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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, 23 September 1981

REPORT

1. The Bureau met at Athens on 23 September 1981, at the invitation of the secretariat, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Giovanni Falchi, Italy, and was attended by Mr. J. Naggear, Lebanon (Rapporteur), and Mr. S. Antoine, representative of France. Mr. M. Ladjouzi, Vice-President (Algeria), was unable to attend owing to difficulties with flight arrangements and his absence was much regretted. The secretariat was represented by the Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), Mr. A. Manos, and the Director of the Regional Seas Programme Activity Centre, Mr. S. Keckes.

2. The Bureau adopted the agenda, UNEP/BUR/1 (annex 1).

3. The Bureau considered it would be advisable to submit to the Contracting Parties through the secretariat, information and recommendations regarding the present situation in the form of a covering letter accompanying the report of this meeting.

4. Questions concerning the Action Plan

The questions covered by the secretariat in document UNEP/BUR/3 gave rise to a detailed exchange of views and resulted in the formulation of the following observations and recommendations:

4.1 The Bureau took note of the secretariat's action in regard to the following areas of co-operation in the Mediterranean:

Protocol on dumping operations

Appointment of an expert (Mr. J.M. Massin, France) to establish procedures for the notification of dumping, and first notification circulated by the secretariat of the dumping by detonation of the wreck of the Cavos Cambanos.

Protocol concerning co-operation in cases of emergency caused by oil

- IMCO requests that annual agreements be concluded for any action it takes;
- launching of a joint EEC-Italy project with a view to promoting the establishment of deballasting installations in the Mediterranean, and a UNDP/IMCO project of interest to other countries (Algeria, Libya, Malta, Tunisia and Yugoslavia).

Pollution resulting from exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf, the sea-bed and its subsoil in the Mediterranean

- distribution in the near future of the studies and documents on the basis of which the report on the legal aspects of the matter was drafted.

Inter-State Guarantee Fund and questions of liability arising out of pollution in the Mediterranean

- appointment of an expert (Mr. A. Lahlou, Morocco) to complete the study on this question.

Various legal matters

- transmittal to the Contracting Parties in 1981 of the Agreement between Italy and Yugoslavia concerning the Adriatic;
- distribution to the Parties in the near future of the Agreement concluded between France, Italy and Monaco regarding the Ligurian Sea, which Monaco notified to the secretariat;

Environmental assessment (MED POL)

- follow-up activities pursuant to decisions of the Cannes Meeting with a view to linking Phase I and Phase II;
- holding of three meetings of the Consultative Committee;
- first meeting of the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation (Athens, October 1981);

- conclusion of Phase I and preparation of Phase II by means of various scientific and technical documents, with the assistance of WHO, FAO, IOC, UNESCO, IAEA and WMO;
- nomination by 10 States of their MED POL National Co-ordinator (Algeria, Cyprus, France, Israel, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Spain, Turkey and Yugoslavia).

Environmental management: Blue Plan

- five meetings of the Group of Co-ordination and Synthesis;
- organization of four preliminary and four "confrontation" seminars in France and two in host countries (Tunisia, Greece) and possibly two or three more before 1982;
- one focal points meeting: 3-4 April 1981;
- six provisional reports and four final reports (out of twelve) will be presented before 1982.

Priority Actions Programme

- holding of an inter-agency consultation with a view to the formulation of a regional programme of seven projects at a cost of \$1,059,000, the possibilities for the implementation of which are shortly to be discussed with the countries concerned;
- submission by WTO of a regional project (\$50,000), now under consideration;
- submission by FAO by PAP/RAC of a regional project, now under discussion;
- approval by the UNDP Regional Meeting for Europe of programmes in aquaculture, renewable sources of energy and water.

4.2 In the light of the above facts, the Bureau has made the following recommendations:

- with regard to the MED POL programme, it is recommended that the States that have still not appointed a National Co-ordinator (Egypt, Greece, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia) do so as soon as possible;

- during its consideration of the Blue Plan, the Bureau was informed of the position regarding Mr. Ismail Sabri Abdalla, Co-ordinator of the Blue Plan: the President of the Contracting Parties will approach Egypt, as a Contracting Party, by letter, inform all Contracting Parties of his action and request the Executive Director to intervene with the United Nations;
- with regard to the implementation of the protocol relating to land-base pollution, the Bureau, having noted that there have been no further signatures or ratifications since it was deposited with the Spanish Government, recommends that the secretariat approach the States in question with a view to persuading them to expedite the procedures for signing or ratifying this important document;
- the Bureau recommends that the secretariat provide Tunisia with the necessary assistance in preparing a document laying down the conditions for the establishment of, and programmes of action at, the Centre for Specially Protected Areas, which the Cannes Meeting decided to set up.

