



UNITED  
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UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.26/2



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UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

21 January 2016  
Original: English

26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Teleconference, 13 January 2016

**Report of the Meeting**

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2016

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## **I. Agenda item 1: Introduction**

1. The 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held through teleconference on 13 January 2016. The meeting was attended by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator, Deputy Coordinator, MED POL Programme Officer and the Directors of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs), namely the Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre (INFO/RAC), the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (PB/RAC), the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Activity Centre (SCP/RAC) and the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC). The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.

2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, MAP Coordinator opened the meeting and introduced the provisional agenda of the teleconference. He presented the main objectives of the meeting and its expected deliverables while welcoming the new Director of Plan Bleu (PB/RAC), Ms. Anne-France Didier and the UNEP/MAP Governance Unit new Programme assistant, Ms. Elli Sfyroeras.

## **II. Agenda item 2: Preparations of COP 19**

3. The Coordinator briefed the ECP on the status of COP 19 draft decisions.

4. The Coordinator confirmed that all the working documents for COP 19 in English and French were posted online by the deadline. Similarly, most of the information documents are already uploaded. All the remaining information documents as well as the working documents in Spanish and Arabic will be uploaded latest on Friday 22 January 2016. Additional documents requested by the Focal points, namely the resources mobilization update and the matrix on MPA will be ready by next week.

5. The Director of INFO/RAC informed the participants that the Italian government provided a new contribution to INFO/RAC. The Director of SCP/RAC, mentioned that he will contact the Ministry of Environment of Spain to confirm their contribution to the Centre. The UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator highlighted the need for this information to be communicated officially, preferably before the COP, in order to update the relevant table in the PoW and Budget document.

6. The Head of Office of REMPEC draw the attention on certain discrepancies in Table 1 and 3 of the PoW and Budget document. The UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator will look at it and will come back with clarification.

7. The Director of PAP/RAC, proposed to dedicate some time before the COP starts to discuss among the ECP members issues related to the PoW and Budget. It was agreed to hold an ECP meeting in the afternoon of Monday, 8 February 2016.

8. It was agreed that the ECP members will update their briefing notes submitted for the MAP Focal Points meeting last October and send them to the Secretariat latest on 27 January 2016. Further discussion will take place to see whether there is a need for the preparation of one slide per decision to be presented during the discussions at the COP.

9. The Coordinator stressed the need to mobilize the presence of Ministers/Senior Officials at the Ministerial segment of the COP and requested the ECP members to try to secure the

presence of their respective Host Country at the Ministerial level. He informed that we already have the confirmation of the presence of Algeria, Cyprus and Morocco at Ministerial level and probably, not yet confirmed, that of Egypt, Malta and Turkey. The Director of SPA/RAC informed the participants that he will probably be able to secure the presence of Tunisia at Ministerial level. However, due to recent elections and changes in the governments in Croatia and Spain, it might be difficult to secure Ministerial level attendance at COP 19.

10. An update on the venue, the space allocated for the parallel groups and side events was given by the Coordinator who invited the ECP members to bring with them materials/posters etc. to be displayed at the venue. Regarding the organization of a social event, the Coordinator informed the ECP colleagues that it would depend on the host country whether to have it or not. In case it is decided, it would probably be held during Day 3 of the COP, at the Ministerial session.

11. The Coordinator informed the members that Albania made an official offer to host COP 20 in 2017. He also informed that consultations are still ongoing with regard to the composition of the Bureau for COP 19 and the renewal of the Compliance Committee membership.

12. With regards to the request of Italy for more information regarding the Costing of the RACs, it was felt that the information submitted by the RACs to the Coordinating Unit is sufficient and may be shared with the Contracting Parties.

### **III. Agenda item 3: Reporting**

13. The UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator referred to the planning and priorities tables and informed the ECP members on the need to update them in the future on regular basis in order to use them as a monitoring tool. He agrees with the suggestion made by the Head of Office of REMPEC on the need to come up with a method that would facilitate the various reporting obligations by the RACs. The Director of INFO/RAC suggested to use the intranet established by INFO/RAC to upload these reports and update them regularly. It was agreed to have a detailed discussion at the next ECP after the COP.

### **IV. Agenda item 4: Calendar of ECP**

14. It was agreed to hold the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ECP in the afternoon of Monday 8 February 2016.

15. A survey will be sent to all the ECP members seeking their availability to hold the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting in Malta at the end of February/beginning of March 2016.

### **V. Agenda item 5: Any other issues**

16. The Coordinator briefed the ECP members on the recent letter received from the United Kingdom requesting information on the process for possible accession to the Barcelona Convention on behalf of Gibraltar. In this regard, he informed the participants of the upcoming 81<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Bureau on Monday 18 January to discuss this request.

17. The Coordinator closed the meeting at 5 p.m.

**Annex I**

**List of participants**

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## **Annex II**

### **Agenda**



## **Agenda**

- I. Agenda item 1: Introduction
  - a. Welcome Anne-France Didier
  - b. Welcome Elli Sfyroeras
  
- II. Agenda item 2: Preparations of COP 19
  - a. Status of decisions
  - b. Update on documentation
  - c. Briefing updates and Preparation of Power Points Presentations
  - d. Mobilization of Ministerial presence
  - e. RACs presence and role
  - f. Costing of RACs
  
- III. Agenda item 3: Reporting
  - a. Reporting facilitation
  - b. MAP Planning and Priorities Tables
  
- IV. Agenda item 4: Calendar of ECP
  
- V. Agenda item 5: Any other issues