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

Athens, 22 - 23 June 1984

REPORT

1. The Bureau met on 22 and 23 June 1984 as decided at their previous meeting during the Extraordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties (10 - 13 April 1984). The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Zivorad Kovacevic (Yugoslavia) and H.E. Mr. Mamdouh Abdel Razek (Egypt), Vice President and Mrs. Hedia Baccar (Tunisia) Rapporteur were also present. Mr. Joaquin Ros (Spain) Vice-President was unable to attend because of an urgent mission abroad.

The secretariat was represented by Mr. A. Manos, the Co-ordinator. The meeting was opened at 10.00 o'clock on 22 June and ended on 23 June 1984.

The Co-ordinator's report on activities from April to June 1984

2. Mr. Manos provided the Bureau with written and oral reports on the activities from the previous Bureau meeting to date.

3. The Bureau took note of the Co-ordinator's report and expressed appreciation for its presentation and content. In the course of the review of programme activities, the Bureau took the following decisions:

MED-POL

4. The up-dated survey of national legislation on land-based sources should be distributed in draft form to the Contracting Parties, before final publication.

5. Concern was expressed over the delay on the part of some coastal States in submitting their national monitoring programme. The President would address a letter to the countries concerned.

6. Jelly-fish programme. As required by the Contracting Parties meeting, the secretariat submitted a comprehensive programme for 1984 developed in consultation with interested countries, (France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Spain and Yugoslavia). The programme, and its budgetary allocation of \$ 99,500 was approved by the Bureau. A new programme will be developed for 1985 and further efforts will be made to involve coastal States from the South.

Co-ordination

7. Information activities. A working paper on information exchange was prepared by the secretariat as a first exchange of views on this subject. The Bureau approved the suggestion that the secretariat seek the views of a professional panel and requested that the paper, which it found comprehensive and realistic in its approach be circulated to the Contracting Parties to solicit their views and information on existing initiatives and programmes.

8. Equipment. The Bureau approved the Co-ordinator request to purchase in 1984 the plotter budgeted in 1985, after approval by UNEP's Committee on Contracts. It also took note that the delay in purchase of the interpretation cabins will result in a cost increase.

Meetings

9. The Bureau recommended that the joint meeting of Blue Plan and PAP Focal Points tentatively scheduled in February 1985, be held in Athens. Should a decision be made to continue such joint meetings, they could later be convened at Sophia Antipolis and Split in alternate years.

Blue Plan

10. The Bureau reviewed the recommendations of the Steering Committee as contained in the report of their first meeting (16-17 May 1984):

- approved the recommendation to designate Mr. Grenon as Scientific Director;
- reconfirmed its decision to have the research staff recruited by Medeas, following the procedures previously approved by the Bureau and endorsed by the Contracting Parties ;
- considered that the appointment of a senior consultant from the South had been a unanimous decision of the Contracting Parties which could not be reopened by the Steering Committee, which had been established to monitor activities according to the guidelines defined by Focal Points and the Contracting Parties. The Bureau invited the secretariat to implement that decision.

11. A reimbursement of secretariat and communications costs for the president of the Steering Committee was considered by the Bureau to be appropriate.

Priority Actions Programme

12. On the occasion of the retirement of Mr. B. Kalogjera as Director of the Regional Activity Center in Split, the Bureau wished to record its appreciation for his untiring and successful efforts in building up the Centre and conveyed to him their best wishes.

13. The Bureau took note of the appointment of Mr. A. Pavasovic as the new Director of the Centre and looked forward to a further development of the Centre's activities.

Regional Oil Combating Center

14. The Bureau took note of the appointment of Rear Admiral (Ret.) Michel Voirin (France) as the new Director of the Centre in Malta and expressed appreciation for the good working relationship that had already been established with the Co-ordinating Unit.

Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas

15. The Bureau approved the secretariat's proposal that a meeting be held in early July in consultation with IUCN to develop a detailed work programme for the Centre.

16. The Bureau took note of the State of Contributions for 1984 and previous years and noted that only \$100,000 were still outstanding from 1983 while 45% of the 1984 contributions had been received by end June. It invited the Contracting Parties to accelerate any outstanding payments in order to support the progress of the programme.

17. The Bureau was informed that the Headquarters Agreement between Greece and the United Nations covering the functioning of the Unit in Athens has been submitted to Parliament. Ratification could be expected after the summer recess of Parliament.

Brief report on the 12th Session of UNEP's Governing Council

18. Mrs. Baccar who represented her Government at the session, and Mr. Manos briefed the Bureau. On that occasion a number of very positive references were made to the Mediterranean Action Plan, notably by the French Minister of the Environment, Mme Bouchardeau, and by representatives of Greece, Tunisia, Morocco, Spain and the EEC. A request for an increase in UNEP's contribution to the Mediterranean Trust Fund was placed on record by the Greek delegation.

General Assembly Resolution 38/189 on the "Strengthening of Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean Region"

19. The Co-ordinator drew the Bureau's attention to the resolution which "urges Mediterranean States to inform the Secretary-General of any concerted efforts aimed at promoting security and co-operation in the Mediterranean" and invites the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its 39th session a comprehensive report on this matter.

20. The Bureau considered that the ongoing co-operation for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution, in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols, represents a new form of co-operation that should figure in the Secretary General report and invited the Contracting Parties, in their replies to the Secretary General to stress the significance and practical value of this co-operation.

21. The Bureau invited the President to address a letter to the Contracting Parties suggesting that in their replies to the Secretary General, they consider including the Mediterranean Action Plan as a significant example of concerted efforts that promote and strengthen security and co-operation in the Mediterranean. A similar letter should be addressed to the Secretary General.

Preparations for the 10th Anniversary Meeting

22. The Co-ordinator briefed the Bureau on preliminary thinking concerning preparations and documentation for the 10th Anniversary Meeting.

It was agreed that the meeting should consist of two parts:

A Ministerial Meeting of 1 1/2 - 2 days, followed by a 4-day regular meeting.

23. Serious preparations and high-level contacts will be necessary for the success of the Ministerial meeting that should be expected to adopt a general political declaration and other important decisions on the future of the programme.

24. With regard to the document on the state of pollution of the Mediterranean the Bureau was of the opinion that the secretariat should aim for a single document, non-technical in style, directed primarily to the general public to facilitate their understanding of the problem. It should be supported with necessary bibliographical references and checked for accuracy by scientists. It would describe the present levels and sources of pollution, point to new and potential ones, describe what Governments have achieved through international co-operation under the Barcelona Convention and identify further goals and objectives.

Date and place of next meeting

25. The Bureau decided to hold its next meeting in on 31 October and 1 November 1984.