding the follow-up (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG/140/4), in particular a regional assessment of available information on better water demand management strategies and an in-depth analysis of water demand management policies in two countries.

69. The scarcity of water resources in the Mediterranean Basin meant that the issue was ongoing and he hoped that the efforts already made would continue so that the recommendations could be implemented effectively. He suggested that 10 countries in the Mediterranean with scarce water resources should take part in an action programme, supported by the Mediterranean and international community, with the objective of demonstrating the advantages of rational rather than laxist use of water.

70. Several participants expressed reservations about deciding on any follow-up to recommendations after they had been adopted by the Contracting Parties until the question of the method of work, particularly follow-up, had been clarified. Others nevertheless welcomed the proposals and suggested a number of topics that deserved consideration: the use of treated wastewater in agriculture; the role of prices and subsidies in encouraging wasteful use of water; how to link the work being done in the MCSD with that being carried out in other forums and avoid any overlap; the expansion of campaigns on water use at the regional level; and how to disseminate more widely and more rapidly the work being done by MAP. However, whatever the follow-up solution chosen, the channels for feedback between the Contracting Parties and the MCSD should be kept open.

71. While recognizing the importance of following up recommendations, particularly for the two themes where recommendations had already been adopted, the Meeting decided not to take any decision on the proposals until the question of the follow-up to recommendations had been clarified. The Steering Committee would make proposals to be considered by the 5th Meeting of the MCSD before submitting them to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Malta in 1999.

7.2 Sustainable Management of Coastal Regions

72. Given the content of previous discussion which took place after the presentation on follow up of recommendations concerning water demand management, the theme in question was not discussed, nor even introduced. The proposals as submitted by the task managers are, however, presented in Annex II, Appendix VIII.

Agenda item 8: Proposed new subjects

73. The MCSD had before it three proposals for new subjects for examination, the list still being open. These were: new opportunities for funding conservation initiatives in the Mediterranean; islands and sustainable development; and Mediterranean strategy on the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity. Other themes such as the greenhouse effect, and energy and soil conservation were also mentioned. With the prospect of new subjects, the MCSD could play an advisory and guiding role in dealing with major subjects, although not necessarily in the form of groups with a 2 to 4 year term. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Steering Committee would examine the interest and the feasibility of each proposal on the basis of a report or note to be drawn up by the secretariat based on a series of criteria, as yet not identified, for the selection of new themes, considering that for the subject of Islands and sustainable development some information were already provided. The MCSD would then choose the new themes to be examined, without necessarily submitting them to the Contracting Parties.

One of the criteria to be taken into account when selecting the themes would be their coordination with those to be dealt with by the UN-CSD, so that the former can submit the results of its work to the latter. The potential added value which could be provided by the MCSD in choosing a given new theme should also be borne in mind. Moreover, several participants recalled, that the Terms of Reference of the MCSD called for a strategic review to be undertaken for the year 2000, particularly covering the implementation

of Agenda 21 in the region (Agenda MED 21) and that preparation for this work, explicitly mentioned in the mandate, should be given priority before new themes were taken up. Next MCSD meeting will review first proposals.

Agenda item 9: MCSD working method

74. A wide discussion was held regarding responsibility for implementing the recommendations prepared by the MCSD and adopted by the Contracting Parties. It was stressed that the Contracting Parties were solely responsible for implementing the recommendations they had adopted. Implementation should become a specific item on their agenda and a system should be set up to allow them to report in writing on progress in implementation at regular intervals. Countries could, for example, submit national biennial reports on their implementation and the MCSD Secretariat could summarize these in regular reports to the Contracting Parties; the Commission could consider it appropriate to return to an already studied subject, to complete its assessment in view of new proposals to the Contracting Parties.

75. The Contracting Parties could decide to entrust the implementation of a particular recommendation to the MAP or other bodies. However, it was pointed out that working groups had neither the means nor the human resources to monitor implementation. The work of task managers would generally be completed once the recommendations had been adopted by the Contracting Parties. MAP could nevertheless prepare status reports every two or three years, pinpointing any obstacles. The MCSD, an advisory body which submits proposals within the framework of action programmes, should review current activities through an activity report every 2 to 3 years, but should not be given the task of follow up of their implementation.

76. One participant made some concrete proposals for streamlining the work of the MCSD. Firstly, in view of the limited means at the disposal of the Commission, it was obvious that priorities had to be identified and issues that were particularly relevant to the role of the MCSD should be at the top of the list, which should be drawn up well in advance. Secondly, for each theme identified, clear terms of reference and a timetable should be established, bearing in mind the periodicity of meetings of the Contracting Parties. Thirdly, the working groups should have two task managers for each theme, respecting a balance between the North and South of the Mediterranean, with the participation of outside experts when necessary. The task managers in cooperation with qualified experts and the RACs concerned would prepare a preliminary draft proposal for discussion at an open meeting of the working group. Fourthly, the results of this meeting would be transmitted to a plenary session of the MCSD, which would then submit a revised text to the Contracting Parties. A proposal could also be submitted to the Contracting Parties concerning the procedures to be followed for recommendations which had been adopted. Moreover, guidelines should be established on the formulation of the national reports required under the Barcelona Convention to help Governments include information on the implementation of recommendations.

77. Another participant suggested that a working group could be set up to integrate the sectoral recommendations formulated by the MCSD into a more coherent body of guidance. A number of participants stressed that it would be useful to identify follow-up and performance indicators in order to implement the recommendations.

78. Several participants expressed support for the method followed up to the present, which consisted of entrusting task managers with selected topics, together with a strategy for collecting the funds required, a method similar to that followed by the Environmental Policy Committee of the OECD. Another participant observed that the themes covered by the MCSD were not in themselves new and that care should be taken to address the new elements of these subjects, namely their sustainable development dimension.

79. The MCSD requested the Secretariat to prepare a series of options for the follow-up of recommendations, which would be reviewed by the Steering Committee with a view to their submission to the next meeting of the MCSD and the one of the Contracting Parties.

