

Introduction

1. The Meeting of the Bureau was convened in Paris, at the "Centre de Conférence International", 19 Avenue Kléber, Paris, 16^{ème} on 30-31 January 1995 upon an invitation from the Government of France.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

2. The Meeting was called to order by H.E. Mr. Riza Akçali, Minister of Environment of Turkey and President of the Bureau. Mr. Joaquin Ros, Vice-President (Spain), Mr. Serge Antoine, Vice-President (France), Mr. Tohami Hamrouni, Vice-President (Tunisia), Ms. Bani Layachi (representing H.E. Mr. Chaouki Serghini), Vice-President (Morocco) and Mr. Hratch Kouyoumjian, Rapporteur (Lebanon) were present.

Mr. Lucien Chabason, MAP Coordinator and Mr. Ibrahim Dharat, Senior Programme Officer of MAP, represented the Secretariat. Mr. I. Dharat acted as Technical Secretary of the Meeting.

3. The List of participants is contained in Annex I to this report.
4. In his opening statement, the President welcomed the members of the Bureau and thanked the Government of France for hosting the meeting. He referred to the difficult financial problems encountered by MAP during 1994 and expressed the hope that 1995 will be a better year. He pointed out that various important actions have taken place since the last meeting of the Bureau (Tunis, 2-3 November 1994), particularly in relation to the revision of MAP.
5. The Vice-President from France welcomed the members of the Bureau on behalf of the French Government. He pointed out that France has decided to make the Mediterranean cooperation as one of the priority issues during its presidency of the European Union.

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

6. The meeting adopted the provisional Agenda contained in document UNEP/BUR/46/1.

Agenda item 3: Progress report by the Coordinator and recommendations on specific issues relevant to the implementation of activities carried out since the last meeting of the Bureau

7. Mr. L. Chabason thanked the French Government for hosting the meeting of the Bureau and he also extended the Secretariat's thanks to the Government of Spain for hosting the meetings of experts in Barcelona (November 1994 and February 1995). He introduced the progress report, contained in document

UNEP/BUR/46/2 and pointed out that the process of MAP revision and restructuring is in progress. Various amendments were made to the Convention, its protocols and to the Mediterranean Action Plan, through the intensive consultations that have been carried out with the Contracting Parties and MAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs). In order to give more time to the Contracting Parties to express their views, the Secretariat decided to postpone the Joint Meeting of the two Committees to 3-8 April 1995.

Agenda item 3 (a): MAP budget and the status of contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF)

Contribution of Italy

8. Mr. L. Chabason briefed the meeting on the steps taken concerning the outstanding Italian contribution for the years 1992, 1993 and 1994, including the two letters sent by the President of the Bureau to the Ministers of Environment and Foreign Affairs of Italy on this issue. He informed the Bureau that no response has been received from the Italian side. He pointed out that this situation has had severe impact on the implementation of MAP activities, particularly, the CAMP projects.
9. **The Bureau suggested that France, as President of the European Union during the first half of 1995, could bring out the matter in due course with the Italian side. It was also decided to send new letters to the Italian authorities by the President of the Bureau. In addition it was felt that no funds from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) should be spent on activities in Italy. In this context the subject of voting rights was mentioned. A possible visit by the MAP Coordinator to Rome was also suggested.**
10. The Bureau decided that letters should be sent by the President to the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Public Works and Environment, as well as to the Under Secretary for the Environment, requesting the speedy payment of the outstanding contributions. The letters were prepared by the Secretariat and were signed by the President of the Bureau.
11. **The Bureau also decided that a similar letter should be sent to Libya on the outstanding payment of its contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF).**

1996 Budget

12. The MAP Coordinator introduced the proposal for the 1996 budget contained in document UNEP/BUR/46/2, Annex II. The proposal was based on directives from the Antalya Meeting, the Tunis Conference on Agenda MED 21 and the last Bureau meeting. The proposal is divided into two parts. The first is related to ongoing activities with no increase requested over the 1995 budget. The reflected increase of 13% was to cover only the cost of living increase, as

well as the necessary readjustments in salaries. The second part is related to the cost of new activities in the framework of a reinforcement of the role of MAP in the field of sustainable development in the Mediterranean with the justification for each new activity. He proposed that the first table on "ongoing activities" would be financed from the MTF, while the second table (new activities for sustainable development) could be financed from outside funds.

