



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



UNEP/BUR/44/4
9 June 1994

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**

Rabat, 8-9 June 1994

**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 Second Meeting of the Bureau was convened in Rabat, Morocco, upon an invitation from the Moroccan Government which was accepted by the Bureau during its last meeting (Ankara, February 1994).
2. The Meeting was convened at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Rabat 8-9 June 1994.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

3. The meeting was called to order by H.E. Mr. Riza Akçali, Minister of 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. Mohamed Ghourabi, representing Mr. Tohami Hamrouni, Vice-President (Tunisia) and Mr. Hratch 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 thanked the host Government. He referred to some of the major problems confronting the Bureau, such as financial matters, in particular the non payment of the arrears by Italy and the EU. He informed the participants about the nomination of the new Coordinator of MAP in the person of Mr. Lucien Chabason. He stated that he was looking forward to a fruitful meeting.
6. The Vice-President from Morocco, H.E. Mr. C. Serghini welcomed all participants on behalf of his Government. He said that this was a very opportune moment for Morocco as it coincides with two major relevant activities in his country, namely the meeting of the National Environment Council and the World Environment Day, which was celebrated in Morocco under the theme "Clean Beaches and Clean Coastal Line".
7. Mr. L. Jeftic thanked the Moroccan Government for hosting the meeting and congratulated Mr. Serghini on the reconfirmation of his position in the Moroccan Government. He noted with satisfaction that this meeting coincides with several activities in Morocco in the framework of the Mediterranean Environment Week.
8. The other members of the Bureau in turn thanked the Moroccan Government for hosting the meeting.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda and organization of work

9. The meeting considered the amended provisional agenda suggested by the Secretariat (UNEP/BUR/44/1/Rev.1). The agenda as adopted appears as Annex II to this report.

Agenda item 3: Progress report by the Deputy Coordinator on the implementation of the activities carried out since the last meeting of the Bureau (Ankara, 2-3 February 1994)

10. Mr. L. Jetic introduced the progress report on the activities carried out since the last meeting of the Bureau (UNEP/BUR/44/2). He also provided additional information on recent developments related to MAP.
11. Mr. Jetic also informed the Bureau of the decision of the Executive Director of UNEP Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, about the appointment of Mr. Lucien Chabason, a national of France, as the new Coordinator for MAP. It was expected that Mr. Chabason will assume his function on 11 July 1994. For more details about Mr. Chabason's C.V. the Secretariat circulated a press release issued by UNEP (No. 1994/16).
12. The Secretariat distributed a revised progress report (UNEP/BUR/43/2/Rev.1) that was presented to the previous Bureau Meeting as requested by the Bureau.
13. During the general debate on the progress report to this meeting (UNEP/BUR/44/2), the members of the Bureau commented on some of the issues raised therein and on the additional information provided by the representative of the Secretariat.
14. The meeting commenting on the importance of the CAMP programme requested that the Secretariat present in the future information on external funds for each CAMP in order to have a better insight into the activity for a better evaluation of the programme.
15. With regard to document on the 1993 expenditure, the Secretariat informed the meeting that such a document will be distributed to the Bureau members by the end of June 1994.
16. Mr. H. Kouyoumjian, commenting on the progress of CAMP related activities in Lebanon, thanked the Coordinating Unit for all its efforts as this was the first major activity for Lebanon after the war. He asked the Bureau to reiterate its commitment to give priority status to the CAMP project for Lebanon. This suggestion was accepted by the Bureau. He mentioned also that the first major activity organized in Lebanon in this respect will be held in early July 1994.