Agenda item 10: Cooperation with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UN-CSD), other United Nations institutions and other partners

80. Reporting on the outcome of an informal working group which had examined this subject, the representative of Monaco emphasized the interest expressed in the work of the MCSD within and outside the UN-CSD. It was recognized that there was a need for the MCSD to strengthen its cooperation with other bodies, particularly in the form of the exchange of information and the organization of joint activities and meetings. To this end, it was necessary to clearly identify the relevant partners before any programme of activities was undertaken. In this connection, the MCSD could call upon task managers and supporting centres to cooperate with partners which had been identified at the design stage of their activities. Other forms of cooperation with international organizations could include cost-sharing and the association of partners in activities as co-managers or co-support centres.

81. With regard to cooperation between the MCSD and the UN-CSD, it was proposed that a joint meeting be organized on national sustainable development strategies in the Mediterranean region, supported by the exchange of information at the regional level. In addition, an advisory and consultative meeting among partners involved in sustainable development in the Mediterranean could also be organized jointly with CEDARE. Technical cooperation with METAP and UNIDO could be strengthened for certain activities of the MCSD, for example in the fields of trade and environment as well as industry. In particular METAP could make available to the MCSD the studies that had been undertaken and could cooperate in the implementation of certain recommendations according to its programme of action. UNIDO and the IOC were also ready to place their expertise and experience at the disposal of MCSD in the fields of clean production, waste management and the integrated management of coastal zones respectively, especially concerning the strategy for major marine ecosystems. Moreover, information and experience should be exchanged with other partners on the theme of indicators.

82. The observer representing UN-DESA approved these orientations and informed the meeting of the initiative to strengthen cooperation with regional institutions as a means of promoting the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level. He therefore proposed that a meeting could be organized for the Mediterranean region, along the lines of similar meetings held for Asia and Africa. Several participants emphasized the importance of national commissions on sustainable development. It was necessary to collect more information on these institutions and develop collaboration with them. Other participants called for greater collaboration with other intergovernmental organizations active in the Mediterranean.

83. Several participants warned that in any cooperation with other bodies it was necessary to clearly delineate the tasks and responsibilities of each of the partners. Cooperation should not stop at adapting documents prepared by other bodies. Such cooperation should take more practical forms than simply participating in meetings. The MCSD should take better account of the activities of NGOs and other socio-economic partners and encourage their active participation in cooperation with international organisations. Guidelines for such cooperation could be formulated. Several participants suggested that concerted action should be taken with all the partners in the region to identify existing resources available for environmental action and ensure that they were used in the best possible manner for the region as a whole. An examination could also be undertaken of new sources of funding for environmental activities, such as contributions from the partners in the tourist industry.

84. Several representatives of international organizations expressed a willingness to continue and expand collaboration with the MCSD. The observer representing IOC outlined a number of principles for cooperation, including the need for synergy between existing resources, the free exchange of information and the absence of competition in promoting the same activities. The observer representing CITES called for collaboration in promoting the adoption of legislation to stop the illegal trade in threatened species, which was one of the major forms of illegal trafficking in the world. Several participants emphasized the importance of the collaboration between MAP and METAP and called for it to be expanded. The observer representing METAP informed the MCSD of a meeting that would be held in partnership with METAP's collaborators in order to reflect on its activities in the region. The observer representing the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea called for a significant increase in the currently very low level of cooperation in marine issues, such as over-fishing and the conservation of marine biodiversity. He also proposed greater collaboration to exploit products from the sea, and particularly pharmaceutical products, which could be useful in promoting the economic development of the region.

85. The meeting agreed that cooperation should be pursued with the Secretariats of other international or regional organizations and agreements involved in the protection of the environment, and which may directly or indirectly be of interest for with sustainable development in the Mediterranean Basin. In this connection, UNEP was requested to encourage the exchange of information and direct cooperation between the MCSD and these various Secretariats, particularly the UN-CSD. There was also a need to target potential partners carefully, including NGOs. A special effort should also be made to promote the establishment and strengthening of national commissions on sustainable development, and to increase their cooperation with the MCSD. Moreover, the MCSD and its members should ensure that the many partners share similar objectives.

Agenda item 11: Fifth meeting of the MCSD

86. The City of Rome confirmed its proposal to host the Fifth Meeting of the MCSD. The meeting accepted the kind invitation of the City of Rome and agreed that the Secretariat would discuss the dates for the meeting, which should be held in the last half of June 1999.

Agenda item 12: Any other matters

87. The representative of France suggested that the Secretariat should establish a list of all the events and meetings related directly or indirectly with the Mediterranean which might be of interest to the members of the MCSD, so that they could better plan their work programmes. This could include the meetings organized in the framework of the UN-CSD.

88. The representative of MEDCITES made a brief presentation of the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Sustainable Towns to be held in Seville (Spain) from 21 to 23 January 1999, and invited the members of the MCSD to take part.

89. Finally, the representatives of Tunisia and Turkey expressed the wish to host the 6th Meeting of the MCSD in the year 2000.

Agenda item 13: Adoption of the report

90. Presented by the rapporteur, H.E. M.B.Fautrier (Monaco), chaired by Mrs.A.Rambla Gil (Vice-President, Spain), then Mr.Giourgas (Vice-President, EOAEN) in the absence of H.E. Mr M. Mlika (President of the Steering Committee,Tunisia) the meeting report was adopted on Thursday, 22 October 1998. The proposals for action and the terms of reference of the Thematic Groups, revised in the light of discussions, are annexed hereto.

Agenda item 14: Closure of the meeting

91. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Vice-President (EOAEN) declared the meeting closed on Thursday 22 October 1998 at 1300hrs.