13. The Bureau:

- a) **agreed that the budget to be presented cover only one year, 1996, in order that this transitional budget not prejudice the new orientations of MAP to be decided during the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in June 1995.**
- b) **asked that the 1996 budget, as to its first part, be made in such a way as to reflect the presentation of the budgets for 1994 and 1995, and it shall contain the description of sums allocated for 1994 and 1995, as well as the sums, by chapter, for expenditure incurred in 1994.**
- c) **decided that the table of second part of the 1996 budget be drafted and reviewed in the light of the new priorities to be assigned to MAP during the Joint Meeting of the Committees in Athens (April 1995), then in Barcelona (June 1995).**

This second part for which partial funding will be sought from the European Union and other sources must focus more on new projects.

- d) **asked that, at this stage and for the examination of the budget during the April meeting of the Joint Committees, the ceiling of expenditure be based on zero growth.**
- e) **pointed out that the provisions concerning the Revolving Fund should be taken into consideration during the discussions on the drafting and presentation of the budgets for 1996 and 1997.**
- f) **asked the Secretariat to draft a technical note on the justification for increases in salaries, cost of living and exchange rates so that well founded decisions can be taken at the Barcelona meeting (June 1995).**
- g) **decided that the presentation of the budget must be based on realistic income forecasts.**

- h) **recommended that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties would be convened during 1996 for the purpose of reviewing and approving the 1997 programme and budget.**

Agenda item 3 (b): Relationship with Intergovernmental (IGOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Consultations with the World Bank (WB)

14. The President of the Bureau informed the meeting on his consultations with the World Bank during December 1994 on matters related to METAP/MAP cooperation, and the need for a joint MAP/WB meeting in order to ensure better cooperation and coordination. He referred to the forthcoming donors' meeting of the World Bank scheduled to be held in March 1995.
15. The MAP Coordinator briefed the meeting on the consultations with the World Bank held in Athens (December 1994) and in Cairo (January 1995), during which it was agreed to foster MAP/WB cooperation in the Mediterranean.
16. **The Bureau encouraged the Coordinating Unit to seek a completely new approach in its relation with the World Bank as well as other donor organizations. The involvement of the World Bank in MAP, particularly in CAMP projects, was also stressed.**

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

17. Mr. L. Chabason briefed the meeting on MAP contacts with GEF Secretariat and he pinpointed the fields in which MAP can assist the Contracting Parties to benefit from this facility, such as:
 - assessment of biodiversity in the Mediterranean Coastal region;
 - management of Mediterranean marine ecosystems;
 - integrated coastal zone management in the Mediterranean region;
 - assistance to countries in the implementation of measures for the control of pollution from land-based sources.

He also introduced the proposal of UNEP/MAP project on "Modelling of Economic and Social Impacts of Global Change on Coastal Systems" which could be a UNEP/MAP project in which the Blue Plan could be greatly involved. The project, if accepted, will be totally financed by GEF.

18. An exchange of views was carried out during which some members of the Bureau were reluctant to support such academic and theoretical project, and they inquired about the real results of the project. They were of the opinion that other action-oriented projects, such as CAMP projects, are more important in view of the priorities set by the Contracting Parties. Other members of the Bureau stressed the importance of such project proposed by UNEP/MAP and

pointed out that such activities could have a positive impact on the scientific community of the Mediterranean region.

19. The Vice President from France informed the Bureau on a new French Fund for World Environment and the interest it may show in clearly defined Mediterranean projects:
20. **The Bureau decided that relations with GEF should be strengthened and requested the Secretariat to continue its efforts to obtain GEF funds for projects related to the real needs within the priorities set by the Contracting Parties.**

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

21. Mr. I. Dharat introduced document UNEP/BUR/46/Inf.8 "Cooperation of MAP with Non-Governmental Organizations" that already revised twice. Several members of the Bureau wished to introduce minor changes to the list proposed in the above document. They were invited to do this in writing to the Secretariat as soon as possible, but not later than 15 March 1995.
22. **The Bureau approved also the following suggestions:**
 - **instead of using the term "specialized NGO", the term "thematic NGO" should be used;**
 - **there is no need for formal agreements between NGOs and MAP, just a simple exchange of letters;**
 - **as regards procedures, the Chairman of relevant meetings, where NGOs are invited should give the floor first to representatives of the Contracting Parties, then to NGOs (international and national) observers;**
 - **a restricted number of NGOs from the MAP list would be invited to MAP meetings.**
23. **The Secretariat was asked to prepare a new version of the document taking all the above-mentioned comments into consideration for submission to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties as a recommendation of the Bureau.**

Agenda item 3 (c): Draft Protocol on Hazardous Wastes in the Mediterranean

24. Mr. L. Chabason introduced the topic and mentioned that Turkey and Tunisia submitted written comments to the Secretariat in conformity with the decisions of the last meeting of the Bureau. The representative from Lebanon mentioned that comments were conveyed by telephone in order to meet the deadline. The representative from Spain distributed comments during the discussion.