5. Financial position

The Bureau takes note of document UNEP/BUR/2 which outlines the various aspects of the financial position of the Mediterranean Action Plan and of the implementation of the budget agreed upon at the Cannes Meeting.

The document in question provides the following information (percentages are calculated by references to the budget estimates):

5.1 Resources for 1981:

- the balance of contributions of States that have not paid for 1979 and 1980, amounts, as at 31 August 1981, to \$75,396 excluding Albania), which reduces the available surplus for the financial years 1979 and 1980 to \$784,604 (see annex II);
- payments made, as at 31 August 1981, in respect of contributions of States for 1981 amount to \$672,891 (annex III) (35.60 per cent);
- advance payments of contributions for 1982 amount to \$39,927 (annex III);

- in addition, the representative of France has given notice of a balance of \$313,232 for 1981 that was paid in August but has still not reached the Fund, that would leave contributions still not paid for 1981 to \$903,877 (47.82 per cent);
- thus far, UNEP has paid \$283,500 (56.70 per cent), the approved budget providing for \$500,000. It is hoped that this deficit will be met before the end of the year;
- the MAP Trust Fund shows a surplus of \$56,000 as at 31 January 1981 owing to interest of \$260,000 less administrative costs of \$204,000;
- the above sums amount to a total of \$2,150,154;
- the following estimated amounts could still be paid under the 1981 heading, prior to 31 December 1981:

UNEP	:	\$200,000
States	:	\$250,000
		\$450,000
	or	\$450,000

5.2 Implementation of 1981 budget

It may reasonably be estimated that the following expenditure has been incurred or will be incurred by the end of 1981:

<u>Section I</u>	<u>To be Committed</u>	<u>To be Committed</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<u>Co-ordination</u>				
Chapters I and II	\$ 780.000		\$ 780.000	78.78 %
<u>MED POL</u>				
Chapters III and IV	\$ 340.000	+ \$ 190.000	\$ 530.000	66.25 %
<u>Malta Centre</u>				
Chapter V	\$ 345.000		\$ 345.000	100 %
<u>Training</u>				
Chapter VI	\$ --	+ \$ 20.000	\$ 20.000	25 %
	\$ 1.465.000	+ \$ 210.000	=\$ 1.675.000	75.62 %
	=====	=====		

<u>Section II</u>	<u>To be Committed</u>	<u>To be Committed</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<u>Blue Plan</u> Chapter I	\$ 360.000	+ \$ 170.000	\$ 530.000	75.71 %
<u>PAP</u> Chapters II, III, IV, V, VI	\$ 55.000		\$ 55.000	11.95 %
<u>Protected Areas</u> Chapter VII	--	+ \$ 10.000	\$ 10.000	8.00 %
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	\$ 415.000	+ \$ 180.000	= \$ 595.000	46.30 %

GRAND TOTAL			\$ 2.270.000	64.85 %
			=====	

A comparison of the funds available, as indicated under section 5.1 above, indicates that, at the end of the 1981 financial year, assets may be expected to fall within a range of:

- \$120,000 to + \$330,000

5.3 Implementation of 1982 budget

In the light of the experience gained so far and of the prospects for implementation, it is advisable, pending the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in March 1982, to consider the measures to be taken with a view to ensuring continuity of action particularly regarding the present staff's contracts for 1982 and the operational expenditure for the first quarter of 1982. Accordingly, the estimated financial requirements, to be provided for in December 1981 in respect of the first three months of 1982, are as follows:

<u>Section I</u>		
Chapters I and II	\$ 450.000	43.18 %
Chapters III and IV	\$ 200.000	18.18 %
Chapter V	\$ 220.000	52.63 %
Chapter VI	\$ 20.000	25.00 %
 <u>Section II</u>		
Chapter I	\$ 170.000	34.00 %
Chapters II, IV, V, VI	\$ 50.000	9.00 %
Total :	\$ 1.110.000	28,75 %
	=====	=====

The sums to be mobilized by the end of 1981, for the beginning of 1982, therefore amount to a figure ranging between \$1,230,000 and \$780,000, depending on the speed with which the income expected for 1981 is received. It is therefore prudent to reckon on an average requirement of \$1,000,000, at the end of 1981, to be borrowed on terms to be negotiated.

