



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



UNEP/BUR/49/4
10 October 1996

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 Protocols

Athens, 4-5 November 1996

**MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
(MCSD)**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT

MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
(MCSO)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At their Extraordinary Meeting (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996), the Contracting Parties approved the Terms of Reference as well as the Composition of the Commission (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.8/7). Moreover, the Meeting authorised the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to make the first selection of the members of the Commission from the three groups representing the local authorities, socio-economic actors and NGO's.
2. It should also be noted that the first meeting of the Commission will be held in Fez (Morocco), on 5-7 December 1996, upon an invitation from the President of the Bureau.
3. Concerning the selection exercise, the Bureau is to decide on the selection of 15 members from the 3 groups, other than those of the Contracting Parties, on the basis of the following selection criteria and the list of candidatures received so far from the Contracting Parties and from the various organisations.

II. SELECTION PROCEDURE

1. In conformity with the provisions of the Terms of Reference and of the Composition of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) as adopted by the Contracting Parties at their Extraordinary Meeting held in Montpellier, on 1-4 July 1996 (document: UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.8/7, Annexes V and VI), the meeting of the Contracting Parties shall nominate the members of the Commission, other than those representing the Contracting Parties, namely, the local authorities, the socio-economic actors and the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's).
2. However, as the next meeting of the Contracting Parties will be held in 1997, and taking into account that the first meeting of the Commission will be held during December 1996, the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996), authorised the Bureau to make the selection of the members from the three groups, following consultation with the Contracting Parties.
3. In order to prepare the selection exercise by the Bureau at its present meeting, the Secretariat has contacted all Contracting Parties requesting their proposals for nomination and their views on the list of candidates received by the Secretariat relevant to the three groups representing the local authorities, socio-economic actors and NGO's.
4. On the basis of replies received from the Contracting Parties, as at 20 October 1996, the list of candidates representing the three groups, is put before the present meeting of the Bureau for its consideration and decision (see Annex I to this document).
5. In exercising this authority, the Bureau may keep in mind the following points:
 - a. all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention shall be permanent members of the Commission (21);
 - b. five members should be selected from each group other than those representing the Contracting Parties, for a duration of two years (total 15), with an equal number of alternates;
 - c. all 36 members shall participate in the Commission on an equal footing, consequently the Secretariat will cover the cost of travel and the necessary *per diem* for one expert from each member of the Commission;
 - d. selection of members from local authorities and socio-economic actors shall be through proposals from the governments of the Contracting Parties, which transmit their candidatures to the Secretariat of MAP;
 - e. selection of members from NGO's shall be through NGO networks in the region and through direct applications to be submitted to the Secretariat of MAP, keeping in mind that the list of "MAP/NGO partners" approved by the Ninth Ordinary Meeting shall be used as the reference text for an NGO who wishes to participate in the Commission's work;

- f. priority for selection shall be given to Mediterranean local authorities, socio-economic actors and NGO's that are concerned with environment and sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean;
 - g. the principle of equitable geographical distribution should be respected;
 - h. fragile and island ecosystem will be given due consideration.
6. Annexes II and III of this document contain the Terms of Reference and the composition of the Commission respectively as approved by the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996).

ANNEX I

Candidatures for the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

as at 20 October 1996

A. Local authorities

1. MEDCITIES Network (Reseau medcités) - Cyprus*
- *proposed by France and through direct application*
2. United Towns (Cités Unies) - France - *direct application*
3. Centre des Régions Euro-méditerranéennes pour Développement Durable (CREE) - France* - *proposed by France and through direct application*
4. Central Union of Municipalities and Communities of Greece (KEDKE)
- *proposed by Greece*
5. Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (Réseau des Espaces Protégés Méditerranéens) (MEDPAN) - France*
- *proposed by France and direct application*
6. Secretary of State for local Authorities - Albania

B. Socio-Economic actors

1. "Comité Méditerranéen our les Echanges, le Tourisme, et le Développement Durable" (CMETDD) - Paris - *direct application*
2. European Chemical Industry Council (Conseil de l'Industrie Chimique Européenne) (CEFIC/EUROCHLOR) - Brussels*
- *proposed by France and direct application*
3. Institut méditerranéen de l'Eau (IME) - France*
- *proposed by France and direct application*
4. Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Association des Chambres de Commerce et l'industrie de la Méditerranée)(ASCAME) - Barcelona*
- *proposed by Spain and France and direct application*
5. Athens Labour Centre (EKA) - *proposed by Greece*
6. GRECOTEL - *proposed by Greece*
7. Albanian Institute of Statistics - Albania