17. Concerning the issue of the replacement of Mr. L.J. Saliba, WHO Senior Scientist, who has retired and more generally the issue of personnel management, the Bureau decided the following:
- to request the Secretariat to send, as soon as possible, a letter to the World Health Organization (WHO) in Copenhagen, asking to freeze the appointment or the proposed appointment to the vacant post until the Bureau of the Contracting Parties takes a decision on the matter at its next meeting;
 - to ask the Secretariat to approach WHO for possible secondment to the Coordinating Unit of an expert, at WHO expense, until the Bureau takes a decision on the matter at its next meeting; and
 - taking into consideration the seriousness of the financial problems to which MAP is confronted, it is necessary to seek ways to match the implementation of the activities of the Programme on the one hand and staff management on the other and this at the level of the financial implications that ensue from both. In order to accomplish this, MAP Secretariat is requested to prepare for the next meeting of the Contracting Parties a report on the evaluation of personnel for the last 10 years in connection with MAP priorities for the same period.

During the discussion, which preceded and followed the decision, the Deputy Coordinator informed the Bureau of the important role of WHO in the implementation of MAP and of the possible serious consequences of such a decision, and gave the Secretariat's view that such a decision should not be taken.

18. As regards the lack of relevant information supplied by the Marseille Secretariat on the 100 Historic Sites, the meeting expressed its concern and asked the Coordinating Unit for a full report.
19. The Bureau requested that the Secretariat restructure the presentation of the progress report in order to reflect better the various activities within the framework of the Convention and MAP respectively.
20. As regards the question of unpaid pledges of former Yugoslavia the Bureau decided to defer this matter to the forthcoming meeting of the Contracting Parties.
21. Concerning the ratification by the Government of Lebanon of the Land-based Sources Protocol (LBS) and the Specially Protected Areas (SPA) Protocol, Mr. H. Kouyoumjian mentioned that to his knowledge both had been ratified and that he would check this in order to inform the Depositary State (Spain) and MAP Secretariat.

22. During a discussion on the activities of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the Bureau requested that REMPEC should step up its support and assistance to developing countries in the preparation of their national contingency plans.
23. At the end of the general discussion, the Bureau took note of the progress report (UNEP/BUR/44/2).

Agenda item 4. Recommendations on specific issues emanating from the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Antalya, October 1993) and the last meeting of the Bureau:

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

24. Mr. L. Jetic introduced the relevant section contained in document UNEP/BUR/44/3. He informed the meeting on such developments as the contribution of Spain for 1994 which was recently received and on the voluntary contribution of the EU for 1993 which is expected to be paid soon.
25. During the ensuing discussion, once again the Bureau expressed its concern and disappointment as regards the 1992, 1993 and 1994 Italian contributions. It was decided that the President of the Bureau should send immediately in the name of its members a letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy in this regard.
26. The Bureau decided to ask the new Coordinator to take all necessary steps for the payment of arrears. It would also be necessary to readjust MAP activities according to the availability of funds and to submit the relevant proposals to the next Bureau meeting.
27. As regards arrears, the Bureau reiterated the decisions of the Contracting Parties meeting in Antalya (October 1993) regarding the Revolving Fund.
28. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to ask UNEP to notify, as soon as possible and before the end of the current financial year, the relevant authorities in each Contracting Party to ensure that MAP receives their respective pledges on time.
29. The representative from Tunisia informed the meeting that Tunisia's contribution to RAC/SPA which was originally budgeted for US \$ 50,000 amply exceeded that amount during the 1992/1993 financial year and that it had reached a level of more than US \$ 70,000.- He asked the Secretariat kindly to record in MAP documents Tunisia's revaluated contribution at US \$ 70,000.

Concerning Tunisia 1994 contribution to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF), he indicated that the sum has been transferred.

