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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties
to the Convention for the protection of the
Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its
related protocols

Madrid, 11 September 1986

Report of the Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties
to the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea
against pollution and its related protocols

Introduction

1. At the kind invitation of the President, H.E. Mr. Javier Saenz Cosculluela, Minister of Public Works and Housing of Spain, the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its related protocols met in Madrid on 11 September 1986 at the premises of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing.
2. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Javier Saenz Cosculluela (Spain). H.E. Mr. Abdul-Hamid Munajid (Syrian Arab Republic), Vice-President, Mr. M'hamed Malliti representing the Kingdom of Morocco, and Ms. Nuran Talu (Turkey), Rapporteur, were also present.
3. The secretariat was represented by Mr. Aldo Manos, Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan, Mr. Ibrahim Dharat, Programme Officer.
4. The Meeting was opened by H.E. Mr. Javier Saenz Cosculluela, President of the Bureau, who welcomed the participants to the Meeting. The members of the Bureau thanked the President for hosting the meeting for the second time in Madrid.

Agenda item 1 - Adoption of the Agenda

5. The Meeting adopted its Agenda which was contained in Working Paper/1.

Agenda item 2 - Progress report by the Co-ordinator

6. Mr. A. Manos welcomed the participants on behalf of Dr. M.K. Tolba, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
7. The Co-ordinator provided the Bureau with a written (Working Paper/3) and oral presentation of the main developments that have occurred since the last meeting of the Bureau (Madrid, 20 March 1986).

8. During a general discussion, the Vice-President for Syria indicated that actions had started for the ratification of the Land Based Sources and the Specially Protected Areas Protocols. The rapporteur informed the meeting about progress in implementing MED POL in Turkey, as well as actions concerning floating reception facilities and the Specially Protected Areas protocol. The President announced the intention of Spain to submit the Specially Protected Areas Protocol for ratification soon. He stressed that Mediterranean Action Plan constituted a very effective instrument which needed to be known by public opinion.

9. The Bureau took note of the progress report of the Co-ordinator and expressed appreciation for the clear presentation of the secretariat's activities.

Agenda item 3 - Draft of the Programme Calendar 1986-1995

10. The Meeting had before it Working Paper/4 containing a new version of the Programme Calendar 1986-1995. The Co-ordinator introduced the new document which incorporates the observations of the members of the Bureau and which has been improved in its presentation. He informed the Meeting that the document was sent to all Contracting Parties for their comments.

11. The Vice-President for Syria announced the willingness of his country to enter into a sub-regional agreement with Turkey, Cyprus, and Lebanon; to develop port reception facilities and to contribute to the drafting of the off-shore protocol. He proposed to extend the period covered by the Programme Calendar by five years to the year 2000. The President requested that the Contracting Parties be invited to submit their comments within two months.

12. The Bureau took note of the new version of the Programme Calendar, and decided to discuss the issue again at its next meeting, after the Contracting Parties have made their observations.

Agenda item 4 - Alternative methods of calculating contributions to the
Mediterranean Trust Fund

13. Mr. A. Manos introduced Working Paper/5, entitled "Alternative methods of calculating contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund", and informed the Meeting of the comments received from some Contracting Parties on the new proposals for revising the apportionment of contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund.

14. During an extensive discussion, the representative of Morocco regretted that an alternative scale of assessment based on a series of criteria, such as length of the coast, resident population, pollution load, etc. suggested by him at the previous meeting had not been presented in Working paper/5. The Co-ordinator referred to the difficulty of obtaining data on pollution that could be used for the alternative scale. The representative of Morocco offered to assist the secretariat with this study. He also suggested that the reduction to 25 per cent could be achieved over a period of eight years (1988-1995) instead of four (1988- 1991). At a later stage a group of financial experts could be convened to examine the new formula, before the meeting of Contracting Parties.

The Vice-President for Syria noted that the problem concerned France, which had accepted the present scale of contributions and had followed it for many years. He asked the Co-ordinator to use his good offices with France to comply with its obligations.

The Rapporteur confirmed that Turkey prefers Alternative B, but expects a more moderate solution concerning the increase in its contributions.

The President, in concluding the discussion, requested that the Co-ordinator ascertain the willingness of the smallest contributors to reach the 0.5%, respectively 1% minimum. He expressed his willingness for consultations with France concerning the latter's position.

15. In conclusion the Bureau took note of the Working paper/5 and requested the Co-ordinator to further seek the views of the Contracting Parties and to prepare a new proposal on the basis of the Bureau's comments and the views of the Contracting Parties, in order to enable the Bureau to continue the study of this delicate issue at its next meeting, with a view to introducing a concrete proposal to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties (Athens, 7-11 September 1987).

Agenda item 5 - Meetings of the National Focal Points for the Blue Plan and the Priority Actions Programme in 1987

16. The Meeting had before it Working Paper/6 introduced by the Co-ordinator, who explained the reasons for recommending to convene two separate meetings in 1987 for the National Focal Points for the Blue Plan and the Priority Actions Programme instead of convening a joint one as was recommended by the Genoa Meeting of Contracting Parties. Moreover, the Co-ordinator assured the Bureau that no additional funds will be requested to cover the cost of these two meetings and that these arrangements were made after consultations with the Directors of Blue Plan/Regional Activity Center and Priority Actions Plan/Regional Activity Center.

17. The Bureau endorsed the secretariat's proposal to convene two separate meetings of the National Focal Points for the Blue Plan and Priority Actions Programme in 1987. The meeting of the National Focal Points for Blue Plan is to be held in Sophia Antipolis, France, during the period between June and August 1987. The meeting of the National Focal Points for Priority Actions Programme is to be held in Split, Yugoslavia, from 24-26 March 1987.

Agenda item 6 - Opening of the Regional Activity Centre for Specially
Protected Areas, Salamambo, Tunisia

18. The Meeting had before it Working Paper/7 which was introduced by the Co-ordinator, who informed the Bureau that preparations were underway to send a UNEP/MAP mission to Tunisia at the end of September, before the official opening of the Centre, which is scheduled to take place the last week of November 1986. The objectives of the mission are to review with the Director and staff of the Centre progress achieved and the problems encountered (legal and institutional), and to check on the arrangements for the official opening of the Centre. The Co-ordinator informed the Meeting that there is an intention to hold the MAP Exhibition in Tunisia for one week during the official opening of the Centre.

19. The Bureau took note of Working Paper/7 and the oral information supplied by the Co-ordinator.

20. The Bureau requested its representative to the official opening of the Centre, H.E. Mr. Abdul-Hamid Munajid, Vice President, to avail himself of this opportunity to discuss with the Tunisian authorities the need for solving the administrative and legal problems inhibiting the smooth operation of the Centre.

Agenda item 7 - Date and place of the next Bureau meeting

21. At the invitation of Ms. N. Talu, Rapporteur, the Bureau decided to hold its next meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, between 16 and 18 March 1987.

Agenda item 8 - Other business

22. No other issues were raised by the participants.

23. During the meeting H.E. Mr. Abdul-Hamid Munajid and Mr. A. Manos signed the National Monitoring Programme for Syria. The Bureau witnessed this positive development with satisfaction.

Agenda item 9 - Report of the Meeting

24. The Bureau unanimously adopted the present report and requested the secretariat to circulate it to the Contracting Parties.