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Meeting of the Bureau of Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution.

Athens, 1st October 1982.

REPORT

1. The Bureau of the Contracting Parties met at the secretariat's new headquarters at 48 Leoforos Vassileos Constantinou, Athens, on the 1st October 1982 at 12 o'clock.

The President, His Excellency Mr. Giovanni Falchi (Italy), Mr. Serge Antoine (France) and the Rapporteur, Mr. Joseph Naggear (Lebanon) were present. Mr. Aldo Manos, Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), represented the secretariat at this meeting.

2. After visiting the new offices, the Bureau expressed its satisfaction to Mr. Manos for the excellent use of the space put at the disposal of the secretariat of the Contracting Parties, by the Greek Government. It approved the arrangements and the furnishings which had been chosen in consultation with the Bureau. The new headquarters will be inaugurated in the afternoon by Mr. Tolba, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in the presence of the Greek Minister for the Environment, His Excellency, Mr. Antonis Tritsis.

Mr. Manos then gave the Bureau an account of the secretariat's activities since the last meeting of the Bureau in Geneva, in June 1982.

3.1. General Activities

These activities were inevitably affected by the transfer of the Secretariat's headquarters from Geneva to Athens, namely:

- personnel problems of the transfer and housing of the permanent Geneva Bureau staff;
- administrative problems of recruiting local staff (7 officials have been recruited as agreed) which was considerably delayed, due to the difficulty of communication with UNEP in Nairobi, as a result of the troubles in Kenya.

- the move and equipment of the Athens offices.

3.2. MED-POL II

MED-POL officials were nevertheless able to accomplish several missions to member states, with a view to asking them to take part in MED-POL II. They were able to witness that structural and financial difficulties often appear at the time of a changeover from temporary and optional activity undertaken by research bodies (MED-POL I), to permanent monitoring activities which will become mandatory and routine with the enforcement of the Protocol on pollution from land based sources.

The attention of member states has been drawn to the need for permanent financial support of bodies capable of undertaking routine observation, as required by a permanent monitoring system of marine waters.

3.3. Blue Plan and Malta Centre

These two branches of the MAP have been continuing normally with their activities. Blue Plan seminars have been held in Paris and Barcelona.

3.4. The Split Centre

The activities of the PAP are being restructured according to the wishes expressed at the last meeting of the Contracting Parties in Geneva, in March 1982. PAP data will have to be collected from all member states, and the results of studies to be undertaken by the Centre with the object of harmonising, co-ordinating and making known the activities of the various member states in each of the fields in question, will have to be distributed to them.

The government of the host country and the town council of Split, have made great efforts to maintain and improve the material conditions of the Centre, and hope for corresponding support from the meeting of Contracting Parties. In view of the new orientation of the centre's activities, it is therefore suggested that an expert of a different nationality from the host country, be sent to give the centre the benefit of his experience and international contacts. To this end, Mr. Manos has proposed that Mr. Marinos Yeroulanos may assist the Centre on a part-time basis of two months per year.

3.5. Financial Situation

The present financial state is satisfactory, although the sum of US \$1,550,000 is still outstanding for 1982 and the preceding years. Present resources have made it possible to cover the expenses and functioning of MAP's current activities, with a residual balance of approximately \$340,000 (see attached table).

4. Future activities of the Secretariat

Mr. Manos then suggested a discussion of the secretariat's future activities and put forward several ideas to this end:

- continuing preparation of a protocol on off-shore drilling;
- development of a programme for the protection of coastal regions in the framework of the Protocol on Pollution from land based sources, by generalising impact assessment studies on the use of coastal areas;
- continuation of studying the possibility of an inter-state Guarantee Fund;
- integration of different aspects of the MAP's work and documentation.

5. Deliberations and decisions of the Bureau

Having heard the Co-ordinator's report, the Bureau held a discussion and made the following comments and decisions:

5.1. Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 1983

This meeting is to take place in Yugoslavia, at the end of February 1983, as was decided at the last meeting of the Parties in Geneva.

