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92nd Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Istanbul, Turkey, 24-25 March 2022

Agenda Item 3: Progress Report for December 2021 – February 2022
Agenda Item 5: Specific Issues

Report of the 46th Meetings of the Executive Coordination Panel

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ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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9 March 2022
Original: English

46th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Rome, Italy, 16-17 February 2022

Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2022

Table of contents

	Pages
Report	1-11
Annexes	
Annex I List of Participants	7
Annex II Agenda	10

I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

1. The 46th meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 16-17 February 2022, in Rome, Italy. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Heads of MAP Components, the MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues and the MAP Associate Administrative Officer. Other Coordinating Unit colleagues joined remotely for agenda items relevant to their scope of work. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.

2. Ms. Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 09:30 a.m. (Rome time) on 16 February 2022. She welcomed the participants and referred to the recent developments, progress and MAP related events of the period since the previous ECP meeting. She noted that this is a demanding period, for the effective launch of the Programme of Work 2022-2023 implementation, requiring an efficient planning and cooperation.

3. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as in document UNEP/MED ECP.46/1.

II. Agenda item 2: Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023

- a) **Strategic Priorities for 2022**
- b) **Status of ProDoc and Legal Instruments Signature**
- c) **Planning and Priorities Table 2022-2023**
- d) **Effective Implementation of Advocacy Component of MTS Programme 7**

4. In a tour de table, all MAP Components presented their strategic priorities for 2022, the planning for the implementation of the major mandates given by the COP 22, as well as any foreseen challenges and opportunities for cooperation with other Components. The following elements were in particular discussed under this agenda item:

- i) More detailed discussion should be held in dedicated session of the next ECP meeting for a number of topics, including a) MAP Components' work on Climate Change (what each Component does, how we can best coordinate actions, if there is room for improvement) and especially in relation to biodiversity; b) Processing of data for the 2023 MED QSR; c) MAP Knowledge Management; d) (possibly) MSSD revision process;
- ii) An updated Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027 is planned to be prepared by the Secretariat this year. In this respect, the fund-raising studies for the Post-2020 SAP BIO and for the Regional Strategy on pollution from ships should be taken into consideration;
- iii) Work on Emission Control Areas: priority in the current biennium will be given to the SO_x ECA. Regarding NO_x, work in the current biennium will aim at setting the grounds for a mandate to be given at the next COP 23 for the preparation of feasibility studies;
- iv) INFO/RAC is strengthening its capacities on GIS, with the recruitment of two experts, to support all Components' work. In this respect, Components are advised, before contracting experts on GIS, to first explore possibilities of provision of support through INFO/RAC expertise;
- v) An analysis of the new MAP-EEA Joint Work Plan should be undertaken in comparison with PoW activities to identify priority actions and funding opportunities;
- vi) The Coordinator asked the ECP Members that requests related to data addressed to the Contracting Parties should come from the respective MAP Component in coordination with the MAP Coordinator, INFO/RAC and other relevant Components;
- vii) MED POL ToRs for the preparation of LBS Regional Plans should be shared with the ECP for inputs before submission for clearance to the Coordinator;
- viii) SCP/RAC should share with ECP the vision paper for the Blue Economy workshop and organize discussion with interested Components;

- ix) A Concept Note for the planned EuroMed week on Waste Reduction should be prepared and shared by SCP/RAC;
- x) Questions raised regarding the geographical scope under specific Protocols (i.e. land border of coastal areas under the ICZM) should be addressed with the support of the Legal Officer upon his/her recruitment;
- xi) The Coordinator asked MAP Components to inform her if there is any need for support to overcome problems faced with the implementation of national activities, including through formal letters by the Coordinator;
- xii) Communication work planned for the Post-2020 SAP BIO, including publication of a short version for wide dissemination, should be considered for other key COP Decisions, including the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management, as well as interactive online publication of the Young Person's Guide to the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention;
- xiii) The Coordinator informed the meeting about the new organigramme of the Coordinating Unit that was developed with the objective to enhance accountability and planning and support effective operations;
- xiv) The Coordinator informed the meeting of the intention to write a letter to the CPs to emphasize the main regional Strategies adopted by COP22, and the importance of their timely implementation and streamlining into new or updated national strategies and plans;
- xv) In the framework of the updated MoU with FAO/GFCM, the meeting agreed that further consideration should be given to the need to provide baseline for fishery subsidies and clarify the GFCM foresight in relation to MSSD indicators on fisheries
- xvi) The meeting discussed about the need and ways to ensure coordinated participation of relevant MAP Components in the EU Mission to "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030" and especially the Mediterranean Sea basin lighthouse.

