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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

Cairo, 9-10 November 1992

**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**

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order by H.E. Dr. Atef Ebeid, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Minister of Administrative Development and Minister in charge of the Environment of Egypt (President of the Bureau).

Mr. Etienne Franzi, Vice-President (Monaco), Mr. Mohammed Ennabli, Vice-President (Tunisia) and Mr. Israel Peleg, Rapporteur (Israel) were present.

Professor Salvino Busuttil, Co-ordinator of MAP and Mr. Ibrahim Dharat, Senior Programme Officer, MAP, represented the Secretariat. Mr. I. Dharat acted as the Technical Secretary of the Meeting.

2. The list of participants is contained in Annex I to this report.
3. In his opening statement, the President welcomed the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat and wished them success in their deliberations.
4. On behalf of the Co-ordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan and all the Members of the Bureau, the Co-ordinator of MAP expressed his condolences and sympathy with the Government and the people of Egypt on the tragic event of the earthquake that hit the country last October.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda

5. The meeting adopted the provisional agenda suggested by the Secretariat in document: UNEP/BUR/41/1.

Agenda item 3: Progress report by the President of the Bureau and the Co-ordinator of MAP on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)

6. The President of the Bureau briefed the meeting on the main results of the UNCED which was a successful Conference for the Mediterranean. It offered an opportunity to the various delegates to meet their counterpart. He pointed out that what was approved in Rio will remain useless unless action followed. The main issue before the Conference had been the demand for financial resources. It was clear that the increase of population, immigration and scarcity of resources in land and energy were environmental challenges. All these issues had to be considered by Mediterranean experts within the framework of an "Agenda 21" for the Mediterranean.
7. The Co-ordinator of MAP briefed the meeting on the issue of energy resources which was a hot issue at Rio. He informed the meeting on the proposal of Mr. S. Antoine (France) for an "energy policy for the Mediterranean". It was suggested that a meeting of independent Mediterranean experts be convened during February 1993 to prepare an "Agenda 21" for the Mediterranean, to be possibly followed by a Plenipotentiary meeting or an expanded Bureau meeting to review or update the Barcelona Convention as had been recently suggested by the French Minister of the Environment. In this connection, he pointed out that Malta is ready to host and partially finance the meeting of experts on "Agenda 21" for the Mediterranean (US \$ 15,000).

8. The Vice-President from Monaco informed the meeting on the proposal of H.S.H. Prince of Monaco presented in Rio, to create in Monaco an independent Bureau to coordinate and monitor Conventions on the protection of the Mediterranean.
9. The proposal had been welcomed in Rio and by the last ICSEM meeting in Trieste and endorsed by the meeting of the Ministers of EUR-OPA major risks of the Council of Europe. He felt that the Bureau might give its positive opinion on this initiative.
10. The Co-ordinator pointed out that it would be useful to have a Centre for information on the Mediterranean environmental problems as well as to promote cooperation. To this end he suggested that the Bureau might take note of the initiative and request the Secretariat to study various ways and means to cooperate with this Centre. He suggested the replacement of the word "co-ordination", because it could create confusion with the Co-ordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan. In this connection, he referred to the consultation meeting held recently in Athens with the participation of the Secretariats of Bern, Bonn and the Barcelona Conventions, and that it had been decided to create a permanent consultation mechanism and to meet annually for this purpose.

DECISION

11. The Bureau approved the proposal on the preparation of an "Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean" and authorized the Secretariat to convene a meeting of Mediterranean experts (15-20 experts) during January 1993 with a view to preparing an "Agenda 21" for the Mediterranean. In this connection the Bureau welcomed the offer of the Government of Malta to host and partially finance the meeting. For this purpose the Bureau authorized the Secretariat to allocate the necessary extra funds needed to cover the cost of the meeting (approximately US \$ 15,000).
12. Concerning the initiative of H.S.H. Prince of Monaco, the Bureau accepting the Coordinator's views, took note with satisfaction of the initiative of Monaco and requested the Secretariat to study ways and means to cooperate with this Centre.

