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29th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Teleconference, 13 July 2016

Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP
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I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The 29th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held by teleconference, on 13 July 2016. The meeting was chaired by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator and attended by the Heads of all MAP Components (apart from the Head of Office of REMPEC that was represented by Mr. Malek Smaoui, Programme Officer, OPRC), as well as the UNEP/MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 11.00 and introduced the provisional agenda.

II. Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

3. The Coordinator welcomed the ECP members and thanked them for their continuous cooperation.
4. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda that was prepared by the Secretariat, document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.29/1. The participants addressed all items of the Agenda during their two and a half hours meeting.

III. Agenda item 3: Follow-up to the 28th ECP meeting

5. The Coordinator presented a brief overview of the follow-up to the 28th ECP meeting. He informed ECP members that most items had been already put in motion, while several others needed to be initiated.
6. The Coordinator gave the floor to all ECP members and discussed progress and actions to be taken in the near future.
7. The Coordinator thanked MAP Components that sent their Project Fiches to the Coordinating Unit, while reminding that Project Fiches from all components must be ready by 22 July 2016. He also referred to the document prepared by Plan Bleu entitled “Guidelines towards a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Tourism”, reminding that comments are expected by the end of July.
8. MED POL addressed ECP members in regard to developing a methodology for indicators clarifying that these will be related only to the Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) and not the Ecosystem Approach.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Send to Plan Bleu comments on the “Guidelines towards a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Tourism”	CU and MAP Components	End of July
2.	Development of an online BCRS tutorial	INFO/RAC	
3.	Send feedback to CU on MAP PPT prepared by the Coordinator	MAP components	If any
4.	Fill and send Project Fiches to CU	MAP components	22 July 2016
5.	Finalize a common reporting template, as agreed by ECP28	REMPEC and MEDPOL	Before 83 rd Bureau meeting

IV. Agenda item 4: Implementation of the PoW 2016-2017

9. The meeting examined the status of implementation of the PoW 2016-2017 (Decision IG.22/20). The Coordinator thanked the MAP Components for submitting the updated MAP Planning and Priorities Tables and noted that the Secretariat will come back to the ECP members with the compiled Tables.
10. The Coordinator gave the floor to all ECP members and discussed progress on the implementation of the PoW 2016-2017 and actions to be taken in the near future.
11. PAP/RAC informed on the Regional Framework on ICZM current preparations, on the collaboration with INFO/RAC regarding the ICZM platform and on the Coast Day event prepared in collaboration with SCP/RAC in Barcelona. SCP/RAC referred to the projects in which it is involved as implementing organization, while INFO/RAC referred to the shortage of resources.
12. Plan Bleu referred to the MCSD peer-review process and also noted that it would be useful to include activities on tourism within the work plan of each MAP Component. It was agreed to dedicate a one hour discussion on the issue of tourism, during the 30th ECP meeting.
13. A tour de table was initiated by the Coordinator for MAP Components to inform on main events with UNEP/MAP interest. A draft calendar of MAP events is to be sent electronically by the Secretariat to all ECP members. ECP members to insert updates in track mode and return the document to the Coordination Unit, by 22nd July 2016.
14. The Coordinator informed the meeting that from now on his mission reports would be shared with ECP members and invited the latter to do the same.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
6.	Prepare compiled MAP Planning and Priorities Tables	CU	August 2016
7.	Include an Agenda Item on Tourism in next ECP meeting	CU	September 2016
8.	Update calendars of events and submit them to CU	MAP Components	22 July 2016

V. Agenda item 5: Preparation of the Regional Framework on ICZM; engagement of all ECP members

15. The Director of PAP/RAC briefly introduced the RAC's proposal on elements to include and develop in the Regional Framework for ICZM (Decision IG.22/11). She also noted that the work on Maritime Spatial Planning should be closely linked to the ICZM Regional Framework and asked for relevant inputs.
16. The Coordinator asked for the RACs' inputs by the end of August, so that a substantial discussion can take place at the Regional Consultation meeting that will take place on 28-29 September 2016, in Barcelona, back to back with the Mediterranean Coast Day. The next step, after the Barcelona meeting, will be re-drafting and then presenting the document at the PAP/RAC NFPs meeting in April 2017 (Split, Croatia). It was noted that contributions have already been made by PB/RAC, while SPA/RAC informed that it will also contribute with elements on marine protected areas.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
9.	Comments on PAP/RAC's paper on elements to be included in the ICZM Regional Framework	MAP Components	Before end of August 2016
10.	PAP/RAC to develop and share with ECP the 1 st draft of the Regional Framework (before the Regional Consultation meeting)	PAP/RAC	September 2016