5.4 Recommendations of the Bureau regarding budgetary matters

In the light of the position regarding budget implementation and funds, as outlined above, the Bureau adopts the following recommendations:

- with regard to expenditure, the Co-ordinator shall endeavour to remain within the limits indicated in the tables in 5.2 and 5.3 above;
- States shall be strongly urged to settle their arrears before the end of 1981 and, if possible, to make their payments for 1982 in advance. It is hoped that the Executive Director of UNEP will personally approach those countries that have not yet paid their 1982 contribution;
- an expression of thanks shall be sent to the States that have made their payments for 1982 in advance (Algeria, Cyprus, Libya and Malta);
- States shall be invited to pay their contributions for 1982 before 30 April 1982;
- noting that delays in the institutional procedures of some countries have thus far prevented them from paying their contributions on the due dates, thereby creating a serious crisis in MAP's financial balance, the Bureau requests the Executive Director to send a letter to those States asking them to make a special effort to make up for such delays by including in the same payment the contributions for 1981, 1982 and 1983, the latter being equivalent, provisionally, to the 1982 contribution;
- Contracting Parties must be informed of the findings just made by the Bureau regarding the need for funds amounting to approximately \$1,000,000 by the end of 1981, so as to enable the programme to continue until 31 March 1982, the date on which the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties will be held;

- bearing in mind United Nations rules regarding commitment of funds within the strict limits of the assets available under the Trust Fund, the Bureau requests the Contracting Parties to authorize the secretariat to contract, as may be necessary, a loan to cover programme requirements until the end of March 1982, up to a limit of \$1,000,000, with a view to avoiding a halt in the programme at the beginning of 1982;
- UNEP must likewise be apprised of the current position and urged, very strongly, to make its 1981 contribution to the \$500,000 provided for under the 1981 budget;
- the Bureau, having taken note of the Meeting of Government Experts on Regional Seas, which is to be held in Nairobi from 18-22 January 1982, trusts that the Contracting Parties invited to this meeting will give instructions to their representatives so that the interests of the Mediterranean may be safeguarded in future programmes (financial participation by UNEP and logistics support).

6. Administration and financial questions

In connection with the consideration of these questions, the Bureau invited Mr. M. Yeroulanos and Mr. P. Lagos, representatives of the Greek Government, to attend the discussion on agenda items 4 and 5.

After having discussed all aspects of these matters, the Bureau adopted the following recommendations:

- the Bureau trusts that the Headquarters Agreement between the UN and the Greek Government will be signed as soon as possible (before the end of October according to the estimates of the Co-ordinator and Mr. Yeroulanos);
- the Bureau trusts that, once the above-mentioned Agreement has been signed, the offices for MAP will be made available as quickly as possible in accordance with the estimates which the Co-ordinator submitted to the Bureau (premises available in November 1981, final installation in January 1982);
- the Bureau takes note of the intention of the Greek Government to put the Headquarters Agreement into effect as soon as it is signed, and thanks it;

- the Bureau requests the secretariat to negotiate with the competent United Nations bodies, the Greek Government and the Central Bank of Greece, modalities that are as simple and rational as possible for the utilization of the Greek Government's contribution in drachmas to MAP;
- the Bureau takes note of the decision of the UNEP Governing Council, held in Nairobi from 13-26 May 1981, in regard to MAP, and requests the secretariat to make all necessary arrangements and to take all the necessary steps to assess the consequences and act accordingly;
- the Bureau requests the secretariat to study, in liaison with it, modalities for administering funds that will not pass through the Trust Fund in 1982, which year will be regarded as a transition period;
- the Bureau requests the secretariat to prepare a general outline of the documents to be submitted to the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties in March 1982, in particular the amendments to the Rules of Procedure and the Financial Rules, with a view to their consideration at the Meeting of the Bureau planned for December 1981 in Geneva;
- for the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties and the Diplomatic Conference on the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas in the Mediterranean two alternative dates were suggested: either the week of 15-20 March 1982 or the week of 29 March-3 April 1982. The final date will be selected after consultation with the Executive Director.

7. The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8 p.m. on 23 September 1981.

ANNEX I

AGENDA

1. Composition of the Bureau. Communication addressed to the Executive Director by the French Government
2. Financial position. Status of contributions. Status of commitments. Next installments.
3. Progress of the work programme.
4. Alternative arrangements for the management of the resources of the Mediterranean Action Plan. Status of the Unit. Rules of Procedure. Bank. Administrative costs.
5. Transfer of Co-ordinating Unit to Athens. Headquarters Agreement. Availability of premises. Special contribution in drachmas of Government of Greece.
6. Extraordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties and Diplomatic Conference on the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas in the Mediterranean.
7. Other business
8. Next meeting of the Bureau
9. Adoption of the report
10. Closure of the meeting.