Agenda item 4: Progress report by the Co-ordinator on the implementation of the activities carried out since the last meeting of the Bureau and recommendations on specific issues

13. The Co-ordinator introduced the progress report, on the activities carried out since the last meeting of the Bureau (Cairo, 25-26 February 1992) and the recommendations on specific issues included in the report which is contained in document: UNEP/BUR/41/2. He provided additional information on recent developments related to MAP.
14. The meeting decided to consider the two items (item 4 - Progress report and item 6 - Recommendations) jointly.

15. Concerning specific recommendations proposed by the Secretariat, the Bureau decided that:

a) Regular meetings of RAC

The Bureau agreed to the Secretariat's suggestion that future meetings of the RACs should be conducted in English and French.

b) Nicosia Charter

The Co-ordinator informed the meeting that within the framework of the Nicosia Charter and in conformity with the decisions of the Cairo Conference (28-30 April 1992), four countries had been selected to participate, if they so agreed, in the first phase of the programme. A meeting would be held soon in Brussels to agree on a programme for sustainable development for these countries. Other Mediterranean countries could benefit from this initiative at a later stage. The meeting was informed that the four countries concerned had agreed to be so chosen.

The Rapporteur from Israel expressed the interest of his country to be one of the countries to eventually benefit from this exercise.

DECISION

The Bureau took note of these developments.

c) Cooperation with Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)

The Co-ordinator briefed the meeting on the various contacts and cooperation projects being conducted with various NGOs.

The Vice-President from Tunisia pointed out that it was good to cooperate with NGOs, but there was a need to acquire sufficient information on these organizations and requested that MAP should clarify the general principles for the selection of an NGO for cooperation purposes.

The Co-ordinator referred to the previous decisions of the Contracting Parties relating to the need to establish stronger cooperation with NGOs in the Mediterranean and informed the meeting that a Directory of all official organizations and national centres in the Mediterranean dealing with the environment had been compiled (Directory of Mediterranean Marine Environmental Centres - MAP Technical Report Series No. 65). He proposed that a similar one could be developed for environmental NGOs. It was agreed to request the eventual new Monaco Centre to prepare such a directory.

d) Remote Sensing

The Co-ordinator briefed the meeting on his visit to Italy in relation to the Remote Sensing proposal and informed the Bureau that the CTM Centre (Centro di Telerilevamento Mediterraneo) had proposed to MAP, a programme of cooperation which involves training courses for Mediterranean experts in remote sensing. Moreover, TELESPIAZIO has made available an office in Rome for the use of MAP.

DECISION

- (1) The Bureau decided to refer the proposal that CTM Centre become a Regional Activity Centre for Remote Sensing under the umbrella of MAP, to the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.
- (2) Pending the decision of the Eighth Ordinary Meeting on this proposal, the Bureau instructed the Secretariat to undertake the necessary consultations with Italy and the CTM Centre with a view to preparing a training course during this transitional period, addressed to selected experts from the Contracting Parties on the application of remote sensing techniques and their use, as well as on the on-job training, to allow participants to execute practical activities connected with the development of remote sensing environmental projects.

e) Black Sea

The Co-ordinator made a statement on the development of relations between the Mediterranean and Black Sea Action Plans, emphasizing that the MAP role vis-a-vis the Black Sea had initially been taken at the request of the World Bank and with the approval of UNEP.

DECISION

The Bureau authorized the Secretariat to intensify its contacts with the new Secretariat of the Convention for the Black Sea to be located in Turkey with a view to appropriate cooperation between the two Secretariats.

f) Monitoring of Marine Pollution (MED POL)

The Co-ordinator informed the meeting that a suggestion had been made to him to the effect that it was a high time of MAP to undertake an independent evaluation of the MED POL programme. He pointed out that funds for this purposes would be identified by the Secretariat.

DECISION

- (1) The Bureau authorized the Secretariat to undertake an independent evaluation of the MED POL programme. It should propose the terms of reference and search for necessary funds for this undertaking.
- (2) The Bureau further instructed the Secretariat to identify sources of dumping in the Mediterranean, with a view to making the Dumping Protocol more effective. The Bureau felt that the matter could be discussed by the group of experts on the "Agenda 21" for the Mediterranean.

g) REMPEC

The Co-ordinator briefed the meeting on the last National Focal Points' meeting for REMPEC (Malta, September 1992) and its main decisions. In particular he referred to the decision on the

establishment of a Mediterranean Task Force for assisting Mediterranean Countries in combating accidental marine pollution. Furthermore, he pointed out that the INMARSAT equipment was being installed at the Centre, after the necessary repairs had been made at the premises of the Centre by the Maltese authorities.