**TABLE
THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS**

Themes	Task managers	Members of the group	Support from MAP*
Short-term (over about a one-year period)			
- Sustainable management of coastal zones	Morocco and MEDCITIES	CREE, European Community, Greece, City of Rome, Spain, EcoMediterrania, Monaco, WWF, Italy, EOAEN, Cyprus, France, Tunisia, MIO-ESCDE, 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-ECSD, Malta, Spain, EcoMediterrania, 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, EcoMediterranean, Greece, Israel, Spain, Slovenia, Turkey, Lebanon, Algeria, Municipality of Silifke	RAC/Blue Plan
- Sustainable Tourism	Spain, EOAEN and Egypt	Malta, Monaco, Cyprus, Croatia, European Community, Greece, EcoMediterrania, WWF MIO-ECSD, ASCAME, Slovenia, Libya, Turkey, Lebanon	RAC/Blue Plan and RAC/Priority Actions Programme
- Information, awareness and participation	MIO-ECSD and CREE	European Community, WWF, France, APNEK, Croatia, Egypt, Morocco, MEDCITIES, EcoMediterrania, 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-ECSD, Algeria, ASCAME, FIS, Bosnia & Herzegovina, WWF	RAC/ Blue Plan 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, Tunisia, RME	MED POL, RAC/Clean Production
- Management of urban/rural development (As from November 1998, focus on Urban management-Rural issues later)	Egypt	MEDCITIES, FIS, MIO-ECSD, Spain, Morocco, France, Malta, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Algeria, CEDARE, EC, Slovenia, Cyprus, RME	RAC/Blue Plan and RAC/Priority Actions Programme

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

Annex I

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Annex II

Thematic Working Groups

Appendix I	Indicators for sustainable development in the Mediterranean
Appendix II	Tourism and sustainable development in the Mediterranean
Appendix III	Information, awareness, environmental education and public participation
Appendix IV	Free trade and environment
Appendix V	Industry and sustainable development
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INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

• **Proposals on Indicators for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region**

Since the Rio Conference, States and civil society are expected to make regular presentations at international level of how the region is fairing in terms of sustainable development. For this purpose, indicators constitute an important tool for monitoring the major trends (social, economic and environmental). Indicators are particularly useful for measuring developments and the direction they are taking. All Mediterranean countries form a part of this planet, and have something to gain from being more aware of their relative position in the world, and from keeping everyone informed of their situation and efforts with regard to sustainable development. The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development encourages this approach and would be happy to receive a report on development in the Mediterranean region; it will be following the work on indicators with great interest.

Mediterranean co-operation stands to gain a better understanding, through using figures whenever possible, of the common ground and the differences that exist within what is called the "Mediterranean Basin". The Mediterranean region, as an « eco-region », is initiating a coherent regional strategy in the field of indicators for sustainable development, just as it did previously for the Barcelona Convention, the Mediterranean Action Plan, Agenda MED 21 and the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development.

In each country, and therefore at national level, indicators can be very useful for preparing initiatives and central or decentralised decision-making (for local authorities, companies, or associations). The indicators which measure pressures, state, trends, possible forecasts and the so-called "responses", are invaluable instruments for the Ministries in charge of sustainable development, for the National Commissions on sustainable development which are responsible for co-ordination, and for all actors in development or management.

As a result the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

- shall link the indicator system for the region to the United Nations system;
- shall identify those indicators which are of Mediterranean interest;
- shall take steps to facilitate sustainable development being taken into account in the indicators and statistics for all riparian states and shall assist countries in obtaining reliable data.

In order to achieve this, the Working Group submits to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development the following proposals for commitments, which could be transmitted to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. There are eight of them at present:

1. Producing a Report on the Mediterranean Region based on Indicators for Sustainable Development.

The Mediterranean States and civil society shall actively cooperate in producing a periodic report on the state, trends within, and future of the Mediterranean region, showing both the unity and diversity of situations, as well as their efforts towards sustainable development. This report shall be produced every 5 years; it shall be prepared under the technical cooperation of the Blue Plan. Work will begin on the first report to ensure that it is ready in less than 5 years.

It shall be published in French and English as a minimum; each Mediterranean State shall undertake to ensure its broad circulation and, if necessary, its translation. Each year, the general study could be supplemented by an overview of the efforts made by one or two countries to encourage sustainable development.

2. The Adoption of a Set of Common Indicators for the entire region.

A list of quantified indicators, supplemented by information sheets referring mainly to national institutions and standards make up the common core of information for all countries. The list of 75 indicators drawn up in 1998 will be slimmed down as far as possible, but could be supplemented in a suitable manner to correspond to national circumstances, regional work or specific work on, for example, biodiversity, the sea, poverty, etc.

These indicators which, for the most part, form part of the United Nations list of 134 indicators, also include indicators more specific to the Mediterranean region.

The choice of the common set of indicators takes into account both their relevance to an overall understanding of sustainable development in the region, and the availability of these indicators in the largest possible number of countries. This work will be done in early 1999.

They are sorted into a system made up of 6 main headings and 30 themes defined largely on the basis of Agenda 21 and MED 21. The list of indicators selected thus far with their sort codes have been presented in Monaco meeting. For those countries where a part of their land area is not considered as being Mediterranean, these national indicators shall be available in individualised form for their Mediterranean regions.

3. Follow-up and updating of the common set of indicators.

These indicators shall be calculated on an on-going basis until such time as the list may be revised in the light of Mediterranean follow-up meetings, to be held under the aegis of MAP. These meetings shall allow for exchange on successes and difficulties encountered in the collection and interpretation of indicators.

4. Improving Statistical Tools.

Each State shall undertake to arrange for quantitative data of the highest possible quality to be available, and to make every effort towards this objective, in particular by drawing on national statisticians and accountants. Exchange between countries shall be facilitated by drawing in particular on the assistance of national observatories.

At present some issues are hardly covered by the priority indicators; therefore the working group suggests to the Commission for Sustainable Development that it consider certain subjects as calling for a "remedial" Mediterranean programme to ensure that the issue is better covered in 3, 5, or 10 years. Special efforts shall be made for those indicators which assess "heritage" and for those which identify responses and their follow-up.

