

Introduction

1. In conformity with the recommendations to the Contracting Parties approved at the meeting held in Portoroz in November 2005, an open-ended working group of legal and technical experts (WG) is being set up to propose appropriate rules and procedures for the determination of liability and compensation for damage resulting from pollution of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea Area as provided for in Article 16 of the Barcelona Convention.

2. In this respect the Secretariat will convene the first meeting of the open-ended working group of legal and technical experts to propose appropriate rules and procedures for the determination of liability and compensation for damage resulting from pollution of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea Area, on 7-8 March 2006. The meeting will be held in Club Hotel Loutraki, 48 Posidonos Street, 20300 Loutraki, Greece (Tel: +30-27440-60300; Fax: +30-27440-60400). The main objective of the meeting is to discuss and reach conclusions with respect to the nature, format and main elements of the rules and procedures for the determination of liability and compensation for damage resulting from pollution of the marine environment in the Mediterranean sea area,

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

3. The meeting will be opened on 7 March 2006 at 09.30 hrs by the MAP Coordinator and will be closed at 18.00 hrs on 8 March 2006.

Agenda item 2: Election of Officers

4. In accordance with Rule 20 of the "Rules of Procedures of the Barcelona Convention", the Meeting will elect a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and organisation of work

5. The Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat was distributed as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.285/1 and its annotation is contained in the present document.

6. The meeting will review and adopt the proposed Provisional Agenda. A list of conclusions and recommendations will be adopted by the meeting whereas the full report of the meeting will be prepared and circulated for adoption by all participants at a later stage. Simultaneous English-French interpretation will be available for all sessions.

Agenda item 4: Presentation of the main findings of the "Feasibility study covering the legal, economic, financial and social aspects of a liability and compensation regime in the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal area"

7. The Secretariat will introduce the main findings of the Feasibility Study carried out during the last biennium (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/Inf.4). A review of existing global and regional regimes on liability and compensation, which might be relevant to MAP, will be carried out, pointing out any possibility for synergy and cooperation.

8. The meeting is expected to comment and provide or update, where appropriate, necessary information with respect to the status of participation of each Contracting Party in global or regional regimes on liability and compensation.

Agenda item 5: **Brief presentations by Members of the Working Group on the existing systems being applied on liability and compensation**

9. The members of the Working Group will be invited to make brief presentations with respect to the existing systems being applied on liability and compensation.

Agenda item 6: **Introduction and discussion of possible recommendations with respect to the formulation and adoption of appropriate rules and procedures for the determination of liability and compensation for damage resulting from pollution of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea Area**

10. The Secretariat will introduce document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.285/3, "Summary of Previous Work on Liability and Compensation within the Framework of UNEP/MAP-Findings, Recommendations and Next Steps" .

11. The meeting is expected to engage in a discussion of the findings, conclusions and recommendations as contained in the above document and to make its own proposals and provide advice to the Secretariat on the main directions of the future work for the elaboration of a first draft set of rules and procedures conforming to the requirements of Article 16 of the amended Barcelona Convention.

Agenda item 7 : **Adoption of conclusions and recommendations**

12. The Secretariat will present the main conclusions and recommendations of the meeting for adoption by the Working Group.

Agenda item 8 : **Any other business**

13. The meeting will discuss any other issue that might arise.

Agenda item 9: **Closure of the meeting**

14. The meeting will be adjourned at 18.00 hours on 8 March 2006.

TIME TABLE

Tuesday 7 March 2006

09.00 – 09.30	Registration	
09.30 – 09.45	Opening of the meeting Organization of Work and Adoption of the Agenda	Agenda items 1, 2 and 3
09.45 – 11.00	Presentation of the “Feasibility study covering the legal, economic, financial and social aspects of a liability and compensation regime in the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal area”	Agenda item 4
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break	
11.30 – 13.00	Discussion	Agenda item 4
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch Break	
14.30 – 16.00	Brief presentations by members of the Working Group on existing systems on liability and compensation being applied	Agenda item 5
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee Break	
16.30 – 18.00	Introduction and discussion of possible recommendations with respect to the formulation and adoption of appropriate rules and procedures for the determination of liability and compensation for damage resulting from pollution of the marine environment in the Mediterranean sea area	Agenda item 6

Wednesday 8 March 2006

09.30 – 11.00	Introduction and discussion of possible recommendations with respect to the formulation and adoption of appropriate rules and procedures for the determination of liability and compensation for damage resulting from pollution of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea area	Agenda item 6 continued
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break	
11.30 – 13.00	Discussions continued	Agenda item 6
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch Break	
14.30 – 15.30	(No plenary; Preparation of Recommendations by the Secretariat)	

15.30-16.00	Coffee break	
16.00 – 18.00	Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations by the Working Group	Agenda item 7
18.00	Any other business, Closure of the Meeting	Agenda items 8 and 9