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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN  
BLUE PLAN REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTER

Ninth meeting of the National  
Coordinators for the Blue Plan

Sophia Antipolis, 22-23 October 1992

Report of the Ninth Meeting of the  
National Coordinators for the Blue Plan



UNEP  
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## Introduction

1. The Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its related protocols, held in Cairo from 8 to 11 October 1991, recommended that a meeting of the National Co-ordinators for the Blue Plan be convened in 1992.
2. In conformity with the above mentioned decision, the Ninth Meeting of the National Co-ordinators for the Blue Plan was convened by the Director of the Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre for the Mediterranean in Sophia Antipolis on October 22 and 23 , 1992. The main objectives entailed the revision of on-going activities and setting up of activity orientations for 1993.

## Participation

3. National Co-ordinators for the Blue Plan and/or the representatives of 12 Contracting Parties (Albania, Algeria, EEC, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Tunisia, Turkey) took part in the meeting. The Republic of Croatia was represented by an observer. The Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan and the representative of the Regional Activity Centre for the Priority Action Programme (RAC/PAP) also attended the Meeting. The complete list of participants is attached as Annex 2 to this report.

## Item 1 of the Agenda - Opening of the Meeting

4. The Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan, Mr. Salvino Busuttill, welcomed the participants. In his opening speech the President of the Regional Activity Centre of the Blue Plan, Mr. Michel Batisse, underlined the interest of the Blue Plan as the world reference at the Conference of Rio, the Mediterranean being a microcosmic representation of the planetary situation. The Blue Plan, a pioneer institution, was highly appreciated in Rio, particularly thanks to the widespread distribution of its brochure.

If knowledge about the Blue Plan is increasing among decision-makers, it is evaluated differently according to the countries and people. Geopolitical changes modify the basis of its scenarios and make it necessary to periodically and continuously update the results of the analysis. In compliance with recommendations made by the Contracting Parties, the Blue Plan is involved in "to and fro" between global and local levels. Closer relations are being established with international institutions (World Bank, European Bank of Investment, EEC, etc...).

Concerning BP/RAC operations, Mr. Batisse confirmed the on-going support of French authorities. The Statutes of the Blue Plan were revised to fit the new orientation of its activities. As planned in the UNEP budget, BP/RAC personnel has been reinforced by the arrival of an expert from a

Southern Mediterranean country. Regarding Blue Plan publications, the main document on the future of the Mediterranean basin is available in several languages (French, English, Arabic, Spanish) as well as the Summary in Serbo-Croatian. Furthermore, six thematic fascicles (in French) have already been published and others are in preparation.

Mr. Batisse expressed his wish that the Meeting gives the Government representatives present the opportunity of voicing their evaluations of Blue Plan activities, as well as their hopes and requirements for the future.

The President of BP/RAC announced the visit of Mrs Segolène Royal, French Minister of the Environment. This visit will reinforce knowledge of the Blue Plan through the presence of press representatives.

#### **Item 2 of the Agenda - Rules of procedure**

5. The Participants to the Meeting were asked to observe that the deliberations would be carried out in conformity with procedures applied to meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its related protocols.

#### **2.2 - Election of the Bureau**

6. The Meeting unanimously elected the following Members:

President:	Mr. Mohamed ENNABLI (Tunisia)
Vice-President:	Mrs Nesrin ALGAN (Turkey)
	Maurizio ZAMPETTI (EEC)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Patrick VAN KLAVEREN (Monaco)

#### **Item 3 of the Agenda - Adoption of the agenda and work plan**

7. The Meeting approved the provisional agenda and work plan outlined in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.39/1.

#### **Item 4 of the Agenda - Progress Report of work achieved or undertaken in 1992, project of 1993 activities and related budget UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.39/3**

#### **4.1 - Reminder of guiding principles**

8. Mr. Glass recalled the guiding principles of BP/RAC activity orientations as defined during the Working Group Meeting held in April 1991 (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.27/1) which the participants did not see fit to modify.

#### **4.2.a - Pursuance of basin-level approaches**

9. The participants to the Meeting emphasized the interest of continuous scenario updates, and requested that BP/RAC prepare a fifteen page document describing the inflexions which have already been noticed for the fundamental parameters retained for the scenario hypotheses. This document would serve different purposes and is specifically designed to help Governments observe the evolution of the Mediterranean system ; it should enhance both the significant modifications and unchanged evolutions of the initial scenarios.