5. Training.

The calculation of these indicators and their correct use demand national efforts which the States, and also their partners in civil society, shall undertake to make. In addition, training sessions shall be organised at Mediterranean level for operators, statisticians, and indicator users; the Blue Plan shall be responsible for this, in accordance with the resources allocated to it for this purpose and in the framework of MAP's Mediterranean Environmental and Development Observatory.

6. Decentralised Indicators.

In each of the Mediterranean countries, and on a voluntary basis, indicators shall be developed which are better suited for more refined regional subdivision (by province, metropolitan district, natural area, etc.), or for sectors where themes may require indicator sub-sets; this would be the case for coastal areas, for example.

7. National Observatories, where they exist, shall form an essential component in the Mediterranean approach to understanding sustainable development and preparing decisions, as well as a useful channel for implementing all the resources involved.

Research work calling on universities in particular shall be welcome. This work shall help in the identification of good practices in the Mediterranean.

8. Access, dissemination and the Internet.

In each country efforts shall be made to promote awareness so that people become more familiar with the use of indicators. This involves a suitable dissemination system using various media. Recourse to Internet networks shall obviously be seen as an essential component, but shall be seen as only one of the various means of dissemination, the varying degrees of Internet availability and usage being taken into account.

TOURISM AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Proposals for action and recommendations

1. *Training, information, diffusion, awareness raising*

The integration of tourism with the environment and towards sustainable development depends first and foremost on increasing the environmental awareness of everyone concerned: local populations, tourists, professionals, public authorities. This requires solid and on-going training, information and awareness raising action.

The MCSD's group on "tourism and sustainable development" is proposing four practical lines of action in particular:

Proposal 1:

To bring together within a network the main professionals in Mediterranean tourism (tour operators, travel agencies, hotel owners and carriers) so that alongside the representatives of the MCSD group they can begin serious and coordinated thinking and awareness raising at Mediterranean level. This project could be implemented in cooperation with the ASCAME's Committee on Tourism.

Proposal 2:

To draw up and broadly circulate a "**white paper**" on the situation, the problems and the measures to be taken in support of Mediterranean tourism, taking into account its links with the environment and sustainable development.

Proposal 3:

To draw up and circulate guides and handbooks on good environmental practices in the tourism sector, based on actual experience, and promoting the information which can help make tourists themselves more aware.

Proposal 4:

To organise and develop observation networks for the impact of tourism on the economy, society, the environment and the cultural heritage, using harmonised bases for information, and to periodically circulate the results, in cooperation with the relevant services in the European Commission, ASCAME, and the other NGOs concerned.

2. *Financial mechanisms enabling the tourism sector to contribute to the quality of destinations.*

The tourism sector must make a greater contribution to the protection of the natural and cultural capital which it exploits. The group therefore makes the following proposal:

Proposal 5:

To look into the possibility of setting up financial mechanisms allowing the tourism sector to effectively contribute to the protection and management of Mediterranean sites and to the studies and activities likely to assist decision taking in this field.

3. *Network of pilot areas and “Mediterranean ecolabel” for the environmental quality of destinations and installations.*

Exchange of experience and the promotion of destinations which strive to integrate tourism with sustainable development can be powerful vectors of progress. The group therefore makes the following two proposals:

Proposal 6:

To set up a Mediterranean network of pilot tourist areas, in cooperation with the NGOs which are specialised in the fields of tourism and the environment, so that the final touches can more rapidly be put to the tools for the development of sustainable development which can then be circulated.

Proposal 7:

To promote internationally recognised quality approaches: **Local Agendas 21** in tourist destinations, **EMAS, ISO 14 000**...for installations and, to that end, to consider setting up mechanisms for awarding Mediterranean ecolabels.

4. *Capacity building for states, regions and tourist destinations to bring about successful integration of tourism with sustainable development and land planning.*

For tourism to be integrated with sustainable development, the institutional instruments adapted to the various issues and situations must be seriously strengthened. The group stressed the following points in particular:

Proposal 8:

To set up in-depth methods for comparison/negotiation between tourist authorities, environmental authorities, and the other players involved to define and manage policies for integrating tourism with sustainable development.

Proposal 9:

To involve the actors concerned, and local populations in particular, in defining the objectives for tourist development for destinations.

Proposal 10:

To develop the capacity for technical assistance (studies and activities) allowing for better integration of tourism with sustainable development by public, professional and local actors.

Proposal 11:

To strengthen the land planning policies and the institutional, legislative, technical and financial instruments which will make tourism and the environment more compatible and which are adapted to the various situations:

- instruments for prospective analysis to assist in the definition of development strategies;
- instruments for planning and management of land from the tourism angle, both national and local, allowing for reconciliation of tourism and the environment in the long term, and for offer to be limited according to the established carrying capacity;
- instruments providing for protection of the natural spaces and the coastline against excessive tourist urbanisation (laws, appropriate agencies);
- instruments adapted to the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of the natural

- and cultural heritage;
- instruments allowing the environmental effects of development programmes and tourist projects to be assessed;
- instruments aiming at reducing pollution, waste, water and energy consumption, and promoting renewable forms of energy and clean technologies in the tourism sector;
- instruments allowing the quality of older destinations to be restored (sites, buildings and tourist infrastructures..) and their tourist products to be diversified;
- instruments aiming at helping local actors, particularly in the hinterland and less developed islands, to become tourism entrepreneurs.

Proposal 12:

Tourism's inherent seasonal nature is one of the major problems faced by tourist destinations. The tourist authorities should promote the implementation of policies aimed at spreading the tourist season throughout the year.

5. *Measures to support tourism in the Mediterranean island regions*

Proposal 13:

To take account of the specific problems faced by islands:

- to diversify island economies which depend too heavily on tourism in order to spread tourism over the year and to promote new sources of endogenous development,
- to systematically study the cross border effects on the environment of island regions of activities carried out in Mediterranean countries, and to avoid financing projects when it turns out that they will have negative effects on the environment of an island region,
- to carry out:
 - a study of the negative environmental consequences of an increase in solid and liquid waste and its treatment, energy dependence and the repercussions of tourism during the high season, the results of this study being reflected in future policies on the island regions,
 - a specific study of the island regions, stressing in particular the environmental and energy dimension, the management of coastal zones and the phenomena of erosion and desertification.
- to carry out a study into the added cost for islands in the field of transport of persons, goods and energy to and from island regions, and the need to link the island regions to mainland ones,
- to provide support to actions and pilot projects to make the best possible use of renewable energy sources, with the aim of reducing the dependency of the islands in terms of mineral energy sources.

