

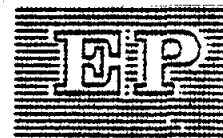


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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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

Istanbul, 25 March 1987

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

U N E P

Athens, 1987

Introduction

1. At the kind invitation of the Government of Turkey the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its related protocols met in Istanbul on 25 March 1987.
2. The meeting was chaired by the President of the Bureau, H.E. Mr. Javier Saenz Cosculluela, Minister of Public Works and Housing of Spain. H.E. Mr. Abdul-Hamid Munajid, Vice-President, (Syrian Arab Republic), Mr. M'hamed Malliti, representing the Kingdom of Morocco, and Mrs. Nuran Talu (Turkey), Rapporteur, were also present.
3. The secretariat was represented by Mr. Aldo Manos, Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan, and 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 and expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Government of Turkey for hosting the meeting in Istanbul.
5. H.E. Mr. Ahmet Karaevli, Minister of State of Turkey, made a statement at the beginning of the meeting, during which he welcomed the members of the Bureau on behalf of the Government of Turkey.
6. The Minister welcomed the Bureau to the ancient city of Istanbul, capital of two empires oriented towards the Mediterranean. He noted that the Action Plan was an example of constructive co-operation that had achieved results in a short time. Individual countries were responsible for removing the causes of pollution, especially around metropolitan areas. He cited the example of Izmir bay, where great investments were being made for the sewage network and treatment plant and where 70 per cent of industrial waste was pre-treated before discharge. In Antalya tourism development stressed environmental objectives. He invited countries to inform public opinion about their activities and progress in this field.

7. Mr. Aldo Manos conveyed to the Turkish authorities the gratitude of the Executive Director, Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba, for hosting the Bureau meeting and for their long-standing support to the Action Plan.

Agenda item 1 - Adoption of the agenda

8. The meeting adopted its Agenda which was contained in working paper 1.

Agenda item 2 - Progress report by the Co-ordinator

9. 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, 11 September 1986). Mr. Manos brought to the attention of the Bureau resolution A/RES/41/89 of 4 December 1986 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, and in particular to its operative paragraph 5 that "encourages once again efforts to intensify and to promote new forms of co-operation in various fields, particularly those aimed at reducing tension and strengthening confidence and security in the region".

10. The Co-ordinator requested the meeting to authorize the secretariat to reallocate the sum of \$100,000 from unspent funds to the Blue Plan project in order to be able to complete its responsibilities.

11. Members of the Bureau provided information on several matters mentioned in the progress report. Turkey had expressed its interest to the EEC for floating reception facilities and a mission would be received this year. A group representing various ministries had been constituted and had prepared proposals for new protected areas. Three national scenarios had been prepared and would be transmitted in April to Sophia Antipolis. The missions on Environmental Impact Assessment and Aquaculture had been appreciated.

12. The President underlined the important precedent of the EEC support for floating reception facilities. He confirmed the willingness of his country to host the meeting of co-operation in Madrid in May.

13. At the end of the discussion, the Bureau took note of the progress report and approved the reallocation of up to \$100,000 from the unspent funds from other components to the Blue Plan project to cover the publication of the sectoral studies.

Agenda item 3 - Programme orientation and streamlining of the institutional and administrative component

14. The Co-ordinator introduced the position paper by the Executive Director contained in working paper 4. He outlined the main objectives and structures of the streamlining. After a brief discussion, the Bureau took note of the paper as an initial working document to be developed further and submitted in sufficient time to the Contracting Parties for study and discussion during the next meeting of the Contracting Parties (Athens, September 1987).

Agenda item 4 - Draft programme calendar 1986-1995

15. The Co-ordinator introduced working paper 5 for information. The Bureau took note of the programme calendar and requested the secretariat to submit it to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Agenda item 5 - Alternative methods of calculating contributions to the
Mediterranean Trust Fund

16. The Bureau welcomed the new alternatives prepared by the secretariat in working paper 6. After a discussion, the Bureau requested the Co-ordinator to ascertain whether France officially requested a change in the scale of contributions and, if so, to transmit all the alternatives to the Contracting Parties.