5. The Coordinator thanked the Components for timely submission of requested inputs for the preparation of the ProDoc and Legal Instruments for the PoW and Budget 2022-2023 and updated the meeting on their status. In particular, she informed the meeting that the entire package comprising the consolidated ProDoc and Legal Instruments, including work plans and budgets, were submitted to UNEP HQ for review and signature, and that following their signature, the legal instruments will be submitted to RAC for countersignature, and will be then inserted in Umoja Extension II for the disbursement of funds, hopefully by end of March 2022.

6. Some RAC Directors expressed concerns on budget losses due to EUR/USD conversion and exchange rate fluctuations. The Coordinator informed the meeting that she will discuss the issue including the currency in which funds are received by RACs with the AFMO and Finance Assistant and reminded them that losses from MTF budget due to exchange rate fluctuations can be compensated through the Working Capital Reserve, in accordance with the MAP Financial Rules and Procedures.

7. Several RAC Directors also expressed concerns about the information on their MTF budget implementation rates, reported to the COP 22, and especially the information shared to the Budget Contact Group by the AFMO, which was not in line with the actual level of expenditure as reported through their final financial reports at the end of the biennium. The Coordinator informed the meeting that she will look further into this issue with the AFMO.

8. The Associate Administrative Officer, Mr. Stavros Antoniadis, presented the updated Planning and Priorities Tool and thanked Components for their submissions. The meeting requested some changes to be inserted in the tool, including the addition of deliverables and additional cells for progress reporting, through hidden columns. Several RAC Directors stressed the difficulties faced to match the PoW activities progress with some MTS Indicators. The meeting discussed possible ways of streamlining the Planning and Priorities Tool into other progress reporting (PCA semestrial reports, or Bureau Progress Report) and the Coordinator noted the need for further discussion with CU colleagues

on this point. It was finally agreed that another officer per Component, in addition to the Director/Head, should be granted access to the Planning and Priorities Tool.

9. The MAP Public Information Officer, Mr. Jihed Ghannem introduced the agenda item on the Advocacy component under the MTS Programme 7 and the meeting discussed on the needs for its coordinated implementation. It was agreed to continue discussions with a view to having a clear common understanding of the difference and interrelation between advocacy and communication, as well as on issues for which MAP should advocate. It was suggested to define a narrowed scope of themes on which advocacy efforts should be focused. It was noted that in the future it should be considered to hold ECP meetings in the countries, to enable also the organization of meetings and discussions between the ECP and relevant authorities.

10. A joint session of the ECP was held with representatives from the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition focusing on the priorities for the implementation of the PoW 2022-2023 and the support through the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement, including next steps for its operationalization and possibilities for expansion.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Include in next ECP Agenda items for discussion on climate change actions, QSR data processing, knowledge management, and possibly MSSD revision process and ways of reporting progress to Bureau	CU	For submission of 47 ECP Meeting Agenda
2.	Share LBS Regional Plans ToRs with ECP	MED POL	Upon drafting
3.	Share the vision paper for the Blue Economy workshop with interested Components	SCP/RAC	Upon drafting
4.	Share the Concept Note for the planned EuroMed week on Waste Reduction	SCP/RAC	Upon drafting
5.	Review the issues of exchange loss and currency of funds and financial implementation rate	CU	By next ECP meeting
6.	Update the Planning Priorities Table – review inputs submitted by Components	CU	By end of March 2022

III. Agenda item 3: Finalization of Activity Fiches under the Bilateral Agreement with MiTE

11. The Associate Administrative Officer presented the Activity Fiches for the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement with MiTE, that were prepared with inputs from all MAP Components. The meeting discussed on the next steps towards submission for approval by MiTE, including the review of fiches and provision of Coordinator's comments by 25 February 2022 and final inputs by Components by 4 March 2022. The fiches will be then submitted for Steering Committee approval through letter exchanges.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
7.	Review and provide comments on the Activity fiches	CU	25 February 2022
8.	Provide final inputs on the Activity fiches	All MAP Components	4 March 2022