6. Setting up the programme of action

Proposal 14:

The group proposes that a dialogue and a working method be set up with the services of the European Commission within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and the other sponsors, in order to create the conditions for implementing the proposed action programme.

INFORMATION, AWARENESS, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The **Final Report of the Thematic Group** is in its final stages. An ad hoc informal meeting took place on the 20 October in parallel with the MCSD meeting in Monaco and the next steps were agreed:

The relevant suggestions of other Thematic groups will be considered as inputs. Similarly the relevant work of UNEP and other International bodies will be taken into account.

MIO/ECSDE will organize in the framework of its work a major "Workshop on the promotion of Education and Public Awareness for Environment and Sustainability in the Mediterranean" to be held in Athens on 17-18 December 1998.

The results of the workshop will be also used as an important input.

The first version of the final draft will be circulated before the end of the year to all members of the Thematic group and comments will be collected within one month from its distribution.

Then a second draft will be prepared and debated during a meeting of the Group to take place in Athens within the first two months of 1999.

The result of the consultation will provide the third draft to be submitted to the MCSD for its next meeting to take place in Rome in June 1999.

The publication of the Guidelines for Public Participation for Assisting the Organisation of Round Table Discussions on the Issue of Public Participation with Various Partners in the Mediterranean has been delayed. The Guidelines, currently finalised by MIO-ECSDE, with the support of MAP/UNEP, will be completed before the end of 1998.

The work of the Group has been carried out until now by MIO-ECSDE without any special support. The meeting of Thessaloniki was only partly supported by UNEP-MAP. It has been proposed and accepted that the work of the Group will be financed by the UNEP-MAP budget but this has not yet been materialized, however an adequate support is expected for the final meeting of the Group to be held in the first two months of 1999.

FREE TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Terms of Reference

- The link between free trade and the environment in the Mediterranean is a recent issue, which has not been examined in detail by other fora.
- This free trade-environment relationship is a complex one, which works in two directions.
- It is important to study both the positive and negative impact of free trade on the environment, and to identify the policies and economic practices of sustainable development and the environment so that the Euro-Mediterranean area can be shaped under the best possible conditions.
- It is just as important to consider this issue for the Mediterranean in a short, medium and long-term perspective.

Based on these points, the MCSD mandates the working group to continue to gather information and to analyse, both on a global and on a sectoral basis, in order to draw up recommendations which correspond to the afore-mentioned objectives and are aimed at all those affected by the process of globalisation and the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

This further work will be done progressively and on an on-going basis.

Short- term results will be sought, particularly on:

- The various regional and national experiences and the lessons to be learnt from them, in order to better manage the free trade/environment relationship within the globalisation process and the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, particularly concerning the expected difficulties to be overcome and the measures to be taken.
- The dynamics of the various key sectors in the Mediterranean, such as energy, industry, tourism, transport, and agriculture, given their major role in the context of interaction between trade and the environment.

In the medium-term, information collection and analysis will work in other directions, in particular concerning:

- Businesses, their associations and other partners (NGOs, etc.) which can play a fundamental role in contributing to the synergy required between free trade and the environment, and thus to a successful transition,
- The regional Euro-Mediterranean level which must adopt the means for understanding, follow up and action (particularly conflict solving), which are essential if the free trade/environment relationship is to be correctly managed,

- The free trade related trends in patterns of production, consumption and transport and their global impact on the environment,
- The need for capacity-building (of various types) so that the different actors can better manage the free trade/environment relationship (policy shaping, technology supply, information, training...),
- The issues, mechanisms and means of financing environmental policies and programmes within the framework of free trade and the Euro-Mediterranean partnership in particular, with an eye to mobilising and making the best possible use of available international funds, particularly the MEDA programme, but also of national, public and private sources (business and local communities).

Given the means available at present, the group stresses that more will be needed in order to bring this work to fruition, and calls on the support of the members of the MCSD to this end.

INDUSTRY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Proposals as submitted to Monaco meeting (not amended by task managers)

1. Industry outreach

1.1 Develop a two-way dialogue with key industrial associations in countries with the aim to discuss their role in encouraging industries to adopt prevention and eco-efficiency approaches, and to diffuse environmental information to members in view of implementation of SAP. This dialogue can initially be developed by augmenting existing meetings and forums, and then be further expanded according to needs.

1.2 Preparation of a document on regional assessment by summarizing existing knowledge of industrial pollution related to the:

- Importance of land-based sources vs. direct.
- Importance of TPBs.
- Importance of SMEs vs. big companies.
- Estimation of damage costs, etc.

2. Exchange of information

2.1 Develop a regional Internet information system of key contacts and information sources regarding industrial pollution prevention, eco-efficiency and energy saving. Links this with other international systems, e.g. UNEP, UNIDO and E.U., to create a network that regional experts and stakeholders can easily use to find their information.

2.2 Promote the collection of national case studies of cleaner production and good environmental management in order to share regional experience.

3. Capacity-building for “actors for improvement”

3.1 Training workshop for organizations that manage large industrial zones to focus on their role in promoting the application of environmental management and decision support systems at their local level.

3.2 Seminar for engineering faculties in key universities to encourage them to integrate sustainable development, eco-efficiency and cleaner production into the training of their graduates.

3.3 Initiate through local partners, at national level, seminars and workshops to train trainers on:

- eco-efficiency and environmental management systems;
- decision support systems for industrial sustainable development in relation to monitoring and the establishment and management of large industrial areas;
- how to develop a mix of regulatory and voluntary agreement concerning industry.

3.4 Organize round-tables for:

- regional cleaner production centres, and
- consumer associations.