VI. Agenda item 6: Follow-up to the 82nd Bureau meeting and preparation for the 83rd Bureau meeting

17. The meeting followed-up on the conclusions and recommendations of the 82nd Bureau meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.82/7). It also discussed preparations for the 83rd Bureau meeting (Tirana, Albania, 25-26 October 2016).
18. The Coordinator noted that he will contact Contracting Parties, together with the President of the Bureau, to improve the number of ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. He will liaise with RAC Directors in order to ascertain "political opportunities" to contact Contracting Parties.
19. The Coordinator reminded ECP members that they need to report on the state of negotiations of each RAC's Host Country Agreement, following the 82nd Meeting of the Bureau. ECP members were asked to draft maximum two paragraphs on the challenges they face and on the introduction of the new template. It was agreed that this issue would also be discussed at the 30th ECP meeting (5-6 October 2016) in view of finalizing it at COP 20.
20. On the Assessment of MAPII, the Coordinator noted that the CU will draft the ToR of the Open-Ended Working Group following the COP 19 relevant decision. The ToR will then be sent to ECP for comments, before sent to the Bureau members in view of their 83rd meeting.
21. The Coordinator suggested the creation of a Task Force, with one representative from each MAP component, to deal with the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award and especially the award criteria. MAP Components agreed.
22. The Coordinator noted that the 83rd Bureau Meeting will take place in Tirana, Albania (25-26 October 2016) and that contacts with the relevant Ministry in Albania were arranged for next week in order to discuss the 83rd Bureau meeting and COP 20 preparations (e.g. venue identification).
23. Finally, the Coordinator informed the ECP that the Bureau asked to be updated on the following issues: (a) Quality Status Report, (b) IMAP, (c) Resource Mobilization Strategy, (d) MSSD implementation, (e) new reporting format, (f) COP 20 preparations. He noted that the inputs of the MAP Components to the Progress Report to be submitted to the 83rd Bureau meeting are expected in August 2016 and that an email will be send to ECP members on the follow up to the 29th ECP meeting and related deadlines.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
11.	Report on challenges of Host Country Agreement and on introduction of new template (max. 2 paragraphs)	MAP components	17 August 2016

12.	Assessment of MAP II (ToR for OEWG)	CU	End of August 2016
13.	Appoint representatives to Task Force for the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award	MAP Components	August 2016
14.	Input to Progress Report for 83 rd Bureau meeting	MAP Components	17 August 2016
15.	Follow-up email/s on issues discussed in 29 th ECP meeting	CU	22 July 2016

VII. Agenda item 7: Preliminary discussion on COP 20

24. A first discussion on the possible theme and expected outcome of COP 20 (5-8 December 2017 [tbc], Tirana, Albania) took place. The Coordinator reminded components that this could refer to a thematic subject, such as sustainable tourism, but also to a subject closely linked to the legal framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, such the ICZM/Maritime Spatial Planning framework or a more horizontal theme, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and their implementation. The Coordinator mentioned that a COP 20 thematic subject could also lead to the organization of a ministerial debate or a report that could be issued at that time, as well as to an exhibition and/or a side event. He urged components to a round of consultations by email to be sent to the Coordinating Unit, with ideas on possible COP 20 themes.
25. The Coordinator informed components of the possible need to change the dates of COP 20, as it overlaps with the recently announced dates of UNEA's 3rd session.
26. One ECP member asked the Coordinator on the possibility of organizing side events on behalf of UNEP/MAP at international meetings. The Coordinator replied that this was a good idea if the logistics and the capacity for such actions were available. PB/RAC and SPA/RAC referred to two such opportunities, namely the UNFCCC COP 22 (7-18/11/2016, Marrakech, Morocco) and the 2016 Mediterranean MPA Forum (28/11-1/12/2016, Tangiers, Morocco).