25. Several members of the Bureau, particularly those who have suffered from such activities considered this to be an urgent matter and suggested immediate action, because in their opinion the Basel Convention does not necessarily tackle all the aspects of this matter.
26. Other members of the Bureau were of the opinion that the Basel Convention should be the starting point of our deliberation and hence there is no need to start a timetable for the speedy approval of a new protocol.
27. **The Bureau reminded and encouraged the Contracting Parties that have not done so, to ratify the Basel Convention. The Bureau also requested the Secretariat to seek funds for convening, at the end of 1995, a Conference of Plenipotentiaries to be preceded by a meeting of experts.**

Agenda item 3 (d): Terms of Reference of the Bureau

28. Mr. I. Dharat introduced the proposal on the Terms of Reference of the Bureau contained in Annex VI of document UNEP/BUR/46/2.
29. **The Bureau approved the following modifications to the Terms of Reference and requested the Secretariat to submit a new text to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties as a recommendation of the Bureau:**
 - to add the words "at least" before the words "two officers" in the second sentence of Article III of the draft Terms of Reference.
 - to replace the word "submitted" by the word "distributed" in Article XIII.

Agenda item 3 (e): Revision of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)

30. Mr. L. Chabason introduced the topic and referred to the information document UNEP/BUR/46/Inf.3 "Synthesis on Restructuring of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)".
31. **The Bureau approved the following suggestions:**

The Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (5-8 June 1995) shall review and adopt the 1996 programme budget, as well as the documents to be submitted for the signature of the Plenipotentiaries Conference (Barcelona, 9-10 June 1995).

The following documents shall be presented to the Plenipotentiaries Conference for review, adoption and signature:

- a) a document (declaration, resolution, decision) with Annexes on MAP-Phase II and Programme of Activities;
 - b) a document amending the Convention and the Dumping Protocol;
 - c) a document amending the Specially Protected Areas (SPA) Protocol.
32. As regards the Land-Based Sources Protocol (LBS), the Secretariat distributed a working paper making a synthesis of the experience gained within the Mediterranean through MAP.
33. In view of anticipated difficulties in holding the meeting of experts, proposed by the Secretariat to be hosted and financed by the Government of Italy in Syracuse, Sicily, on 23-25 February 1995, the Bureau decided to postpone it till after the meeting in Reykjavik (March 1995).

Agenda item 3 (f): Terms of Reference of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

34. Mr. I. Dharat introduced the proposed Terms of Reference of the Commission contained in Annex VIII of document UNEP/BUR/46/2 and referred to the informal meeting of experts held in Athens during December 1994 to assist the Secretariat to prepare the draft Terms of Reference of the Commission in conformity with the decisions taken during the Tunis Conference on Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean region (Tunis, 1 November 1994).
35. The Bureau decided to recommend to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties the creation of a Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).
36. With regard to the modalities, status and mandate of the Commission, the members of the Bureau will send their comments to the Secretariat by 31 March 1995 in order to enable the Secretariat to submit a new version of the Terms of Reference to the next meeting of the Bureau.

Agenda item 3 (g): Protection of the Coastline by using land-policy tools

37. The MAP Coordinator introduced this subject and he informed the meeting on his contacts with the relevant French authorities.
38. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to continue such contacts with a view to presenting a concrete proposal on this issue to the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Agenda item 3 (h): State of the marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean region

39. Mr. L. Chabason introduced this subject and informed the meeting that a draft "Table of contents" on the State of the marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean region contained in Annex IX of document UNEP/BUR/46/2 was sent to all Contracting Parties for their comments and a consultant was recruited to assist the Secretariat to carry out that task.
40. **The Bureau requested the Secretariat to continue its work on this issue and submit the document to the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.**

Agenda item 4: Date and place of the next meeting of the Bureau

41. **The Bureau decided to convene its next meeting on 2-3 May 1995 in France.**

Agenda item 5: Any other business

42. In the course of the meeting, a brief ceremony took place on the signing of the Agreement on the "Long-Term programme for Pollution Monitoring and Research in the Mediterranean Sea" relative to Turkey. The Agreement was signed by H.E. Mr. Riza Akçali and Mr. Lucien Chabason.
43. At the end of the meeting of the Bureau, there was a press conference.

Agenda item 6: Adoption of the report of the meeting

44. The Bureau adopted the draft report on Tuesday, 31 January 1995.

Agenda item 7: Closure of the meeting

45. 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 exceptional hospitality shown.
46. Mr. L. Chabason in the name of the Secretariat, also thanked the host country for the outstanding organization and hospitality.
47. The President declared the meeting closed on Tuesday, 31 January 1995 at 18.30 hours.

ANNEX I

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Liste des Participants****TURKEY
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