An approach will be made to ensure that necessary governmental decisions are taken by the host country.

If, for unforeseeable reasons, these decisions are not taken, the meeting will take place in Athens, the headquarters of the MAP's secretariat.

5.2. Next Meeting of the Bureau

The Bureau decided to hold its next meeting in Athens between the 5th and 8th December 1982, in order to examine the documents to be submitted to the ordinary meeting of the Parties in February 1983, and to prepare a draft agenda. Documents to be examined by the Bureau will be prepared

between now and the beginning of December, for this next meeting. The Bureau also wishes the report of its previous meeting to be distributed.

5.3. Programme of future activities to be put before the Meeting of the Contracting Parties

The programme of future activities and a corresponding draft budget for the years to come must be prepared, with enough variations to enable the Ordinary Meeting of the Parties to make a choice on the basis of the financial contributions which they are willing to make.

5.4. Rules on the use of budget credits

With regard to the management of the budget and incurring of expenditures when decisions are taken of general Mediterranean interest, (equipment, exchange of data systems, co-ordination, communications, structure of the secretariat), the Meeting of Contracting parties must be in a position to give its agreement either in the course of the plenary session, or through its Bureau, on the basis of the opinion of a technical advisory group, set up with the Bureau's approval. The same must be true for all large expenditures over and above a ceiling which is still to be fixed.

The Co-ordinator is asked to submit proposals to this effect at the next Bureau meeting.

5.5. Budget proposals for 1983-1984-1985

For its next meeting in December, the Bureau asks the Co-ordinator to prepare a complete and detailed financial statement of expenses incurred or to be incurred by the 31-12-85, as well as an estimate of expenses for the years 1983-1984-1985, with a view to determining proposals to be submitted at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

5.6. Support for the Split Centre

The Bureau approved the secretariat's proposal to support the Split Centre, within the framework of the budget. The provision of a part-time expert in the person of Mr. Marinos Yeroulanos, is approved in principle, by the Bureau.

6. Future Prospects

Having discussed the matter, the following priority points in the secretariat's future activities, were stressed by the Bureau.

6.1. Introduction of the Protocol on pollution from land based sources

The secretariat should urge Mediterranean countries towards a speedy ratification of the protocol on pollution from land based sources by the signatory states, and should promote the membership of all member states in this protocol.

6.2. Preparation for the implementation of Protocols already adopted

The secretariat should ensure the preparation and finalization of programmes, measures and application schedules provided under Articles 5, 6, and 7 of the Protocol on pollution from land based sources, with a view to submitting them to the Contracting parties.

It should do the same, in relation to the decisions to be taken by the Meetings of Contracting Parties, for the application of the four Protocols, already signed.

6.3. National Structures for combating Marine Pollution

Since responsibility for measures against marine pollution, especially of coastal waters and shorelines, lies with the member states, the secretariat, in its relations with these countries, should clarify the various aspects of this responsibility and insist that all measures against marine pollution should be co-ordinated under a single national organisation.

6.4. Mediterranean Monitoring Network

In order to give Article 8 of the Protocol on Pollution from land based sources its full force, the secretariat should encourage MED-POL II to set up a permanent monitoring network for the waters of the Mediterranean, for inland waters and for the high seas.

The secretariat should particularly try to ensure intercalibration and comparability of measurement taking and observation techniques used by the different stations of the Monitoring network. It should also ensure the exchange of data, between all the network's centres and the secretariat.

6.5. Participation of National bodies in the work of the MAP

The Bureau considers it essential to have a more direct and permanent participation on the part of the national bodies concerned, in the elaboration of studies, research, projects and programmes being prepared and executed under the auspices of the secretariat, in the framework of the MAP.

This particularly concerns the Blue Plan, the PAP, and the application documents of the Protocols.

6.6. The MAP and the support of public opinion

The Bureau considers that an essential condition for the success of the MAP lies in a suitable information effort, enabling the public through its support and action, to take part in the successful fight against pollution of the Mediterranean.

