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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Paris, France, 3-4 July 2012

PROPOSALS TO REASSIGN AVAILABLE FUNDING

PROPOSALS TO REASSIGN AVAILABLE FUNDING (REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, CHAPTER 5.1.)

Introduction

Further to item 5.1, para 33-36, page 10 raised under the "Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues", the Secretariat would like to provide further information on income scenarios and its implications for the continuation of contracts of staff under MAP Components until the end of 2012 as a consequence of the application of operational paragraph 16 of the Decision IG.20/14, "MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2012-2013 biennium", "*Authorize* the Coordinating Unit to make commitments up to 30 percent of the approved MTF operational budget on a temporary and exceptional basis until the operational reserve is built and to subsequently increase the commitments for the implementation of activities under the Programme of Work in line with the projected cash flow".

In addition, and further to operational paragraph 29 of the same decision, the Secretariat is making proposals so as to receive the guidance of the Bureau regarding temporary assignment of available funding.

1. Income Scenarios

a. Scenario 1 (75% collection rate) – Current situation

This scenario is based on contributions received to date amounting to 74.3% (4,118,549 Euros) plus another contribution of about 37,000 Euros.

b. Scenario 2 (85% collection rate) - Likely

This scenario assumes additional contributions for the amount of 590,935 Euros. The total collection rate under this scenario will sum up to 4,709,484 Euros.

c. Scenario 3 (95% collection rate) - Possible

This scenario assumes reaching the historical annual collection rate of 95% (5,263,541 Euros). It also corresponds to a scenario of collection of all 2012 pledges except those from countries facing acute political or economic instability. The additional amount to be collected to reach this scenario is 1,144,992 Euros.

d. Scenario 4 (100% collection rate) - Unlikely

This scenario implies that all pledges in arrears from 2011 and previous years are collected first.

2. Expenditure Scenarios

Scenario 1

Under this scenario, funds collected are sufficient to cover the salary costs of Coordinating Unit and MED POL for the whole 2012, but not for the RACs. The total additional amount required for covering the salary costs of the approved staffing tables of the RACs till the end of the year is 260,617 Euros. Funds could be temporarily assigned from the approved

budgets of the Coordinating Unit and MED POL to the RACs in order to allow for the extension of the staff contracts until the end of 2012 for all MAP components. This amount would comprise of:

- Savings achieved due to the release of the salary allocations for WHO staff, for the amount of 170,617 Euros;
- 90,000 Euros from managing co-financing to activities of Coordinating Unit and MED POL that also have other sources of finance:
 - 10,000 Euros from the Bureau Meeting;
 - 20,000 Euros from post of the GEF Administrative Assistant and conference services by temporary delay in MTF co-finance for UNEP/MAP GEF MedPartnership; and,
 - 60,000 Euros from MED POL activities under UNEP/MAP GEF MedPartnership by temporary delay in MTF co-finance.

The details of the abovementioned activities' references in PoW is attached in Annex 1.

Scenario 2 and 3

Under these scenarios, the funds would be sufficient to cover the salary costs of all MAP Components till the end of 2012 without any need for reallocation of funds between MAP Components.

3. Scenarios for 2013

It is quite likely that the contributions received by June 2013 will not be sufficient to cover salaries for the approved staffing tables of MAP for the whole year. While all efforts will be made to ensure early payment of contributions, the practice of late payments implies that unless measures are taken short term contracts will have to be issued for most MAP staff. Therefore, the Secretariat proposes that any additional funds unspent in 2012 and, if needed, additional amounts from the fund set aside for deficit recovery should be temporarily assigned to cover staff salaries up to July 2013.

4. Recommendations for the Bureau

The Bureau decides to

- Urge countries to pay 2012 contributions and pledges in arrears as soon as possible:
- Request MAP to allocate funds received to cover salary costs on a priority basis by allowing a temporary financial assignment from budget lines managed by CU and MED POL until the time the income materializes;
- Request MAP to freeze any recruitment under MTF until the financial situation improves; and,
- Authorize the Coordinating Unit to use any positive balance in 2012, including
 if needed, additional amounts from the fund set aside for deficit recovery,
 towards covering salaries of all MAP components up to July 2013, as a
 priority.

Annex I Temporary assignments' references in PoW

Reference to Budget and PoW	Description	Amount in EUR
Annex II (9b)	WHO P.Officer/Senior Scientist and WHO Secretary	170,617
Annex II (9a)	GEF Administrative Assistant	9,000
1.1.8	Effective coordination of the MedPartnership Project	11,000
1.1.1.2	3 Meetings of the Bureau successfully held; Progress achieved monitored, Guidance provided to the Secretariat, Working documents and reports distributed as per Rules of Procedure.	10,000
4.1.1.1	Preparation of assessment of the order of magnitude of nutrients from diffuse sources, Assessment prepared	35,000
4.2.1.1	Pollution reduction policy adopted related to tanneries, phosphogypsum, lube oils and lead batteries	20,000
4.2.4.2	Preparation of scenarios for EQS in relation with ELVs; Training of national experts on modelling	5,000
	TOTAL	260,617