ANNEX II

TRUST FUND FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

(Status of contributions at 31 August 1981)
(in US dollars)

Country	1979-1980 ^{1/} Contributions due	Contributions paid (date of payment)	Contributions due
(Albania	2.690	--	2.690)
Algeria	26.920	26.920 (10.01.80)	--
Cyprus	2.690	2.690 (14.11.79)	--
Egypt	21.530	21.530 (18.12.80)	--
Spain	412.200	412.000 (06.06.80)	200
France	1.564.050	61.224,49 (11.11.77) 132.653,06 (16.01.78) 68.493,15 (25.05.79) 152.941,17 (11.09.79) 300.000,00 (21.11.79) 275.000,00 (26.12.79) 300.000,00 (11.07.80) 273.738,13 (16.12.80)	--
			<u>1.564.050,00</u>

Country	1979-1980 ^{1/}		Contributions paid (date of payment)	Contributions due
	Contributions due	Contributions due		
Greece	94.220	11.500	(04.07.78)	--
		82.720	(28.09.79)	
		<u>94.220</u>		
Israel	61.910	15.000	(08.11.79)	--
		30.000	(15.02.80)	
		16.910	(25.06.80)	
		<u>61.910</u>		
Italy	744.610	678.336	(27.02.81)	66.274
Lebanon	8.070	--		8.070
Libya	43.070	10.350	(12.12.77)	--
		32.720	(21.10.80)	
		<u>43.070</u>		
Malta	2.690	1.192	(24.11.77)	--
		1.498	(05.12.79)	
		<u>2.690</u>		
Monaco	2.690	1.345	(08.11.79)	--
		1.345	(06.02.80)	
		<u>2.690</u>		

1979-1980 1/

Country Contributions due Contributions paid (date of payment) Contributions due

Morocco	13.460	3.075 108 10.277 <u>13.460</u>	(31.10.78) (28.11.78) (13.10.80)	--
Syria	5.380	5.380	(19.11.80)	--
Tunisia	5.380	5.380	(28.01.80)	--
Turkey	80.760	17.310,96 56.270,27 6.972,00 206,77 <u>80.760.00</u>	(21.05.80) (31.12.80) (03.03.81) (19.06.81)	--
Yugoslavia	107.680	22.248 84.580 <u>106.828</u>	(13.02.80) (23.07.81)	852
Sub-total	3.200.000	3.121.914,00		78.086.00
EEC	80.000	40.000,00 21.356,76 3.483,96 4.264,20 10.895,08 <u>80.000</u>	(15.02.80) (27.05.80) (17.09.80) (22.09.80) (14.10.80)	--
TOTAL	3.280.000	3.201.914,00		78.086,00

1/ UNEP/IG.14/9, Annex VIII.

ANNEX III

Apportionment of Contributions for Financial Years 1981 and 1982 ^{1/}
 Status at 31 August 1981
 (in US Dollars)

Country	Amounts for 1981	Contributions paid (date of payment)	Amounts for 1982	Contributions paid
Albania	(1.472	--	1.692	--)
Algeria	14.720	14.720 (08.05.81)	16.920	14.892
Cyprus	1.472	1.472 (24.08.81)	1.692	1.692
Egypt	11.776	--	13.536	--
Spain	225.216	--	256.876	--
France	855.232	142.000 (16.12.80)	983.052 (31.07.81)	--
		<u>400.000</u>		
		<u>542.000</u>		
Greece	51.520	51.520 (05.05.81)	59.220	20.780
Israel	33.856	10.000 (31.08.81)	38.916	--
Italy	497.536	--	571.896	--

Country	Amounts for 1981	Contributions paid (date of payment)	Amounts for 1982	Contributions paid
Lebanon	4.416	--	5.076	--
Libya	23.552	--	27.072	--
Malta	1.472	1.472 (19.05.81)	1.692	2.563
Morocco	7.360	--	8.460	--
Monaco	1.472	1.472 (01.06.81)	1.692	--
Syria	2.944	--	3.384	--
Tunisia	2.944	--	3.384	--
Turkey	44.160	42.535,32 (19.06.81)	50.760	--
Yugoslavia	58.880	--	67.680	--
	<u>1.840.000</u>	<u>672.891,32</u>	<u>2.115.000</u>	<u>39.927</u>
EEC	50.000	--	500.000	--
	<u>1.890.000</u>	<u>672.891,32</u>	<u>2.615.000</u>	<u>39.927</u>
UNEP	500.000	283.000	--	--