

Introduction

1. At their Eighth Ordinary Meeting (Antalya, 12-15 October 1993), the Contracting Parties decided to amend rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to read as follows:

"The Bureau of the meetings or of the conferences, shall consist of the President, the four Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur. The President, or, in his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents designated by him, shall serve as Chairman of the Bureau."

2. The present meeting is the first official meeting of the enlarged Bureau.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

3. The meeting was convened at Ankara Hotel in Ankara and was called to order by H.E. Mr. Riza Akçali, Minister of the Environment of Turkey and President of the Bureau.

H.E. Mr. Chaouki Serghini, Vice-President (Morocco), Mr. Joaquim Ros Vicent, Vice-President (Spain), Mr. Serge Antoine, Vice-President (France), Mr. Tohami Hamrouni, Vice-President (Tunisia) and Mr Hrach Kouyoumjian, Rapporteur (Lebanon) were present.

Mr. Ljubomir Jeftic, Deputy Coordinator of MAP and Mr. Ibrahim Dharat, Senior Programme Officer of MAP, represented the Secretariat. Mr. I. Dharat acted as Technical Secretary of the meeting.

4. The list of participants is contained in Annex I to this report.

5. In his opening statement, the President welcomed the Members of the Bureau and the Secretariat and wished them success in their deliberations.

6. He dwelt upon the issue of the serious delay in the payments of contributions of some Contracting Parties to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) and pointed out that it was impossible for the MAP Secretariat to carry out the activities approved by the Contracting Parties. He then stressed that the situation constituted a serious obstacle for the realization of the collective objectives of the Mediterranean countries at regional level, and that it is not enough to reach political consensus on the decisions to be taken for the fulfillment of obligations, but that the main task should be to provide for the implementation of these decisions in a stable way as soon as possible. As regards the contribution of Turkey, for 1994, he informed the meeting that it would be transferred to MAP before the end of the first week of February 1994.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda

7. The meeting considered the provisional agenda suggested by the Secretariat in document: UNEP/BUR/43/1/Rev.1.
8. Participants suggested that priority should be given to the critical financial situation, hence, the meeting accepted a modified order of listing the agenda items.
9. It was also proposed that a new agenda item entitled "Appointment of MAP Coordinator" be added to the Provisional Agenda. The meeting approved this suggestion as well as the revised provisional agenda of the meeting.

Agenda item 3: Progress report by the Deputy Coordinator on the implementation of the activities carried out since the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Antalya, 12 - 15 October 1993)

10. It was pointed out that the progress report must not combine the progress achieved during the period since the Antalya meeting with those proposals by the Secretariat which needed a decision by the Bureau. Therefore, it was decided that the progress report should concentrate only on explaining in detail the progress achieved and that a separate document should include the proposals of the Secretariat which require decisions by the Bureau.
11. The Secretariat was requested to amend the present progress report accordingly and apply this procedure to future meetings.
12. Mr. L. Jeftic, Deputy Coordinator, introduced the progress report on activities carried out since the last meeting of the Contracting Parties. The report is contained in document: UNEP/BUR/43/2. He also provided additional information on recent developments related to MAP.
13. He referred to the fact that despite the critical financial situation of the Mediterranean Trust Fund, the various components of MAP had been able to undertake certain activities which were reflected in the progress report.
14. Furthermore, the Deputy Coordinator informed the Bureau of the pending retirement of Mr. Arsen Pavasovic, Director of PAP/RAC, at the end of March 1994. The Bureau expressed its thanks to Mr. A. Pavasovic for the work carried out by him.
15. He pointed out that MAP Secretariat has requested a legal opinion from UNEP, Nairobi concerning the former Yugoslavia as regards its status as Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention. A reply was received from UNEP which indicated that the issue is still not fully crystallized. However, in accordance with the General Assembly and the Security Council resolutions, the State formerly

known as the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has ceased to exist. Therefore, he requested guidance from the Bureau on this delicate issue.