C. Environmental NGO's

1. European Environmental Bureau (Bureau Européen de l'Environnement) (EEB) - Bruxelles - Federation of environmental NGOs* - *direct application*
2. Friends of the Earth - (Amigos de la Tierra) - Madrid*
- *direct application*
3. ECO-Mediterrania - Barcelona* - *direct application*
4. Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) - Athens*
Network of NGO's in the Mediterranean - *direct application*
5. International Centre for Coastal and Ocean Policy Studies (ICCOPS) - Italy*
- *direct application*
6. Foundation for International Study (FIS) - Malta*
- *proposed by Malta and through direct application*
7. Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET)*
- Athens - *direct application*
8. Réserve Internationale Maritime en Méditerranée Occidentale - (RIMMO)*
- France - *direct application*
9. Association de Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement de Kairouan (APNEK) - Tunisia* *direct application*
10. Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association (TURMEPA) - Turkey*
- *direct application*
11. International Park Documentation Centre (CEDIP) (Centro Documentazione Internazionale Parchi) - Italy* - *direct application*
12. MEDFORUM - Barcelona - *direct application*
13. World Wide Fund for Nature (Fonds Mondial pour la Nature) (WWF)*
- *direct application*
14. International Court of the Environment Foundation (ICEF) - Italy
- *direct application*

* Included in the list of "MAP/NGO partners" as approved by the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Barcelona, 5-8 June 1995), document: UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/16.

ANNEX II

MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

1. In accordance with the recommendation of the Tunis Ministerial Conference, held in November 1994, as approved by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries meeting in Barcelona in June 1995, a Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) is hereby established as an advisory body to make proposals to the Contracting Parties within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan.
 - A. Purpose of the Commission
 2. The purpose of the Commission is:
 - (a) to identify, evaluate and assess major economic, ecological and social problems set out in Agenda MED 21, make appropriate proposals thereon to the meetings of the Contracting Parties, evaluate the effectiveness of the follow-up to the decisions of the Contracting Parties and facilitate the exchange of information among the institutions implementing activities related to sustainable development in the Mediterranean;
 - (b) to enhance regional cooperation and rationalize the inter-governmental decision-making capacity in the Mediterranean basin for the integration of environment and development issues.
 - B. Functions
 3. The functions of the Commission shall be:
 - (a) to assist the Contracting Parties by making proposals on the formulation and implementation of a regional strategy of sustainable development in the Mediterranean, taking into consideration the resolutions of the Tunis and Barcelona Conferences and the context of Agenda MED 21 and MAP Phase II;
 - (b) to consider and review information provided by the Contracting Parties, in accordance with Article 20 of the Barcelona Convention, including

periodic communications or reports regarding the activities they undertake to implement Agenda MED 21, and the problems they encounter, such as problems related to the integration of environment into national policies,

capacity-building, financial resources, technology transfer, and other relevant environment and development issues;

- (c) to review at regular intervals the cooperation of MAP with the World Bank and other international financial institutions, as well as the European Union, and to explore ways and means for the strengthening of such cooperation, and particularly to achieve the objectives of Chapter 33 of Agenda MED 21;
 - (d) to consider information regarding the progress made in the implementation of relevant environmental conventions, which could be made available by the relevant conferences or by the parties;
 - (e) to identify technologies and knowledge of an innovative nature for sustainable development in the Mediterranean region and to provide advice on the various means for their most effective use, in order to facilitate exchanges among the Contracting Parties and to enhance capacities for national development;
 - (f) to provide reports and appropriate recommendations to the meetings of the Contracting Parties, through the MAP Secretariat, on the basis of a comprehensive analysis of reports and issues related to the implementation of a regional strategy related to MAP Phase II and Agenda MED 21;
 - (g) to undertake a four-year strategic assessment and evaluation of the implementation by the Contracting Parties of Agenda MED 21 and decisions of the meetings of the Contracting Parties and of actions by the Contracting Parties relevant to sustainable development in the Mediterranean region and propose relevant recommendations thereon;
the first strategic review should be undertaken for the year 2000 (with ministerial participation), with the objective of achieving an integrated overview of the implementation of Agenda MED 21, examining emerging policy issues and providing the necessary political impetus.
The Commission shall make the best use of the main results of MAP activity centres in the field of sustainable development, and those of the MAP Mediterranean Environment and Development Observatory, as well as those of national environmental observatories;
 - (h) to assume such other functions as are entrusted to it by the meetings of the Contracting Parties, to further the purposes of the Barcelona Convention, MAP Phase II and Agenda MED 21.
4. The rules of procedure of the Commission shall be the Rules of Procedure of the meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, until the rules of procedure of the Commission are proposed by the Commission and adopted by the meeting of the Contracting Parties, considering that the Commission shall not have any voting system.