He informed the meeting that, within the LIFE financial mechanism of the EEC, an amount of 547,000 ECU had been approved for development of a sub-regional system for combating major pollution accidents between Cyprus, Egypt and Israel. An amount of 88,500 ECU for a preliminary phase of the development of a similar sub-regional system for the western part of the Mediterranean between Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia had also been approved.

h) SPA/RAC

The Co-ordinator informed the meeting on the creation of a Biosphere Reserve in the Corsican-Ligurian province basin to manage the area in accordance with the criteria indicated by UNESCO's MAN and Biosphere programme.

He also pointed out that MAP has financially co-sponsored the Chios (Greece) Symposium on "Management of Island and Coastal Ecosystems in the Mediterranean (15-20 September 1992). The Symposium which was organized by MEDMARAVIS and Greece, approved the Chios Declaration.

Furthermore, the MED Unit and SPA/RAC organized a Consultation meeting among the Secretariats of Bern, Bonn and the Barcelona Conventions on the protection of cetaceans in the Mediterranean (Athens, 26-27 October 1992). The meeting agreed on future cooperation and coordination among the three Secretariats through a permanent consultation mechanism convening at least once a year.

i) Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP)

The Co-ordinator informed the meeting on recent developments regarding the CAMP projects for Fuka (Egypt), Sfax (Tunisia), Albania and the recent MAP mission to Morocco. He pointed out that due to the increase of the CAMP exercise, a new junior staff is needed to be recruited in order to assist in undertaking the heavy load.

The Co-ordinator informed the meeting of an informal Italian proposal to have a CAMP project for the Venice lagoon in Italy, under the umbrella of MAP, to be financed by the EEC.

The Rapporteur from Israel indicated that a request for a CAMP in Israel would be submitted to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

DECISION

The Bureau studied the Italian proposal, but it felt that before taking a final decision, additional information was required and requested the Secretariat to obtain further data on this matter from the Italian authorities.

j) Offshore Protocol

The President of the International Juridical Organization for Environment and Development (IJO), Dr. Mario Guttieres, MAP Consultant, briefed the meeting on developments relating to the Offshore Protocol and pointed out that the draft Protocol had been revised on the basis of comments received from the Contracting Parties. He was of the opinion that after accommodating most of the views of the EEC, France, Turkey and Yugoslavia, the new draft Protocol could probably be acceptable by the majority of states. To this end, he suggested that a Conference of Plenipotentiaries be convened without any further meeting of experts.

The Co-ordinator pointed out that the Secretariat shared the views expressed by the President of IJO and informed the meeting on the recent Turkish reconfirmation of their previous position.

DECISION

Following a general discussion on this matter, the Bureau decided that:

- (1) the Secretariat should convene a Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Athens during 1993, after sending the modified version of the draft Protocol to the Contracting Parties seeking their views by a date, to be specified by the Secretariat, on the said modus operandi;
- (2) the Secretariat should subsequently propose to the Bureau the dates for the Conference of Plenipotentiaries.

k) Hazardous Wastes

The Bureau authorized the Secretariat to finalize the two documents on this matter (a draft Protocol and an assessment document) for presentation to the meeting of experts in the spring of 1993, to be hosted and partially financed by the Italian NGO (Associazione Europea Arte Scienze e Spettacolo). Furthermore, the Bureau authorized the Secretariat to allocate US \$ 10,000 from 1993 budget for this purpose.

In this context the Bureau instructed the Secretariat to ensure co-ordination with existing Conventions especially the Basel Convention.

l) Liability and Compensation

Dr. Mario Guttieres (IJO) briefed the meeting on the steps taken to prepare a draft on appropriate procedure for the determination of liability and compensation for damages from the pollution of marine environment. A draft programme and timetable for the preparation of the draft procedure has been prepared.

In pursuing this task, the Secretariat was instructed to ensure proper coordination with existing UN bodies in order to avoid duplication.

