

Introduction

1. The Meeting of the Bureau was convened in Tunis, Tunisia, upon an invitation from the Tunisian Government which was accepted by the Bureau during its last meeting (Rabat, June 1994).
2. The Meeting was convened at the ABU NAWAS Hotel, Tunis, 2-3 November 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. Joaquin Ros, Vice-President (Spain), Mr. Serge Antoine, Vice-President (France), Mr. Tohami Hamrouni, Vice-President (Tunisia) and Mr. Hratch Kouyoumjian, Rapporteur (Lebanon) were present.

Mr. Lucien Chabason, the new 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 pointed out that the Tunisian Conference on Agenda 21 was a very important event. He stated that the Bureau's work today was to harmonize MAP with the results of the Conference. He referred to the important issue of contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund and emphasized that the Contracting Parties should be aware of the financial problem encountered by MAP and on the ways and means to solve it.
6. Mr. Lucien Chabason, the Coordinator of MAP thanked the Tunisian authorities for providing all necessary facilities to the meeting of the Bureau, and to the hospitality extended to the participants.

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

7. After a brief exchange of views, the meeting adopted the provisional Agenda contained in document UNEP/BUR/45/1, with a minor amendment.

Agenda item 3: Progress report by the Coordinator on the implementation of the activities carried out since the last meeting of the Bureau (Rabat, 8-9 June 1994)

8. Mr. Lucien Chabason introduced the progress report on the activities carried out since the last meeting of the Bureau (UNEP/BUR/45/2). He also provided additional information on recent developments related to MAP.
9. He informed the Bureau of his recent visits to some Contracting Parties on his capacity as the new Coordinator of MAP.
10. With regard to his personal views vis-a-vis MAP, he felt that MAP has concentrated thus far rightly on monitoring, research, and certain legal aspects; however, there is a need to extend its field of activity to environmental management and enforcement.
11. He pointed out that the Contracting Parties have expressed their opinion that the situation in the Mediterranean is very different and need new orientation and more active approach of MAP with emphasis on environmental management. He stressed the need to undertake an evaluation report in order to make a review of MAP management in all its administrative, financial and personnel aspects. He mentioned that competent staff were available at the Coordinating Unit and at Regional Centres to warrant such action. There was, however, a need for legal and technical experts.

The Bureau asked the Coordinating Unit to present such a report to the meeting of the Contracting Parties in June 1995.

12. Another issue was related to the financial problem encountered by MAP in implementing the decisions of the Contracting Parties which undermine the credibility of MAP in fulfilling its tasks.
13. A third important issue was related to the deficiency in information diffusion and he cited as an example the non existence of a recent report on the situation of the environment in the Mediterranean. Upon request of the Bureau, the Coordinating Unit shall try to prepare a preliminary report.
14. With regard to the issue of Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the Bureau considered that the Secretariat should continue the preparation of a document on the criteria to be applied by MAP in relation with NGOs, to be submitted to the next meeting of the Bureau.
15. On the forthcoming meeting of legal and technical experts to review the Barcelona Convention, its related protocol and MAP (Barcelona, 14-18 November 1994), the Bureau was of the opinion that the experts participating in the meeting should cover legal and technical aspects.

16. In the context of restructuring MAP, the Bureau decided that three documents should be prepared:
- (1) the feedback of the Barcelona meeting (14-18 November 1994);
 - (2) a paper to be prepared by the Secretariat of MAP regarding the reorientation and restructuring of MAP;
 - (3) a non-paper on a medium-term (5 years) programme of action to be prepared by Mr. Joaquin Ros, the Vice-President of the Bureau.

All three background documents should be distributed by 15 December 1994, to the Contracting Parties for comments and suggestions. Their replies will be expected to be received before the 15th of January 1995, to enable the Secretariat to prepare a synthesis on the issue for the next meeting of the Bureau.

17. The Bureau approved the following calendar:
- Meeting of Legal and Technical Experts (Barcelona, 14-18 November 1994);
 - Meeting of the Bureau (Paris, 30-31 January 1995);
 - Joint Meeting of the two Committees and of Experts (Athens, 6-11 March 1995).
18. As regards the issue of the recent recruitment of the WHO official at the Coordinating Unit, the Bureau asked the Secretariat to inform WHO that no recruitment should be automatically initiated upon expiration of the contract of the incumbent.
19. The Bureau reiterated its wish to be fully involved in matters related to the recruitment of personnel, particularly through the United Nations Agencies.
20. For a final resolution of the problem of personnel, and in view of the changing role of MAP, the Secretariat was asked to prepare profiles of existing and needed personnel within MAP from international organisations.
21. The Bureau asked the Coordinating Unit to review the working relationship of MAP with the following agencies: WHO, FAO, IMO and IAEA. The Bureau expressed the wish to reinforce relations with international organisations and asked that this relation should be better defined.
22. At the end of the discussion, the meeting took note of the progress report presented by the Coordinator.