The secretariat ought to develop efforts and means of informing the governments and the public in member states to this effect. A systematic and well publicized effort ought to be made to circulate the application documents of the Protocols and to organise national seminars on issues raised by the MAP.

6.7. Co-operation with municipal bodies

The Bureau suggests to the secretariat that it should explore the possibility of interesting the towns of the Mediterranean basin in the MAP, and to contact all municipal bodies, or others, likely to co-operate in this work.

6.8. Co-ordination, stimulation and information

The Bureau stresses the essential role of the secretariat in the effort to safeguard the Mediterranean, which is to co-ordinate, stimulate and inform member states in the common action defined by the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

7. Joint UNEP and Bureau meeting

At the Co-ordinator's initiative, the Bureau will hold a joint session with UNEP's Executive Director, Dr. Tolba, and the MAP's co-ordinator, which will be attended by those responsible for the various activities of the MAP. This session will take place at 17:30 hours on the 1.10.82.

8. Inauguration ceremony of the new Headquarters

The new headquarters of the secretariat in Athens will be inaugurated by Dr. Tolba at 18:30 hours on the same day, in the presence of the Minister for the environment of the Greek government representing the Prime Minister. Dr. Tolba together with the Minister for the Environment and the Bureau's President of the Meeting of the Parties, H.E. Mr. Giovanni Falchi will speak on this occasion. The Bureau asks Mr. Manos to distribute the texts of the three speeches which will be made at this inauguration ceremony.

9. Closure of the meeting of the Bureau

The Meeting was closed at 13 hours.

Taking advantage of the presence in Athens, of the United Nations Environment Programme's Executive Director, Dr. Tolba, the Secretariat organised a joint meeting of the Bureau, Dr. Tolba, the MAP's Co-ordinator and those in charge of the centres and the various activities of the MAP. (Blue Plan, Malta, Split, MED-POL II).

1. In his speech, Dr. Tolba stressed the importance which he personally as well as UNEP, attached to the MAP and to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. He shared in this new affirmation of the will for joint Mediterranean action which was evident today in the installation of the secretariat in Athens, which enjoys the warm support of the Greek Government.

Dr. Tolba then stressed the fact that after six years of experience and research it was time for concrete action in fighting pollution, based on knowledge of the conditions of Mediterranean pollution, acquired from experience and research. The coastal countries must now use this data and undertake to fight pollution of the sea and the coasts. They must influence government decisions through prior impact assessment studies on all future use of this environment.

In conclusion, Dr. Tolba expressed the wish that action programmes and financial provisions to be decided by the Contracting Parties should be such, as to make it possible to achieve these aims.

2. Those in charge of various MAP actions then took the floor, briefly describing the progress of actions in each sector, the problems which have cropped up and future prospects. These statements developed the ideas put forward by Mr. Manos to the Bureau during the morning meeting.

3. The Bureau's President thanked Dr. Tolba for the valuable and efficient help given to the Mediterranean Programme by UNEP, and regretted that from the financial point of view, UNEP found itself having to withdraw its contribution to the programme's budget. He reiterated the determination of the Contracting Parties to carry on with their efforts to protect the Mediterranean, within the financial limits which the worldwide crisis imposed on everyone. However, financial resources would not be allowed to run down to beyond a critical threshold at which their efforts might be jeopardized.

4. Members of the Bureau then made statements, presenting observations and developing points which are summarised in the report of the morning session under points 5. and 6.

5. The meeting was closed at 18:30 hours.

State of the Special Fund for the Mediterranean on 30th September 1982

	(in US Dollars)
Contributions received	6,269,571
Interest	956,834
A. Total since 1979	<u>7,226,405</u>
Costs and commitments	5,593,858
Support costs for the programme	727,202
Commitments up for approval	500,290
Support costs for the programme	65,039
B. Total	<u>6,886,389</u>
C. Available (A - B)	<u><u>340,016</u></u>