All the above points can be interpreted as recommendations for the future work of the Thematic Group which will meet immediately before the next MCSD Session to discuss further, and, in case, to seek the agreement of the Commission to orient activities in this direction.

URBAN AND RURAL MANAGEMENT

Proposals from the Urban and Rural management Working Group are not presented here as it was decided to focus, from now on, on the Urban management issues.

MANAGEMENT OF WATER DEMAND

Proposals as presented at the Monaco meeting (for information purpose only as it was decided that the MCSD will not follow-up the recommendations to the Contracting Parties)

Programme of activities

The follow-up to MCSD activity should lead to an initial assessment of strategies implemented in the Mediterranean aiming at better demand management.

To achieve this, the idea is to make a first assessment in the Mediterranean of water demand management strategies already being implemented, and any experience which has been built up, particularly in the agricultural and urban sectors.

This evaluation would be made at two levels and would hinge on the following activities:

1. At regional level:

A regional assessment of available information on strategies of better water demand management being applied in the Mediterranean. This would be drawn up by the Blue Plan in cooperation with PAP and would basically entail:

- a bibliographic assessment
- an interview with international bodies
- a number of case studies

The most salient issues in terms of better demand management in the Mediterranean should emerge from this assessment (policies being implemented, interaction with the different sectoral policies, constraints and limits on implementation,...) which could be presented at the next MCSD meeting in 1999.

The use of case studies would essentially look for identifying the conditions governing the choice of different alternatives for better demand management could be identified, as well as what each alternative would entail (volume of water which could be saved, cost-benefit analysis, implementing conditions). They should be selected from each of the four groups of countries defined by the MCSD working party. The idea is to start with Tunisia to establish the methodology, which would then be reproduced for other case studies.

On this aspect, to take account of experience built up by many bodies which are specialised in the water sector it is proposed that there should be close cooperation with such experts: international institutions (FAO, European Commission, EIB, World Bank, CIHEAM, World Water Institute, the SEMIDE Network), and that the work done by the Blue Plan amongst others (METAP programme, indicators) should be drawn on.

2. At country level : an analysis of water demand management policies

For two countries (Tunisia, Lebanon), a more in-depth analysis of policies influencing water demand management will be drawn up:

definition of a methodology for assessing water demand management strategies (definition of indicators and the terms of reference for national studies;) documentary study in the country, a critical analysis of the policy/policies which influence water demand, describing:

- the present situation: physical, human and economic context of water management.
- the institutions involved in water management and how they go about it: the different actors directly or indirectly involved with water management, their scope of intervention and their means of action.
- issues raised by water management based on national prospective analyses.
- present and planned national strategies: aims, priorities, action programmes, cost and financing of policies, international cooperation.
- assessment.

For this section, France (the Water Directorate, Agence de l'Eau Rhone Mediterranee-Corse) has been approached with a request for funding which is at present being studied. Further sources of funding could be helpful, and for this the assistance of the members of the MCSD is required. National studies could be contracted out to national consultants under Blue Plan coordination.

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL ZONES (subject not discussed)

(for information purpose only as it was decided that the MCSD will not follow-up the recommendations to the Contracting Parties)

FUTURE PROPOSALS

It is proposed that a regular follow-up system for MCSD recommendations should be set up in order to identify the limits and difficulties encountered as well as the progress made by the Mediterranean countries in implementing these recommendations.

Moreover, the MCSD has recommended the use of demonstration projects on integrated management of coastal zones. To this end, it is proposed that those CAMPs now under preparation should focus on pilot projects, drawing on the experience acquired in the Mediterranean region. If the financial resources are available, further projects could well be proposed in different regions of the Mediterranean.

The level of progress reached by the various Mediterranean CAMPs is as follows:

1. Current CAMPs:

- Sfax, Tunisia, foreseeable closure by late 1998.
- Fuka Matrouh, Egypt, foreseeable closure by late 1998.
- Israel, foreseeable closure in 1999.

2. CAMP in preparation phase:

- Al Hoceima: given the large amount of preparatory work already achieved, the project document should be drawn up and the agreement signed given during the autumn so that the CAMP's activities may begin in January 1999 at the latest.
- Algeria: a local institute recently completed a major feasibility study. It is at present being revised by the Coordinating Unit and the MAP centres, the aim being to launch the CAMP's activities during the first quarter of 1999.
- Lebanon: discussions have already been held with the Lebanese authorities. It was agreed that a coastal region south of Beirut would be chosen, probably between Saida and Tyr. A feasibility study should soon be launched so that activities can be implemented by mid 1999.

The proposal is therefore that a meeting of the working group on the sustainable management of coastal zones should be held in early 1999, with the participation of MAP's activity centres and the Coordinating Unit, with the aim of:

- steering the future work of the CAMPs in the light of the assessments already made,
- more clearly defining the sustainable development of coastal zones based on experience built up by the CAMPs,

- developing indicators of sustainable development of the coastal zones with the assistance of the PAP and the BP, in order to better follow trends in the usage of these zones and to establish how compatible they are with sustainable development.

The planned CAMPs programmes will also provide an opportunity to try out in situ the directives which are being drawn up on this theme. These directives could also serve as a basis for drawing up national strategies for integrated coastal management.

Moreover, the introduction of a follow up programme for existing CAMPs or those nearing completion is also proposed (Split, Rhodes, Izmir, Syrian coast, Albanian coast, Fuka Matrouh, Sfax, Israeli coast) with an annual report being drafted for the MCSD. The aim of this programme will be to check whether the objectives of integrated planning have been respected. At national level, the setting up of interministerial commissions on coordination and follow up of CAMP implementation is recommended.

Finally, the time has come to reopen debate on the drafting of a protocol on the integrated management of coastal zones so that the various Mediterranean countries can be encouraged to promote integrated coastal management as an essential part of coastal protection.