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)

23. The Bureau noted with regret and anxiety that the contribution of Italy to the Trust Fund for the period 1992-1994 has not been received as yet, despite all actions taken by the President of the Bureau and the Secretariat.
24. At the request of the President of the Bureau, the members of the Bureau and the Coordinator had a meeting with the Italian Minister of Environment Mr. Matteoli in the evening of November 1st, after the MED 21 Conference.
25. The President of the Bureau exposed the serious questions emanating from the delay in payment of the accumulated Italian contribution. At the request of the President, the Coordinator indicated that, as a result, the activities of MAP, particularly the CAMP programme, risk to be paralysed.
26. In response, the Italian Minister of Environment indicated that the Government of Italy will fulfill all its international engagements. This delay is due to the change of government which in turn resulted in the annulment of laws that were not adopted at the time of election of the Parliament.
27. The Italian contribution to MAP is included in the new financial law currently being debated by the Parliament.
28. According to the Minister, this law should be voted on 25 November 1994, and their contribution could thus be transferred by the end of 1994.
29. At the end of this discussion, the President of the Bureau requested Mr. Matteoli whether there were any objections to the inclusion of this discussion in the minutes of the Bureau. The Minister gave his agreement.
30. The Bureau requested his President to send two letters respectively to the Italian Minister of Environment and the Minister of Foreign Affairs expressing the Bureau's concern that the MAP programme is suffering. These letters are to be drafted by the Secretariat and disseminate to the Contracting Parties after signature.

b. Review of the results of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Offshore Protocol

31. The Bureau was informed of the success of the said meeting (Madrid, 13-14 October 1994). In this regard the representative of Lebanon said that there was a Ministerial decision to sign the protocol. However, as a result of some unforeseen technical problems including late communication, he could not do so. The Secretariat informed that the protocol is open for signature until 14 October 1995 in Madrid.

c. Draft Protocol on Hazardous Wastes in the Mediterranean

32. The Bureau has requested that legal experts from the six countries members of the Bureau should review the draft Protocol on hazardous wastes in relation with its field of application and send their comments to the Secretariat. This would contribute to a better understanding of the problem and promote the whole process of the adoption of the abovementioned Protocol. This question will be included in the Agenda of the next meeting of the Bureau.

d. Review of the results of the Tunis Conference on Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean

33. The Coordinator commented on the meeting which in his view was a very successful one. Following the document adopted by this Conference, he highlighted the two principal roles given to the Secretariat, pending the decisions of the Contracting Parties:

- the creation of a Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development;
- actions for the protection of the Mediterranean Coastline by using land policy tools.

34. With regard to the Commission for Sustainable Development, he contemplated the process of preparation he envisages:

- the Secretariat will approach the UN Commission on Sustainable Development to provide documentation and advice;
- the Secretariat will convene a small informal meeting of experts in December 1994, with an objective of exchanging views;
- the Secretariat will prepare a first draft to be submitted to the next Bureau meeting.

35. The Vice-President from France referred to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and raised some practical questions on the size of the Commission, its composition, the frequency of meetings, the links with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, the national commissions on sustainable development, and the issues it would work on.

The first draft on MCSD which will be prepared by the Secretariat could constitute the base for the formulation of answers to such questions with a view to facilitating discussion for Barcelona meeting in June 1995.

36. As regards the issue of the protection of coastal line, the Bureau reminded the need for a review of existing relevant land policy in the Mediterranean states and asked the Coordinating Unit to initiate reflection on the matter which should be presented to its next meeting.

37. Concerning the participation of municipal authorities in the framework of MED 21 and the preparation of the summit Conference of cities scheduled by the United Nations for June 1996 at Istanbul, the Bureau at its next meeting, will examine ways in which it can encourage the relevant efforts.
- e. Status of Yugoslavia regarding the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Action Plan
38. In the light of the explanation given by the Coordinator, the Bureau decided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) must be accepted first as a member of the United Nations. Subsequently, they could apply for membership of the Barcelona Convention following accepted procedure.
- f. Terms of Reference of the Bureau
39. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that comments by its members were incorporated in a revised text of the Terms of Reference. The Bureau took note of the revised terms of reference (Annex VII of document UNEP/BUR/45/3).
- A detailed discussion was deferred to the next meeting of the Bureau. In the meantime the Bureau members were invited to submit to the Secretariat any additional comments they might have.
- g. Mediterranean programme of action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities
40. In view of the budget restrictions and the fact that this action was not envisaged in the Contracting Parties meeting in Antalya, the Bureau decided to defer any discussion to its next meeting.
- h. Euro-Chlor technical Seminar on emission control in the chlorine industry
41. The Bureau decided not to associate with the proposal of Euro-chlor to convene a Seminar on emission control in the chlorine industry.

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

42. The Bureau decided to convene its next meeting in Paris, on 30-31 January 1995.

Agenda item 6: Any other business

43. The importance of the elimination of dredging materials was pointed out. This question might merit examination and reviewed at a technical meeting. The Bureau Member from Spain indicated that he would present relevant proposals during the next Bureau meeting.

44. For future meetings of the Bureau, the Secretariat should submit only one consolidated progress report which will give a brief status on recommendations of previous meetings and proposed future action.

Agenda item 7: Adoption of the report of the meeting

45. The Bureau adopted its report on Thursday, 3 November 1994.

Agenda item 8: Closure of the meeting

46. 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.
47. Mr. L. Chabason in the name of the Secretariat, also thanked the host country for the excellent organization and exceptional hospitality.
48. The President declared the meeting closed on Thursday, 3 November 1994 at 11.30 hrs.

ANNEX I

**List of Participants
Liste des Participants**

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