#### **4.2.b - Innovations - adaptation of the methodological approach of coastal scenarios**

10. The President requested from Mr. Glass that he make a presentation of the adaptation of systemic and prospective studies to coastal zones. He particularly insisted upon the need for evaluating the four coastal area management programmes in order to draw conclusions before initiating other projects. All new approach will have to be preceded by a feasibility study which will allow each regional activity centre to adopt its position according to the local situation. This will highlight, particularly, the degree of commitment of the national and local authorities especially for the elaboration of a CAMP type systemic and prospective study. The requesting country must clearly state the finality of the approach since environment/development strategies need to be critically analysed.

11. In this regard, due to the shortage of means available to BP/RAC and to ensure better comprehension and enlarge the practical scope of the approach, it would be useful to appoint a representative of national or local authorities having demonstrated interest in systemic and prospective approaches, to collaborate with the Blue Plan team for a certain period of time.

12. The participants mentioned that a long series (fifteen approximately) of CAMP activities were not necessarily the most efficient way to meet the needs of a country, in view of the limited budget allocated to these programmes. It will therefore be necessary to identify the objectives more clearly and to limit their number. In this regard, guiding principles will have to be prepared.

13. It is therefore essential to ensure that Coastal Area Development Programme be considered at the national level, not only by the authorities responsible of the Environment, but also by those in charge of the Land-use Management and of the Development, without which there is no efficient response to environment/development issues. This need should be translated in the elaboration of procedures which will be submitted to the Contracting Parties, to avoid all political ambiguities and enhance the new CAMP design.

14. The participants recognized the interest of the feasibility study clarifying the political commitment of requesting country authorities and retains the idea of guiding principles to establish future CAMP frameworks.

15. The representative of the Republic of Croatia, sitting in as an observer, stressed his interest in the scenarios and expressed his desire to start cooperating with the Blue Plan as soon as the procedure of notification to the Convention of Barcelona is complete, the ratification instruments having already been sent to Madrid.

16. The representative from Albania expressed the interest of his Government for the CAMP approach and his wish that close privileged co-operation with the Blue Plan be implemented.

#### **4.3 - Improvement of the Database and Observation function**

17. Following the presentation on the database and on the Observation function by BP/RAC Director, the EEC representative confirmed the interest of the EEC in the support and reinforcement of this function which would give the countries involved the necessary tools for their own development, compatible with the CORINE system. This Observation function would constitute a Mediterranean relay between the future European Environment Agency (EEA) and the Mediterranean countries. The Community would be prepared to finance the initial stage of the implementation of this tool and will reexamine the situation in terms of results.

18. In this respect, the participants considered the following principles as important for the implementation of this task:

- Work in effective network rather than an isolated structure
- Ensure accessibility and transparency of the data base
- Collect existing data
- Establish environmental and sustainable development data and indicators in relation with the countries involved
- Contribute to evaluating costs and benefits of environmental policies
- Improve coastal zone data
- Work in association with Mediterranean statisticians
- Develop and mobilize national relays.

19. As a result to Contracting Parties recommendation at the Cairo meeting for collection and analysis of socio-economic and environmental data, together with data on appropriate technologies, a complementary proposition was made for data collection on clean technologies for their transfer to the Mediterranean region. The participants also considered the possibility of Blue Plan contribution to the development of similar functions in other countries and assurance of data homogeneity. In this regard, it appears judicious to define terms of reference to set up the appropriate data collection and processing structures in Mediterranean countries, using the available existing networks.

20. The participants therefore agreed to the implementation of the project retained by the EEC and requested that BP/RAC work in association with national partners.

#### **4.4 - Interactive prospective training**

21. Amongst the three recommended activities, the on site training workshop on prospective will be held in 1993, for budget reasons. Furthermore, a seminar-debate on Mediterranean prospective, held from October 19 to 21, 1992, included the presence of public decision-makers from the Ministries of the Environment and Development of six Mediterranean countries (Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey) as well as that of the Environment Development Centre for CEDARE and RAC/PAP. Ten top-notch experts discussed the systemic tools as well as the approaches undertaken at several levels. All participants underlined the interest of this seminar.

22. Concerning the elaboration of a manual on tools and systemic and prospective methodologies, team in charge and structure of the book are under consideration. The drafting team and the outline of the manual are currently being determined. The manual will be a collective operation of which BP/RAC will be the "core" in association with experts from other Mediterranean countries, and will be published by end 1993.

#### 4.5 - Publications - Communication

23. The brochure and fascicles scheduled in the 1992 programme have been published (the seventh fascicle on energy should be published by end 1992). To improve national distribution of these documents, the participants retained the need to increase budgetary means.