IV. Agenda item 4: Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP – Coordinated Participation

12. The meeting discussed on key global and regional processes and meetings of relevance to MAP and how to ensure an impactful and coordinated participation. The meeting identified six main

processes and events and agreed that relevant Components/colleagues would develop vision papers for MAP participation, by 4 March 2022, according to the following plan:

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
9.	Prepare vision papers for MAP participation in key processes and meetings: CBD COP 15 (Kunming, China) UNECE 9th EfE Min Conference (Cyprus) Ocean Conference (Lisbon, Portugal) UNFCCC COP 27 (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt) IMO MEPC BRS COP (Geneva, Switzerland)	 SPA/RAC CU (JLT) – PB/RAC INFO/RAC PB/RAC – PAP/RAC REMPEC SCP/RAC - MEDPOL	4 March 2022

V. Agenda item 5: Calendar of Meetings and Main Events for 2022-2023

13. The meeting reviewed the Calendar of Meetings and Main Events for 2022-2023. It agreed to share with the MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues a few last updates, after which, the Calendar for 2022 would be considered final.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
10.	Share final updates to the Calendar of Meetings and Main Events for 2022	MED POL, SPA/RAC, SCP/RAC	18 February 2022

VI. Agenda item 6: Date and Venue of the 47th ECP Meeting

14. The meeting discussed the possible dates for the next ECP meeting and agreed to hold it in Split, Croatia, on 6-7 April 2022.

VII. Agenda item 7: Any Other Matters

- a) **Planning of Important Celebrations: SPAMI Day and Mediterranean Coast Day**
- b) **Follow up on MAP data management: process and way forward**
- c) **Clarifications on UNEP Procurement Rules and their Application by the Components**
- d) **Preparation of Bureau Meeting**
- e) **Breast One Ocean Summit briefing**
- f) **MAP Participation in the Lisbon Ocean Summit**

15. The MAP AFMO, Ms. Kumiko Yatagai, presented the applicable procurement rules and Components expressed concerns on the restrictions imposed to their operations and effective implementation of their activities under the PoW with the current processes. They also highlighted the ambiguity in some terms included in their assessment and threshold plan, especially in relation to consultancies. The Coordinator proposed that further discussions be held in the CU with relevant colleagues, especially the AFMO, the Associate Administrative Officer and the Procurement and Meeting Services Assistant, so as to come up with the needed guidance on the RAC procurement assessment results, provide clarifications on the definition of the term consultancy as used there, and explore possible options for alleviation of the administrative burden relating to the procurement limitations in consultation with UNEP HQ.

16. SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC presented their planning for the observance of SPAMI Day in Monaco and Mediterranean Coast Day in Morocco (tbc) respectively. The meeting agreed that such observance days should also involve, to the extent possible, actors from areas beyond their specific thematic scope and all MAP components were encouraged to take awareness actions on that day.

17. The meeting discussed extensively the issue of data management, and the challenges and needs for effective implementation of the relevant Decision adopted by COP 22. It was agreed that following finalization of the ToR of the data management task force, INFO/RAC should get a clear picture of all different MAP information systems and dashboards, and in this respect, all Components should share with INFO/RAC links/access to their info systems/dashboards. Following this step, another substantive discussion with all MAP Components should be carried out on how these can be used and brought together in the most efficient way. INFO/RAC should also provide to the Coordinator a briefing note (1-2 pages) on possible challenges in the implementation of the COP 22 Decision on MAP data management. Finally, the Coordinator informed them that she will hold another discussion with UNEP HQ colleagues for a better understanding on the plans for the part of WESR to be dedicated to the Mediterranean region confirming the current arrangement in place with them.

18. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues, Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis, presented the process for the preparation of the next Bureau meeting to be held on 24-25 March in Turkey, and asked MAP Components to timely provide the inputs as requested. He also reminded the meeting of the International Women's Day on 8 March 2022 and proposed to organize actions with CU support focusing on mainstreaming of gender considerations in RACs work, including a possible online event with the ECP.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
11.	Review the RAC procurement assessment results and provide clarifications on their effective application	CU	February 2022
12.	Provide a brief note on challenges in implementation of the COP 22 Decision on MAP data management	INFO/RAC	Before the 92 nd Bureau meeting

Annex I
List of Participants

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Annex II
Agenda

Agenda

- Agenda item 1** Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
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