Annex III

Appendix I	Statement of H.E Mr Ahmed Iraqi
Appendix II	Statement of H.S.H the Hereditary Prince Albert
Appendix III	Statement of H.E Mr Mohamed Mehdi Mlika

**Statement of H.E Mr Ahmed Iraqi, at the opening of the 4th meeting of the
Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
Monaco, 20-22 October, 1998**

H.S.H the Hereditary Prince,
Ministers,
Members of the MCSD,
Colleagues,

It is with great emotion and pleasure that I open the 4th meeting of the MCSD. It also gives me the perfect opportunity to thank the Monegasque authorities for their warm and efficient welcome.

This is also an opportunity to assess the activity of the MCSD since it was set up in Rabat back in December 1996, before I go on to make some suggestions for the future.

In less than two years our Commission has adopted its rules of procedure and a method of work based on originality, clarity, and synergy between the task managers, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, and the MAP support centres. As a result, eight working themes have already been adopted, and specific recommendations have been made on 2 of them- water demand management and the sustainable development of coastal zones.

These facts prove how well-founded was the decision to set up a regional commission for sustainable development for the Mediterranean. By considerably extending the scope of MAP's competence, and drawing on the Barcelona Convention's solid legal framework, the MCSD has already proven its ability to fulfil its remit.

There are three important points which I would like to stress in this respect:

- 1) The commission has not flinched from tackling the "hot" issues in the region, such as tourism in sustainable development or free trade and the environment.
- 2) MAP's field of expertise has been enhanced by the input from many experts on specific themes.
- 3) Our national delegations have shown their capacity to involve the competent administrations in their work in order to develop a genuine inter-ministerial approach to questions of sustainable development.

H.S.H the Hereditary Prince,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

These achievements are the fruit of the tireless efforts made by the members of the outgoing bureau. They have earned our thanks. I would also like to thank the MAP Coordinating Unit, the regional activity centres, the task managers, the working groups, and the countries which help to finance the work of our commission.

The Kingdom of Morocco had the honor of chairing the commission under this mandate, which is now coming to a close. But before I hand over to the President whom you are going to choose, I would like to:

- reconfirm our commitment not only to the Mediterranean, but also to the values of civilization which she represents;
- mention the problems related to the scope of our work, its visibility and therefore our efficiency.

The original way in which our commission is composed, placing representatives of governments, environmental NGOs, local authorities, and socio-economic actors on an equal footing, is an asset. The same goes for our identity as an advisory body. We must put this duality to good use on two fronts:

- 1) Our forum must become autonomous. This is essential if discussions within the MCSD are to avoid becoming stilted, and can tackle questions of sustainable development and the environment with the sole aim of ensuring the well-being of populations, the protection of natural resources and the elimination of pollution.
- 2) Our recommendations must be widely circulated amongst all interested actors and partners. Our secretariat should ensure their implementation and follow-up.

Before I close, I would like to put to you some proposals for improving the MCSD's work in the light of our experience over the first two years of its existence.

- 1) MCSD recommendations must become specific projects to be financed either within the framework of MAP, or within that of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership or other sponsors. Cooperation should also be encouraged between Mediterranean local authorities and the exchange of their experience in the different areas of sustainable development facilitated. A regular follow-up system for MCSD recommendations must be introduced. This system will allow the progress made and any difficulties encountered by the different countries in implementing the recommendations to be tracked.
- 2) The exchange of data and experience between Mediterranean countries in the field of sustainable development should be encouraged, using a Mediterranean level information network. Apart from having access to national data, which allows them to assess the impact of their policies on the environment, these countries should also be able to draw on regional information which could help them to shape their own strategies.
- 3) The possibility of setting-up national follow-up committees for MCSD recommendations within the Mediterranean countries should be looked into, so that all partners can be involved, the work of the MCSD can be validated as broadly as possible, and its implementation guaranteed.
- 4) The links and synergies between the different working groups should be strengthened to avoid overlapping and squandering of energy and resources. The roles of the task managers, activity centres and the secretariat also need to be clarified so that everyone concerned can become more aware of their responsibilities and activities can be better coordinated. Finally, the role of the task managers and the working groups in the contracting parties more generally requires clarification.

I could not close my speech without raising the question of the financing of our commission. It is an issue which will raise its head in structural terms in the future. The coordinating unit should make a detailed report on the funding of MCSD activities at the next meeting of the Contracting Parties.

In closing, allow me once again to reiterate my country's support for the efforts being made by all the instances of the Mediterranean Action Plan towards harmonious development in our Mediterranean region.

I hope that this meeting may act as a new starting point for the forging of a genuine, dynamic and fair partnership in the Mediterranean basin, able to face up to the challenges of the 21st century.

I wish every success to the President you will choose, in the interest of our common ideals.

Thank you.

**Statement of H.S.H. The Hereditary Prince Albert at the opening of the
4th meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
Monaco, 20-22 October, 1998**

Mr. President,
Ministers,
Mr. Coordinator,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am genuinely delighted to be able to welcome the Fourth Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development here in Monaco today.

The Commission was set up in 1996 to assist in the implementation in the Mediterranean Basin of a process of sustainable development prompted by Agenda 21 as adapted for our region by the Med 21 document. I have no doubts that the work which it has since undertaken will play a determining role in the long term development of our countries, which is so closely tied in with the future of this, our common sea.

The recommendations which you have already made to the participating states on questions of sustainable management of the coastal zones, and demand for freshwater, relate to subjects which are of vital importance to our future.

As for the issues which you will be discussing over the coming days, in particular the links between tourism, but also industry, and sustainable development, they too are essential.

Yet apart from the inevitable reflection and recommendation, I would today, through you, like to address all those people in the Mediterranean region in the private and public sector alike, who are called upon to take decisions.

I was privileged to be in on the Rio process from the outset, taking part initially in the 1992 Earth Summit alongside my father, the Crown Prince, and subsequently last year in the Extraordinary Session of the United Nations General Assembly, which was to study and provide an overall assessment of how Agenda 21 was being implemented. When I stood up before the General Assembly, I questioned whether we had cause to be satisfied with what had been done since Rio, and expressed my doubts about the results achieved, particularly in terms of the level of public development aid from "Northern" countries, and of technological transfer.