DECISION

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to submit the first draft of the appropriate procedure for the determination of liability and compensation to the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

m) Administrative and financial matters

After various explanations from the Co-ordinator on the various administrative and financial matters relevant to MAP, the Bureau agreed on the following:

(1) Staff of UN Agencies outposted to Athens

The Bureau decided to close this issue and recommended that the Secretariat should continue its cooperation with the UN Agencies, which contributed in an important manner to the work of MAP.

(2) Rules of procedure of MAP

The Bureau decided to deal with this issue at its next meeting.

(3) REMPEC personnel

The Bureau approved the Secretariat's proposal to upgrade the post of the REMPEC's Director from P.5 to D.1. It also approved the proposal to upgrade the two professional posts at the Centre from P.3 to P.4 and from P.4 to P.5.

(4) MED Unit personnel

The Bureau approved the reclassification of the post (1312) of Mr. S. Fakis when he retires, to include an element of driving, and post 1311 would remain driver/clerk, while post 1314 could be classified as clerk/typist, thus avoiding, for the future, the constant need of additional temporary typing assistance.

(5) Auditing of MAP accounts

A certified document signed by UNEP Hqs reflecting the 1991 expenditures and the January-August 1992 expenditures was distributed to the Members of the Bureau.

As regards the ECU issue, it was agreed that certain extra-budgetary funding could be reflected in ECU.

(6) Travel costs of MED Unit staff

The Bureau approved an increase of US \$ 50,000 in the travel budget of 1992 to cover the shortage in the travel budget allocated by the Contracting Parties. The funds would be obtained from savings which would not affect the programme.

(7) Premises of MAP

The Bureau authorized an additional sum of US \$ 6,000 to be spent on maintenance and repair cost for the premises of MAP in Athens.

Agenda item 5: Admission of new states to the Barcelona Convention and status of the Regional Activity Centre for Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC)

16. The Co-ordinator informed the meeting that in accordance with the various consultations with UNEP HQs and the President and the members of the Bureau, an invitation had been sent to Croatia to send a representative to participate in the meeting of the Bureau as an observer, with a view to giving additional information on the situation in Croatia vis-a-vis its request to be admitted to the Barcelona Convention. The Croatian Government accepted the invitation and decided to send two representatives to attend part of the meeting related to this question.
17. The representative of Croatia Mr. Victor Simoncic, Assistant Minister of Environment, accompanied by Mr. Stanko Nick, Chief Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made a statement giving additional information on the situation in his country and expressed the wish of his country to be a Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention.
18. After some discussion, the following decision was approved by the Bureau:

DECISION

The Bureau decided:

- (1) to defer the question of the admission of Croatia to the Barcelona Convention to the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (October 1993) and requested that Croatia should apply for the membership of the Barcelona Convention on the usual procedure as stipulated in Article 26 of the Convention.
- (2) that pending the decision of the 8th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Croatia should be invited to participate in the technical meetings of MAP as an observer.
- (3) with regard to the PAP/RAC in Split, to reconfirm its previous decision taken during its last meeting that the Centre would conduct its work on the basis of "business as usual", in accordance with the 1992-1993 approved workplan and budget. The Co-ordinator should visit Split and report to the next meeting of the Bureau on the status of the PAP/RAC. Until such a report was accepted by the Bureau, there would be no fresh undertakings with the Split Centre, the Coordinator to exercise, until further instructions from the Bureau, strict supervision over the workings of the said Centre.

Agenda item 6: Recommendations on specific issues emanating from the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties and the last meeting of the Bureau

19. (This agenda item was discussed jointly with the Agenda item 4).

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

20. On a proposal from the Secretariat, the Bureau decided to convene its next meeting in Athens, Greece, from 4-5 March 1993.

Agenda item 8: Any other matter

21. The Bureau decided to create a Medal for distinguished services in the field of protection of the Mediterranean environment, and a logo of MAP.

22. On a proposal from the Secretariat, the Bureau decided to convene the Joint Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Socio-Economic Committee in Athens from 3 to 7 May 1993.

23. The Co-ordinator informed the meeting on the participation of MAP in the 57th Thessaloniki International Fair, at the invitation of the Greek Government.

Agenda item 9: Adoption of the report of the Meeting

24. The Bureau adopted its report on Tuesday, 10 November 1992.

25. The Bureau expressed its appreciation to its President and to the Government of Egypt for hosting its meeting in Cairo and for the facilities and hospitality it had provided.

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