16. During the debate on this agenda item, the members of the Bureau commented on some of the issues raised in the progress report and it was decided that as regards the former Yugoslavia, the UN resolutions on this subject should be respected. The Secretariat was also requested to submit a proposal to the June 1994 meeting of the Bureau, following consultation with the United Nations legal office, on how to deal with the accumulated unpaid contributions of the former Yugoslavia.
17. The Deputy Coordinator informed the Bureau that, in accordance with the decision taken in Antalya concerning the on-going CAMP projects, priority in financing would be given to the on-going projects in order to complete their implementation (Albania, Fuka-Matrouh, Sfax). The Bureau agreed with this approach.
18. At the end of the discussion, the Bureau took note of the progress report.

Agenda item 4: Recommendations on specific issues emanating from the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties

a) Status of contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF)

19. Mr. L. Jetic informed the meeting on the critical financial situation of the MTF, pointing out that the unpaid pledges as at 31 January 1994, including the 1994 pledges, have reached the amount of US \$ 8,893,876. He stated that, in full coordination with the President of the Bureau, letters were sent to the Italian authorities concerning the unpaid contributions for the years 1992, 1993 as well as for 1994. Moreover, UNEP administration sent two letters to the Contracting Parties concerning their unpaid contributions. The first letter was sent during November 1993, to Contracting Parties which have not yet paid their arrears for 1993, and previous years and the second letter was sent on 24 January 1994, to all Contracting Parties requesting the payment of the 1994 contributions as well as any unpaid contributions for the previous years.
20. Furthermore, he pointed out that UNEP has agreed to assist MAP in this difficult period by extending a loan of one million US dollars. This loan will cover six months' salaries of officials of the Coordinating Unit and the Regional Centres as well as two months' operating costs. Mr. L. Jetic informed the meeting that five non-governmental organizations in Italy have sent an open letter to the Italian Government expressing their concern for the delays in the payment of the Italian contributions to the MTF and urging the Italian Government to rectify the situation speedily.
21. He also pointed out the legal problem raised by the officials of the European Union concerning its contribution to the MTF, whereby it had requested that European Union auditors should have access to UNEP accounts. This was

unacceptable to UNEP Headquarters due to UN regulations. The matter is still being negotiated directly by EU and the United Nations. It was suggested that the Bureau approach the EU with a view to contacting the Italian authorities concerning Italy's contributions to the MTF.

22. The meeting discussed at great length the general question of delays in payments, particularly those of the Italian authorities. Delegates even raised the issue of their credibility as regards their commitment to the Mediterranean Action Plan. In this respect, the issue of entering into new agreements with the Italian authorities was questioned.
 23. Many delegates suggested a wise and constructive approach. In this respect the Bureau agreed that a letter should be prepared and sent to the Italian authorities by the President of the Bureau on behalf of all Members of the Bureau. It was also suggested that letters on the same matter would be sent to the other Contracting Parties which have not paid or are having difficulties in paying their contributions of previous years.
 24. Furthermore, it was agreed that diplomatic action might be initiated in Italy by the countries composing the Bureau, in order to raise this critical issue and urge the Italian Government to fulfill its commitments vis-a-vis the Mediterranean Action Plan.
 25. It was also agreed by the Bureau that a press communiqué would be issued at the end of the meeting highlighting the main decisions taken.
 26. The meeting requested that all important communications and information relating to financial issues, particularly cash-flow, be annexed in the future to the progress report presented to the Bureau.
 27. It was also agreed that the countries comprising the present Bureau should set an example as regards payment of their contributions to MTF as soon as possible.
 28. In this connection, the Turkish 1994 contribution has been paid. The Tunisian and Lebanese contributions will be paid as soon as possible. The first half of the French contribution is also expected soon according to the usual practice of France. The Vice-President from Spain informed the meeting that the Spanish contributions for 1993 and 1994 would be paid in the first half of 1994.
- b) Preparation for an Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean
29. Mr. I. Dharat, Senior Programme Officer, MAP, introduced this sub-item and briefed the meeting on the results of the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Tunis Conference on "Mediterranean 21" held in Tunis on 25 January 1994.