- b. Revision of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols
30. In view of current activities in this field, and for a better strategy, the Bureau decided:
- (a) that a decision on the revision of MAP, the Convention and its related protocols must await the recommendations of the expert meeting on the revision of MAP legal instruments to be held in Barcelona on 14-18 November 1994, the Tunis meeting on Agenda 21 on 1 November 1994, and the Izmir meeting on MED POL Phase III on 20-23 June 1994.
 - (b) the Secretariat must request the Contracting Parties for their comments and suggestions on the matter.
31. The President of the Bureau indicated that it was not yet necessary to cite the international institutions with which cooperation may be done for the revision of the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols as indicated in document UNEP/BUR/44/3 (Recommendations on specific issues).
32. The Bureau thought it necessary to meet early in 1995 in order to review all the relevant matters related to the preparation of the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties. In this respect, Mr. S. Antoine expressed the willingness of France to host and fully finance this meeting in France on 5-6 January 1995. The proposal was welcomed and accepted.
33. Given the fact that the members of the Bureau would be present in Tunis on November 1, 1994, to participate in the Ministerial Conference on MED 21, Tunisia expressed its readiness to cover the cost of accommodation for the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat.
34. Turning to participation expenses for Bureau members attending meetings of the Bureau, it was decided to cover the relevant costs (ticket + DSA) of participation of Bureau members through the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF).
35. Concerning participation costs for the meeting on Hazardous Wastes, if held in Athens (September 1994), the Experts' meeting on Offshore Protocol (October 1994) and Meeting of legal and technical experts on the revision of MAP legal instruments (November 1994), it was decided to cover only the expenses (tickets + DSA) of participants from developing countries following the criteria established by the United Nations.

c. Preparation for the meeting of experts and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Offshore Protocol

36. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the host Government Agreement was cleared and will be signed soon by the Government of Spain and UNEP and that the meetings will be held on 11-12 October 1994 (meeting of experts) and 13-14 October 1994 (Plenipotentiaries Conference).

d. Second Meeting of experts on the draft protocol on Hazardous Wastes in the Mediterranean

37. In view of the importance of this matter, the Bureau decided that the Secretariat take the necessary action to organize the meeting in Athens before the end of September 1994 through MTF funds. However, it was also decided that the Secretariat write immediately to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs asking that the agreement concerning this meeting be signed by UNEP and the Italian Government rather than by UNEP and the NGO in question. Should a positive reply be given to this request within two weeks, action could be taken in order to convene the said meeting in Italy, otherwise the meeting should be held in Athens as mentioned above.

e. Terms of Reference of the Bureau, the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Socio-Economic Committee

(1) Terms of Reference of the Bureau

38. The Bureau decided to ask the members of the Bureau to submit by 15 July 1994, their comments and suggestions to the Secretariat for a new revision of the text in question.

(2) Terms of Reference of the two Committees

39. The Bureau reiterated its request to the Secretariat to prepare a report on evaluation and effectiveness of the two committees for submission to the next Bureau meeting. The Bureau members were also asked to submit their comments and suggestions.

f. Cooperation of MAP with non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

40. The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the proposal on NGOs (UNEP/BUR/44/3/ Annex VII). It was agreed that members of the Bureau would send their written comments to the Secretariat by 1 September 1994 which would then prepare a revised text as an internal document of the Bureau for its November meeting.

Agenda item 5. Initiative on fresh water regarding public awareness and information campaigns on environment and sustainable development

41. Due to the importance of this matter, the Bureau decided to keep abreast of such activities and try, if possible, to give them the relevant orientation. It was also suggested that each Mediterranean Country could initiate such activities.

Agenda item 6. Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean

42. The Bureau was following with the greatest attention the work of the Tunis Conference which would be a useful contribution for the promotion of Mediterranean cooperation and possibly constitute concrete progress toward the implementation of sustainable development. The Bureau thanked the Coordinating Unit for its support to the meeting hosted by the Tunisian Government.

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

43. It was decided to hold the next meeting in Tunis on 2-3 November 1994 so as to coincide with the Ministerial Conference on MED 21.
44. Upon a request of the Bureau, the Secretariat presented a list of meetings leading to the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties as follows:
- Second meeting of experts on the draft Protocol on Hazardous Wastes in the Mediterranean, Rome or Athens, September 1994;
 - Experts' meeting on Offshore Protocol, Madrid, 11-12 October 1994;
 - Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Offshore Protocol, Madrid, 13-14 October 1994;
 - Second preparatory meeting on Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean, Tunis, 29-30 October 1994;
 - Ministerial Conference MED 21, Tunis, 1 November 1994;
 - Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, Tunis, 2-3 November 1994;
 - Experts' meeting for the revision of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols, Barcelona 14-18 November 1994;
 - Extraordinary Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, France, 5-6 January 1995;
 - Joint Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Socio-Economic Committee, Athens, 16-20 January 1995;
 - Ninth Ordinary Meeting, Barcelona 5-10 June 1995 (5-8 Ninth Ordinary Meeting and 9-10 Plenipotentiaries Conference).