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
16.	Ideas on possible COP 20 themes to be sent to the CU	MAP Components	22 July 2016
17.	Proposals on UNEP/MAP side event organization during international meetings	BP/RAC, SPA/RAC	August 2016

VIII. Agenda item 8: Date and Venue of the 30th ECP meeting

27. The date and the venue of the 30th ECP Meeting was confirmed and will be hosted in Malta on 5-6 October 2016, back to back with REMPEC's 40th anniversary (4 October 2016). REMPEC will send out more information on logistical details for the 30th ECP Meeting by email, in due time.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
18.	Invitation and logistical details for REMPEC's 40 th anniversary and 30 th ECP meeting	REMPEC and CU	September 2016

IX. Agenda item 9: Any Other Matters

28. The meeting considered other issues which were also raised by its members. In this respect, the Coordinator referred to the following:

(a) GEF funded MedProgramme proposal

29. The Coordinator informed the ECP members that the actual submission of the Programme proposal to GEF will be on 29 July 2016.

(b) Update on Human Resources at the Coordinating Unit

30. The Coordinator informed the ECP members that the UNEP/MAP newly recruited Legal Officer is Ms. Luisa Rodriguez-Lucas and is expected on duty end of July 2016. He also briefed participants on the recruitment status of the Socio-Economic Affairs Officer as well as of the MED POL Programme Officer, Pollution.

(c) Quality Status Report

31. MED POL Programme Officer updated the ECP members on the progress regarding the Quality Status Report.

(d) Update of MAP and Components Focal Points lists

32. The Coordinator informed the ECP members that the Coordinating Unit plans to update all Focal Points lists and that for this purpose will get in touch with all ECP members as soon as possible to retrieve available information and ensure that existing lists are compliant with each other. Following the finalization of the lists, the Coordinating Unit and INFO/RAC will also look bilaterally on the update of relevant online lists.

33. One ECP member raised also the issue of proposing to COP 20 to have a three-years, rather than a two-years, cycle for the organization of COP meetings. The Coordinator suggested that a note should be drafted with strong arguments explaining to the Contracting Parties the pros and cons of such change. The Coordinator agreed to inform the Bureau on this issue, if such document is proposed.

X. Agenda item 10: Closure of the Meeting

34. The Meeting closed at 13.30

Annex I

List of participants

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL**MED POL**

Ms. Tatjana Hema
MED POL Programme Officer
Tel: +30 210 727 3115
Email: tatjana.hema@unepmap.gr

INFO/RAC

Mr. Claudio Maricchiolo
Director
Tel: +39 06 5007 2177
Email: claudio.maricchiolo@isprambiente.it

**PLAN BLEU REGIONAL
ACTIVITY CENTRE (PB/RAC)**

Ms. Anne France Didier
Director
Tel: +33 04 9238 7138
Email: afdidier@planbleu.org

**PRIORITY ACTIONS
PROGRAMME REGIONAL
ACTIVITY CENTRE (PAP/RAC)**

Ms. Zeljka Skaricic
Director
Tel: +385 2134 0471
Email: zeljka.skaricic@paprac.org

**REGIONAL MARINE
POLLUTION EMERGENCY
RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
(REMPEC)**

Mr. Malek Smaoui
Programme Officer (OPRC)
Tel: +356 2258 3113
Email: msmaoui@rempec.org

**SPECIALLY PROTECTED
AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY
CENTRE (SPA/RAC)**

Mr. Khalil Attia
Director
Tel: +216 7120 6649 or +216 7120 6851
Email: director@rac-spa.org

**SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION REGIONAL
ACTIVITY CENTRE (SCP/RAC)**

Mr. Enrique de Villamore Martin
Director
Tel: +34 9 3553 8792
Email: evillamore@scprac.org

**SECRETARIAT TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION COORDINATING UNIT OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

Mr. Gaetano Leone

Coordinator

Tel: +30 210 727 3101

Email: gaetano.leone@unepmap.gr

Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis

Programme Management Officer

Tel: +30 210 727 3132

Email: ilias.mavroeidis@unepmap.gr

Ms. Elli Sfyroeras

Programme Management Assistant

Tel: +30 210 727 3129

Email: elli.sfyroeras@unepmap.gr

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