He pointed out that it was agreed to convene the first preparatory meeting of Government designated representatives of the Mediterranean countries in Tunis, May 16-20, 1994. The preparatory meetings and the Conference itself are an initiative of the Tunisian Government and aim at identifying an Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean. MAP's role would be to provide financial and technical assistance to the Tunisian Government in order to contribute to the success of these meetings. He requested the guidance of the Bureau on the level of MAP involvement and the way in which to incorporate the results of the Tunis Conference in the framework of the preparation of the Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in Barcelona during June 1995.

30. The Vice-President from Tunisia informed the Bureau on the actions undertaken by his Government for the preparation of the Conference "Mediterranean 21" and on the results of the first Steering Committee meeting, held in Tunis on 25 January 1994. The meeting was attended by representatives from France, Monaco and MAP. He suggested that the meeting of experts to review the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols be held after the Tunis Conference so that the Conference proposals on how to incorporate sustainable development in the Convention could be reviewed. He also proposed to set up a Commission for sustainable development within the MAP framework. The Tunisian delegation distributed an information paper on the dates and places of the preparatory meetings and of the Conference and its agenda, which will be convened in Tunis on the 1st of November 1994. The paper stipulates the following calendar:

1st meeting of the Steering Committee	25 January 1994
2nd meeting of the Steering Committee	25-26 March 1994
1st Meeting of the Preparatory Committee	16-20 May 1994
3rd Meeting of the Steering Committee	13-14 Sept 1994
2nd Meeting of the Preparatory Committee	30-31 October 1994
The Conference MED 21	1 November 1994
Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties	2-3 November 1994

31. This suggestion was accepted by the meeting. It was also pointed out that the Tunis meetings and the expert meeting in Turkey for MED POL Phase III were also crucial for the preparation of the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties. In this respect MAP was asked to support the Tunis Conference and look into other possible sources of finance.

32. It was pointed out that the issue of Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean is considered as fundamental; it should thus be integrated within the MAP framework and the Secretariat should provide the financial means required for the preparation of the Conference.
33. The Deputy Coordinator pointed out that it was the Secretariat's understanding, that the meeting of experts on Agenda 21 would be organized by Tunisia with MAP assistance. If it were to be organized under the MAP umbrella, UNEP rules should apply.
34. At the end of the debate on this agenda item, the general consensus was, that the "Mediterranean 21" Conference would be organized as agreed in Antalya within the framework of MAP, that is an activity of the Tunisian Government representing a major contribution to the forthcoming Conferences of the Contracting Parties to be held in Barcelona in June 1995. The Bureau recommended the full support of the MAP Secretariat within the limits of the financial means available.

c) Revision of the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols

35. The Vice-President from Spain suggested that the meeting of experts on the review of the Convention should be attended by experts on legal issues as well as on technical issues and he proposed the dates of 14-18 November 1994, for this meeting in Barcelona. He pointed out that the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in Barcelona in June 1995 would be followed immediately by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries to endorse, as appropriate, the revision of the Convention and its related Protocols, as well as of the Mediterranean Action Plan.
36. Within the framework of the preparation of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties at Barcelona, the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat are invited to submit their views on possible modifications or revisions to be introduced in the various instruments of the Barcelona Convention, in order that they be reviewed by the Bureau in its June meeting.

d) Preparation for the Plenipotentiaries Conference on Offshore Protocol

37. The Deputy Coordinator informed the meeting that, in agreement with Spain, the meeting of experts on the Offshore Protocol would be held in Madrid on 17-18 October 1994, to be followed by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries on 20-21 October 1994 in the same city.
38. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries would deal only with the Offshore Protocol, the amendments to the LBS and Dumping Protocols would be dealt with by the meeting of experts on the revision of the Convention and its related protocols.