Agenda item 8: Any other business

45. The President of the Bureau reminded members that the period of 5-11 June is being celebrated as "The Mediterranean Environment Week" by all the Contracting Parties in accordance with the Genoa Declaration. This occasion may, therefore, be beneficial for the Mediterranean countries and the people who visit the region for touristic purposes as an opportunity to accelerate joint efforts to promote the protection of the Mediterranean and highlight MAP activities. He suggested that as of this year, Contracting Parties could choose a common theme which would enhance "Mediterranean Environment Week" activities. He requested that the Secretariat be given a mandate to prepare visual aids and publications to be used during the celebrations.

The Bureau approved this proposal.

46. Some members referred to activities under the United Nations Convention on Desertification. Thus far, there have been neither concrete nor collective efforts in this field in the Mediterranean. In view of the importance of this issue, members hoped for a quick adoption of the abovementioned Convention.
47. Mr. S. Antoine (France) gave additional information to that provided during the last Bureau meeting on ways to protect the natural coastal environment. He stated that certain countries have indicated their interest for an exchange of views on the subject and possibly coordinated action.

He further indicated that France had gathered some data on legal and financial systems for the protection of coasts (such as the "Conservation du littoral") and on the public's participation in the sustainable conservation of specific coastal stretches (example of "The National Trust" in the U.K.); moreover, he expressed France's willingness to organize, under the aegis of MAP a Mediterranean Workshop on the matter. Tunisia was in support of such an initiative.

The Bureau took note of this proposal and pronounced itself in favour.

Agenda item 9 Adoption of the report of the meeting

48. The Bureau adopted its report on Thursday, 9 June 1994.

Agenda item 10. Closure of the meeting

49. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the President on behalf of the Members of the Bureau thanked the host country for the excellent organization of the meeting and the exceptional hospitality shown.

50. Mr. L. Jetic, in the name of the Secretariat, also thanked the host country for the excellent organization and exceptional hospitality .
51. The President declared the meeting closed on Thursday, 9 June 1994 at 21.00 hours.

ANNEX I
List of Participants
Liste des Participants

TURKEY
TURQUIE

President
H.E. Mr. Riza Akçali
Minister of the Environment
Ministry of the Environment
Eskisehir Yolu 8 K.M.
06100 Ankara
Turkey

Tel. No. (90) (312) 2851705
Fax No. (90) (312) 2853739

MOROCCO
MAROC

Vice-President
H.E. Mr. Chaouki Serghini
Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat auprès du Ministre d'Etat à
l'Intérieur Chargé de la Protection
de l'Environnement
Ministère d'Etat à l'Intérieur
36 Avenue Al Abtal - Agdal
Rabat
Maroc

Tel. No. (212) (7) 770885
(212) (7) 777668
Fax No. (212) (7) 777697

SPAIN
ESPAGNE

Vice-President
Mr. Joaquín Ros Vicent
Asesor Ejecutivo
Gabinete de la Secretaria de Estado
Secretaria de Estado de Medio Ambiente y Vivienda
Ministerio de Obras Publicas, Transportes
y Medio Ambiente
Plaza de San Juan de la Cruz s/n
28071 Madrid
Spain

Tel. No. (34)(1) 91-597 6005
Fax No. (34)(1) 91-597 6437

FRANCE
FRANCE

Vice-President
Mr. Serge Antoine
10 Rue de la Fontaine
91570 Bievres
France

Tel. No. (33) (1) 69412056
Fax No. (33) (1) 69855233

TUNISIA

Vice-President
Mr. Mohamed Ghourabi
representing
Mr. Tohami Hamrouni
Président Directeur Général
Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement
(ANPE)
Centre Urbaine Nord
Bâtiment I.C.F.
B.P. 52
1002 Tunis le Belvédère
Tunisie

