



United Nations
Environment
Programme



UNEP/BUR/32/4
31 October 1988

Original: ENGLISH

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

Athens, 31 October 1988

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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. The Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its related protocols met at the Headquarters of the Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan in Athens, Greece, on 31 October 1988.
2. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Alexandros Pantazis, Secretary General, Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, of Greece, on behalf of H.E. Mr. Evangelos Kouloumbis, Minister of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works who was not able to attend. Mr. Yves Rodrigue, Vice-President (France), Mr. Turgut Balkas, Vice President (Turkey), and Mr. Yusef Elmehrik, Rapporteur (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), were also present. Two members of the Bureau were accompanied by advisors.
3. The secretariat was represented by Mr. William Mansfield, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Aldo Manos, Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan, Mr. Ljubomir Jeftic, Senior Marine Scientist and Mr. Ibrahim Dharat, Programme Officer. The list of participants appears in Annex I to the present report.
4. The Meeting was opened by Mr. A. Pantazis, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the President of the Bureau H.E. Mr. Evangelos Kouloumbis. He referred to some recent meetings that had taken place in Greece, including the European Environment Bureau on financing for the environment and the informal meeting of EEC environment ministers held in Delphi. The main points of the environmental policy within the EEC, after the Single Act, were mentioned, with emphasis on the importance of the Mediterranean. He informed the Bureau of the Greek Government's intention to present a Resolution on environmental policy to the Summit Meeting of Rhodes (December 1988).

Agenda Item 1 - Adoption of the Agenda

5. The Bureau adopted its agenda as proposed by the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 2 - Progress Report by the Co-ordinator

6. The Co-ordinator, Mr. A. Manos welcomed the participants and presented the report contained in document UNEP/BUR/32/3, and Corr. I which covers the activities carried out since the fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (September 1987 - September 1988), and oral information on other activities not covered by the report. He expressed his thanks and satisfaction for the important information contained in the President's statement, in particular that related to the presidency of Greece of the EEC during the second half of 1988.

7. The Bureau shared the concern of the secretariat about the late payment of contributions and offered to assist in contacting individual countries, without establishing any new group such as proposed in document UNEP/BUR/32/3.
8. After a brief discussion on this item, the Bureau took note of the report of the Co-ordinator.

Agenda item 3 - Preparation of the Meeting of the Expanded Bureau

9. The Co-ordinator reported on preparations for the Expanded Bureau's meeting. The Bureau agreed on the three items on the Expanded Bureau's agenda with additional sub-items under "Other Business". In particular it was proposed that a common statement should be issued by the Expanded Bureau on the need for strengthening the environmental strategy in the Mediterranean. It was agreed that the Expanded Bureau would have to adopt the 1989 budget and consider the documents on refocusing of MAP and on the composition of the Bureau and if, possible, give guidance to the secretariat on further steps to be taken. Mr. Mansfield underlined that the refocusing document incorporates some suggested new approaches for integrating environment considerations into development planning.

Agenda item 4 - Date and place of the next meeting of the Bureau

10. After a short discussion, the Bureau agreed that its next meeting would be held in Athens on 14-15 March 1989.

Agenda item 5 - Other business

11. The Bureau agreed to recommend that the Governing Council of UNEP should extend the Mediterranean Trust Fund through 31 December 1991 (Annex II of this report).
12. The Bureau recommended to the Contracting Parties that the Mediterranean Environment Week should be observed from 5 - 11 June 1989 to coincide with the World Environment Day.
13. The Bureau agreed with the secretariat's proposal that the matter of transfrontier movement of hazardous wastes in the Mediterranean region should be considered by the Expanded Bureau. Secretariat document UNEP/BUR/32/INF.3 was distributed, as well as a proposal by Greece regarding a draft statement by the Expanded Bureau on this subject and an appeal from some associations concerning this matter was also distributed for information.

14. Mr. Mansfield informed the Bureau on current negotiations concerning UNEP's proposed global convention (Bâle, March 1989) to regulate the transfrontier movement of hazardous wastes.
15. The Bureau agreed that it should express its concern and prepare the text of a press communiqué on the subject of transfrontier movement of hazardous waste. The Bureau did not envisage a special press conference at the end of this meeting.
16. Upon a request by the secretariat, the Bureau agreed that MAP data should be made available to governments and inter-governmental organizations simultaneously.

Agenda Item 6 - Adoption of the report of the meeting

17. The Bureau adopted its report on 1 November 1988.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II

Recommendation

The Expanded Bureau

- Noting that the Trust Fund for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution expires on 31 December 1989;
- Noting further that its extension must be approved by the Governing Council of UNEP that will hold its next session on 15-26 May 1989, before the Sixth Ordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties (Athens, 3-6 October 1989);
- Recommends to the Governing Council of UNEP to extend the duration of the Mediterranean Trust Fund for a further period of two years through 31 December 1991.