24. The production of fascicles will continue beyond 1993 and should include an addition on Mediterranean territorial collectivities.

#### 4.6 - 1992-1993 Budget

25. During their seventh meeting held in Cairo from October 8 to 11, 1991, the Contracting Parties approved a budget of \$491,000 for the Blue Plan in 1993 not including the French Government participation, in kind, which amounted to \$287,000 in 1992. They also agreed that the budget could include a 10% increase after comprehensive review by the Bureau, taking into account the impact of inflation and exchange rate movements in 1992, implementation of activities, and restructuring of the programme including examination of new priorities.

26. The Meeting of National Co-ordinators carefully examined the expenses engaged by BP/RAC in 1992 and forecasts for 1993. The participants observed that the devaluation of the dollar, reaching over 20% in comparison with the period in which budget propositions had been made, has considerably hampered the operations of the Blue Plan in 1992 and will continue to do so in 1993, even if exchange rates improve. They also noted the insufficiency of the "Travel" budget line initially scheduled in view of the need to increase direct contacts between BP/RAC and the Mediterranean countries. The participants finally requested that new operations as indicated in this report be initiated, involving :

- drafting a report on scenario updates, as well as preparing a prospective study specific to local collectivities and their role;
- increased participation in coastal scenarios;
- reinforcement of the Mediterranean environment observation and evaluation function.

27. The participants thereby recommend that a minimal increase of 10% be awarded to the global BP/RAC budget, it being understood that this amount will be allotted to the above-mentioned activities and to induced travel costs. They have specified that administrative expenses will not be increased and that the most cost-effective arrangements will be adopted for workshop organization and travel.

#### Item 5 of the Agenda - Miscellaneous

28. No issue was brought up for discussion in this field.

#### Item 6 of the Agenda - Adoption of the Report

29. The participants adopted the report on Friday, October 23, 1992.

**Item 7 of the Agenda - Closing of the Meeting**

30. The President expressed his thanks to the participants for their collaboration. Then, the BP/RAC Director declared how much he appreciated the active participation of the Governments representatives who attended this meeting. His main objective, shared by the Blue Plan team, was to act for the benefit of the Mediterranean basin. If this team could be reinforced in the future, it would be more capable to cope with the stakes.

31. The President declared the Meeting closed on Friday, October 23, 1992 at 5 pm..

## ANNEX I

**Recommendations**

The following recommendations were adopted:

I. The Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre will prepare a brief document describing the significant changes which have occurred since the scenarios were initially constructed, on the basis of the fundamental parameters retained in the basic hypotheses. Regarding the initial dimension "Space Management", participants recommend that the increasingly important role of territorial collectivities be examined.

II. Feasibility studies will be performed before any coastal area development programme is undertaken. The purpose of this study is to highlight the relevance of the selected zone in terms of environment/development issues and political and administrative acceptance. In particular, it is essential that the involved national and local authorities take an explicit stand in the CAMP approach by forming a multi-disciplinary team capable of ensuring the systemic and prospective approach.

III. The Mediterranean scope of global and thematic activities or localized ones, such as the coastal areas management programmes, should induce assistance from Mediterranean countries to stimulate co-operation (make available researchers, university teachers, equipment lending, studies and dissertations preparation, etc.)

IV. The observation and Mediterranean environment evaluation function driven by the EEC will have to closely collaborate with the Mediterranean countries and enhance through its network activities the existing structures. It will be based on a status of updated data while considering identified gaps, mainly in the environmental and coastal fields.

V. The global BP/RAC budget for 1993 will have to be increased by a minimal 10% to cover the devaluation of the dollar and its increasing activities. The presentation of budget lines will be improved and travel and subsistence costs reduced, in particular for the on site training workshops.



ANNEX II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENT

UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.39/1	Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work
UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.39/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.39/3	Progress Report on 1992 activities, proposed activities for 1993 and budgetary implications

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.39/Inf.1	List of documents
UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.39/Inf.2	List of participants
UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.39/Inf.3	Excerpt from the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Méditerranean Sea Against Pollution and its Related Protocoles - Annex IV. <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Recommandations approved by the Contracting Parties</li><li>2. Programme-Budget approved by the Contracting Parties</li></ol>

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.27/1	Report of the Working Group Meeting for the Orientation of the Activities of the Blue Plan, Sophia Antipolis, April 10-11, 1991
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## ANNEXE III

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