Tel. No. (216) (1) 704347
(216) (1) 704000
Fax No. (216) (1) 708230

LEBANON
LIBAN

Rapporteur
Mr. Hratch Kouyoumjian
Director
Centre for Marine Research (CNRS)
P.O. Box 123
Jounieh
Lebanon

Tel. No. (961) (9) 918570/934763
Tlx. No. 494-41002 (For Attn. KOUY)
Fax No. (357) 9512578 via Cyprus
1 212 4782735 via NY

ADVISERS-COUNSELLERS

TURKEY
TURQUIE

Ms. Sumru Noyan
Deputy Director-General
Multilateral Economic Organizations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ankara
Turkey

Tel. No. (90) (312) 2866126
Fax No. (90) (312) 2871644

Ms. Nesrin Algan
Acting Head of Foreign
Relations Department
Ministry of the Environment
Eskisehir Yolu 8 K.M.
06100 Ankara
Turkey

Tel. No. (90) (312) 2851705
Fax No. (90) (312) 2853739

MOROCCO
MAROC

Mme Bani Layachi
Directrice au Sous-Secrétariat d'Etat auprès
du Ministre d'Etat à l'Intérieur Chargé de la
protection de l'Environnement
Ministère d'Etat à l'Intérieur
36, Avenue Al Abtal - Agdal
Rabat
Maroc

Tel. No. (212) (7) 76 6662
(212) (7) 76 7598
(212) (7) 76 2309
Fax No. (212) (7) 77 7697

M. My Abdessalem Mrini Dounia

Chef de Cabinet de M. le Sous-Secrétaire
d'Etat
Ministère d'Etat à l'Intérieur
36, Avenue Al Abtal - Agdal
Rabat
Maroc

Tel. No. (212) (7) 770885

Fax No. (212) (7) 777697

M. Mohamed Malliti

Chef de Division
Sous-Secrétariat auprès
du Ministre d'Etat à l'Intérieur
Chargé de la protection de l'environnement
36, Avenue Al Abtal - Agdal
Rabat
Maroc

Tel. No. (212) (7) 772658

Fax No. (212) (7) 762309

M. Abdelhay Zerouali

Chef de Division
Sous-Secrétariat auprès
du Ministre d'Etat à l'Intérieur
Chargé de la protection de l'environnement
36, Avenue Al Abtal - Agdal
Rabat
Maroc

Tel. No. (212) (7) 768423

Fax No. (212) (7) 762309

UNEP/COORDINATING UNIT FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)
PNUE/UNITE DE COORDINATION DU
PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE
(PAM)

Mr. Ljubomir Jettic

Deputy Coordinator

Mr. Ibrahim Dharat

Senior Programme Officer

P.O. Box 18019

48, Vassileos Konstantinou Av.

11610 Athens

Greece

Tel. No. (30) (1) 7253190

Tlx. No. 21-222564 MEDU GR

Fax No. (30) (1) 7253197

Cables: UNITERRA ATHENS

E-Mail: UNICEF Network

(ITT/DIALCOM)-UNET

UNEP.ATHENS

USER ID: UNC391

ANNEX II

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the provisional Agenda and organization of work
3. Progress report by the Deputy Coordinator on the implementation of the activities carried out since the last meeting of the Bureau (Ankara, 2-3 February 1994)
4. Recommendations on specific issues emanating from the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Antalya, October 1993) and the last meeting of the Bureau:
 - a. status of contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF);
 - b. revision of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols;
 - c. preparation for the meeting of experts and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Offshore Protocol;
 - d. Second Meeting of experts on the draft protocol on Hazardous Wastes in the Mediterranean;
 - e. Terms of Reference of the Bureau, the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Socio-Economic Committee;
 - f. cooperation of MAP with non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
5. Initiative on fresh water regarding public awareness and information campaigns on environment and sustainable development
6. Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean
7. Date and place of the next meeting of the Bureau
8. Any other business
9. Adoption of the report of the meeting
10. Closure of the meeting