On that occasion, before that global Assembly, I put forward the example of our Mediterranean region, in terms both of its successes, and its shortcomings.

The successes include the dawning of a real regional awareness in the environment and development sector, an awareness which is illustrated by your very Commission.

This awareness aside, however, so many things remain to be done if future generations around the whole of the Mediterranean are to flourish, without their future being undermined by the actions we take today.

As you are no doubt aware, within the limits of its size and capacity, Monaco has long been striving to raise awareness of environmental problems and development, more particularly in the maritime sector.

In a few months' time, we will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Prince Albert 1st, my grandfather, who was a pioneer in the protection of marine, but also land diversity, which is a less widely known fact. At the beginning of this century, he helped to promote the first natural parks.

More recently, in the early 70s, my father, within the framework of the International Commission for the Scientific Exploitation of the Mediterranean (CISEM), sounded the alarm on pollution in this closed sea. His action resulted in particular in the signing and implementation of the RAMOGE Agreement. This opened the eyes of our sub-region to environmental issues, and led to most of the problems of marine pollution of human origin being solved, particularly through increasing the number of treatment plants for domestic and industrial wastewater.

Today in the field of protection of biodiversity, Monaco, along with our French and Italian neighbours, is striving to complete the project for the Corsican-Ligurian-Provencal Marine Sanctuary. In similar vein it runs the Secretariat for the Agreement on the Protection of Mediterranean and Black Sea Cetaceans.

By setting up this Commission, Mediterranean countries were taking up the challenge of involving other players from the development field in a process which was initially reserved for Governments.

I feel that the wager has been almost won because, apart from the non-governmental organisations which have long been cooperating with the Mediterranean Action Plan, the involvement of new partners, be they local authorities or representatives of socio-economic organisations, has proved its worth.

Mr. President, you are faced with a daunting task, but once again it is essential that this work be brought to a successful conclusion. The degree of interdependency between countries is such in the field of the environment in general, but even more so within our region, that only international cooperation open to all can bring about its sustainable development. That is why I sincerely hope that your work will be crowned with success.

I thank you for your attention.

**Statement of H.E. Mr Mohamed Mehdi MLIKA at the opening of the
4th meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
Monaco, 20-22 October, 1998**

H.S.H the Hereditary Prince Albert,
Mr. Minister,
Secretary of State,
Coordinator of MAP,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by thanking the Monegasque authorities, led by H.S.H Prince Rainier and H.S.H the Hereditary Prince Albert, who have honoured us by opening our meeting. I would like to thank them for the warmth of their welcome and their hospitality in this beautiful country.

I would also like to thank the entire MAP Coordinating Unit, headed by Mr. Chabason, which always prepares our meetings so well.

I would like to thank all of you, for the trust which you have placed in me in choosing me as President of the MCSD. I will do everything within my power to ensure that the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, to which I am totally committed, particularly since it was launched in Tunis, continues to make headway and to provide our region with specific solutions to our environmental and development-related problems.

Of course I cannot complete my words of thanks without mentioning those who have presided over the MCSD before me, His Excellency Dr. Nouredine Ben Omar Alami and Mr. Ennabli, who have done such excellent work in setting up the Commission and bringing it up to cruising speed.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before tackling the business in hand, on my own behalf, that of the Tunisian delegation and, with your permission, that of all of us here, I would like to pay my deepest respects to our friend, Mr. Joachim Ross, who left us so tragically.

Mr. Ross was one of the key figures in the shaping of the Barcelona Convention, and a central player in its amendment.

I would like to extend my sincere sympathy to the Spanish delegation (and would ask you all to rise and observe one minute's silence in memory of Mr. Ross).

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The post-Rio period sparked off a genuine desire in our Mediterranean region to bring about sustainable development. Since it was set up in 1995, the MCSD has adopted its rules of procedure, which can only be described as unique, since this body represents both States and civil society, and is now meeting in full format.

The MCSD has also selected some very relevant themes- themes, which are vital to our region: water, soil, the coastline, urban and rural areas, tourism, industry.... In other words, resources which are scarce and run-down in most of our countries, whilst at the same time demand is rising, and in many sectors means of production and consumption are not sustainable in the long term.

This is why the themes which are at present being studied by our Commission, and the recommendations which will ensue must help people to understand the intrinsic nature of the links which exist between the protection and sensible management of the environment, and economic growth in our countries, both now and in the future.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The work which we have been doing within the Mediterranean region for more than two decades, strengthened by the revision of the Barcelona Convention and everything which has stemmed from it, in other words MAP II, the MCSD, and Agenda Med 21, is quite remarkable.

But we must continue to forge ahead. To do so, we need to follow-up our work within the MCSD. The recommendations and results, which we achieve on our chosen themes, must filter through to our countries and the decision takers.

If needs be we should also find ways to assist these countries in implementing the recommendations on the eight themes which we rightly believe are priorities in our region.

Why not draw up 8 action plans along the lines of the S.A.P, which was adopted last November in Tunis, at the Tenth Meeting of Contracting Parties? We could work together on the financing plan which, whilst involving national budgets, would also call on external funding for certain budget lines.

This is one possibility which should be looked into. Or we could also look for others. What is important, though, is that the MCSD's recommendations should not remain a dead letter. We will have achieved success only once we have applied them in our countries.

As far as Tunisia is concerned, we have started to implement the recommendations adopted on the first two themes- water and the coasts. In actual fact, our concerns in these fields date even further back. We are striving to manage our scarce water resources, and management of this precious resource inevitably means economy measures. As for the coastline, a vital area for Tunisia, in 1995 we set up an Agency for the Protection and Planning of the Coastline in order to bring about rational management of this development field.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Mediterranean is a wealthy area in many respects; an area where rather serious conflicts have always existed.

My wish, which I am sure you would all echo, is that our meetings within MAP and at Euro-Mediterranean level may help to ease this conflict, and to bring us closer together, so that we can work together to build a better future for ourselves, our children, and for future generations.