- e) Preparation for the Plenipotentiaries Conference on the Protocol on Hazardous Wastes in the Mediterranean
39. The proposal to accept the offer of an Italian NGO to host the second meeting of experts on Hazardous Wastes was questioned. It was agreed that the Secretariat should approach the Italian Government with the suggestion that the meeting of experts should be convened under the aegis of the Government of Italy, with the eventual collaboration of the Italian NGO in question.
- f) Review of the Terms of Reference of the Bureau and of the Scientific and Technical Committee and of the Socio-Economic Committee
40. The draft Terms of Reference of the Bureau were briefly reviewed by the meeting. It was stressed that it was important to improve the work of the Bureau with the Secretariat, including procedural and communication matters. Furthermore, it was suggested that the Bureau should review the structure of the Secretariat regarding personnel and its recruitment. The members of the Bureau took it upon themselves to send to the MAP Secretariat their respective proposals on the matter in writing by the end of February 1994.
41. As regards the Terms of Reference of the two standing committees, here again the members of the Bureau took it upon themselves to send to the MAP Secretariat their written comments by the end of March 1994.
42. Furthermore, the meeting asked the MAP Secretariat to initiate an objective assessment of the impact of these two committees to be presented to the June 1994 meeting of the Bureau.
- g) Cooperation and coordination with international institutions and programmes (GEF, METAP, Commission for Sustainable Development, etc)
43. The Deputy Coordinator introduced the subject. It was apparent from his presentation and the comments of the participants that the picture was not encouraging at present. The meeting decided that MAP and the Bureau should, in a constructive way, seek better accommodation and collaboration with the above-mentioned organizations as well as UNDP, CEDARE, EIB, AGFUND and others.
- h) Cooperation with NGOs
44. The Deputy Coordinator introduced information document UNEP/BUR/43/Inf.5 concerning "MAP Cooperation with NGOs". In the debate that followed, participants highlighted the importance of collaboration with NGOs particularly in the light of the post Rio situation. However, they suggested a selective and cautious approach. It was also agreed that the members of the Bureau should send to the MAP Secretariat their comments and suggestions on the matter by the end of March 1994, so that the Secretariat could present a new version of the document to the Bureau in its June 1994 meeting.

Agenda item 5: Date and place of the next meeting of the Bureau

45. Taking into consideration the international schedule of meetings, it was agreed to hold the next two Bureau meetings as follows:
- June 1994 in Morocco with dates to be finalized between the MAP Secretariat and the host country;
 - 2-3 November 1994 in Tunisia.
46. As regards the cost of participation to the Bureau meeting to be held in Tunis, the Vice-President from Tunisia informed members of the willingness of his Government to assume the full cost of the meeting including participation (travel and full accommodation).
47. Turning to standing decisions for the future meetings of the Bureau, and concerning the cost of participation and organization, in view of the current financial difficulties, it was proposed that MAP should assume the basic participation costs (travel + DSA). However, any country that has available means is invited to assume the cost of participation of its representatives.

Agenda item 6: Appointment of MAP Coordinator

48. Members of the Bureau expressed the wish to be informed and even to participate in decisions of this nature including the selection process. It was decided that the Bureau should send a letter to the Executive Director of UNEP to that effect.

Agenda item 7: Any other business

49. It was suggested and agreed upon to hold the next Joint Committee meeting in Athens, 16-20 January 1995.
50. The Vice-President from France referred to an initiative in several countries which aimed at a better control and ownership of coastal strips in order to safeguard the environment. He asked participants to reflect on the matter and inform him on the relevance and feasibility of holding a meeting on this subject to be hosted by France.
51. He also referred to the question of public awareness and information campaigns on environment and sustainable development, and more specifically to an on-going initiative on fresh water (1994-1995). He suggested that the Bureau encourage NGOs active in this area and reminded the meeting of the decision taken during the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties at Antalya to set up committees at national level and carry out parallel campaigns in the Coastal States. The Bureau will examine the matter in greater detail at its next meeting.

52. The Deputy Coordinator introduced the information document on Multilateral Treaties in the field of environment - Status of participation by the Mediterranean countries (UNEP/BUR/43/Inf.4). It was agreed that the Secretariat circulate the above-mentioned document to all Contracting Parties and organizations responsible for their respective treaties for their comments in order that it can be modified accordingly.
53. The Vice-President from Spain asked that the President of the Bureau send formally to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, as a Depositary of the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols, the report of the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties on the admission of new members to the Convention.
54. In the course of the meeting, three Agreements relative to the monitoring programmes for Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia were officially signed by the Secretariat and the representatives of the respective countries.

Agenda item 8: Adoption of the report of the meeting

55. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the meeting closed on Thursday, 3 February 1994, at 14.00 hrs.

ANNEX I
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Liste des Participants

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