Agenda item 6 - Official opening of the Regional Activity Centre for
Specially Protected Areas

17. Mr. A. Manos introduced working paper 7 and informed the meeting of the official opening of the Centre in Salamambo, Tunis, on 13 February 1987. He outlined progress achieved in the implementation of the Centre's objectives and preparations for the first meeting of the national focal points of the SPA (Athens, 1-4 June 1987). He noted, however, that arrangements for administration of the project had not been completed by the Tunisian authorities.

18. H.E. Mr. Munajid briefed the Bureau on his mission to Tunis in order to attend the inauguration of the Centre on behalf of the Bureau.

19. The Bureau took note of the report and expressed its gratitude to Mr. Munajid, Vice-President, for representing the Bureau at the official opening of the Centre.

20. The Bureau also recommended that the necessary administrative arrangements be completed by the Tunisian authorities in order to achieve a smooth operation of the Centre.

Agenda item 7 - Provisional agenda and organization of work of the Fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties

21. In accordance with Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bureau gave its concurrence to the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Executive Director in working paper 8.

22. The Bureau proceeded to a draw for the seating arrangements at the Athens meeting. Seating will commence with Algeria.

Agenda item 8 - Extension of the Mediterranean Trust Fund for a further two-year period

23. The Fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties had recommended to the Governing Council of UNEP an extension of the Mediterranean Trust Fund through 1987. The extension was approved by the Governing Council. In view of the fact that the next session of the Governing Council will take place from 8 to 19 June 1987, before the Fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the Bureau, acting on behalf of the Contracting Parties, recommended to the Governing Council of UNEP an extension of the Mediterranean Trust Fund through 31 December 1989.

24. The Co-ordinator informed the Bureau of the Executive Director's intention to present a budget for the 1988-1989 biennium with an annual increase of 15 percent in the total. Ten per cent is considered to cover inflation and five percent represents the growth of the programme. The Bureau accepted the Executive Director's proposal.

Agenda item 9 - Date and place of the next meeting of the Bureau

25. The Co-ordinator put before the meeting two alternatives in this regard. One is to convene a meeting of the Bureau on the eve of the Contracting Parties' meeting (September 1987), and the second to convene a full working meeting at the end of June.

26. The President stressed the importance of not excluding the possibility of convening another meeting in June if the situation requires it, and expressed the readiness of Spain to host the meeting in Madrid on notification from the secretariat or the members of the Bureau.

27. The Bureau decided that, should a member of the Bureau or the secretariat make a request before the first of June, the Bureau will meet again at the end of June in Madrid. Otherwise, the next meeting will automatically take place in Athens on the eve of the Contracting Parties' meeting in September 1987.

Agenda item 10 - Other business

28. The Co-ordinator informed the Bureau of the untimely death of Mr. Alain Vatrican, Secretary General of the Scientific Centre of Monaco, who had contributed over many years to the development of the Mediterranean Action Plan. The Bureau unanimously addressed its condolences to the Principality of Monaco and to the family for the loss of a valuable colleague and authorized the Co-ordinator to pay homage to him through a fellowship in the framework of the Med Pol Programme.

29. The Bureau was informed of the decision of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (Cairo, December 1985) to set up a Committee of the Seas under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Aissa Abdelaoui, Vice Minister responsible for Environment and Forests in Algeria. The Bureau designated the following experts as members of the Committee of the Sea from the Mediterranean region:

Prof. Dr. A. Abdel Latif (Egypt)

Mr. Tijani Rhanmi (Morocco)

Mrs. Hedia Baccar (Tunisia)

30. The Co-ordinator informed the Bureau of the proposal adopted by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe at its Vienna meeting to convene in Palma de Mallorca a meeting of experts on the protection of the Mediterranean Ecosystems.

31. The Bureau endorsed the secretariat intention of presenting at that meeting the relevant MAP experience and suggested to examine the possibility of the Bureau President being invited to the meeting.

32. The president closed the meeting at 14.00 hours. He thanked again the Turkish authorities for their hospitality, and stressed the need to work towards consensus, while conveying to the public opinion the common will to protect the Mediterranean and expand co-operation in the area.

Agenda item 11 - Report of the meeting

33. On 25 March 1987 the Bureau unanimously adopted its report and asked that it be circulated to the Contracting Parties.