C. Composition

5. The Commission shall be composed of a maximum of 36 members, consisting of representatives from each Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention and representatives of local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organizations working in the fields of environment and of sustainable development. All representatives shall participate in the Commission on an equal footing.

D. Observers

6. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, any State which is a member of the United Nations or the specialized agencies, and any other inter-governmental organizations the activities of which are related to the functions of the Commission, may participate in the Commission's work as an observer.

E. Meetings of the Commission and responsibilities of the Secretariat

7. The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development shall hold ordinary meetings at least once every year, up to the year 2000, then shall meet at least once every two years. The meetings shall be convened at the premises of the Coordinating Unit of MAP, without prejudice to the convening of its meetings in other Mediterranean venues upon a recommendation of the Commission approved by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.
8. At the opening of each session, the Commission shall elect a Bureau composed of a President, four Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur, from among its members on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution and among the various groups.
9. The Coordinating Unit of MAP, serving as the Secretariat of the Commission, shall provide for each session of the Commission an analytical report containing information on relevant activities to implement Agenda MED 21 and other sustainable development activities recommended by the meetings of the Contracting Parties, the progress achieved and emerging issues to be addressed.

F. Relationship with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and with national and regional commissions on sustainable development

10. The Commission shall maintain relations with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, and shall facilitate the exchange of information and experience among national and regional commissions on sustainable development.
11. The Commission, in discharging its functions, shall take into account the experience and expertise of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, and shall submit relevant reports to the United Nations Commission through the Contracting Parties' meetings on any issues that may be of interest for sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

12. The Commission and the Contracting Parties shall, as far as possible and taking into account the particular needs of the Mediterranean countries, utilize the existing reporting system of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, with a view to streamlining and avoiding duplication of work.

G. Relations with specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

13. The Commission shall, through the Secretariat, strengthen its activities with the relevant United Nations specialized agencies and other inter-governmental bodies within the United Nations System, including international, regional and sub-regional financial and development institutions, in particular regarding projects for the implementation of the regional Mediterranean strategy related to Agenda MED 21 and the decisions of the Contracting Parties.
14. The Commission shall, through the Secretariat, enhance the dialogue with, and the participation of, relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the independent sector, and receive and analyse their inputs within the context of the overall implementation of the Mediterranean regional strategy for sustainable development.

ANNEX III

MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MCSD)

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION *

(a) NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. The Commission shall be composed of 36 members, consisting of representatives from each Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention and representatives of local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organizations working in the fields of environment and sustainable development.
2. In particular:
 - a. each Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention shall be represented by one high-level representative (total 21), who may be accompanied by such alternates and advisers as may be required, in order to ensure interdisciplinary participation of relevant ministerial bodies of the Contracting Parties (e.g. ministries of environment, tourism, economy, development, industry, finance, energy, etc.).
 - b. each of the three categories mentioned in section C.5 of the text of the Terms of Reference, i.e. local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organizations, shall be represented by five representatives (total 15) and an equal number of alternates, to be selected by the meeting of the Contracting Parties.
3. All 36 members shall participate in the Commission on an equal footing.

* This criteria may be modified by the Contracting Parties in the light of experience.

(b) METHOD OF NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES OTHER THAN THOSE REPRESENTING THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

a. Method of nomination of candidates

(i) local authorities

As the legal and administrative status of local authorities differs from one country to another, the representatives of the local authorities, their groups or networks, will be selected through proposals from the governments of the Contracting Parties, which transmit their candidatures to the Secretariat of MAP.

(ii) Socio-economic actors

As the legal and administrative status of the socio-economic actors differs from one country to another, the representatives of the socio-economic actors, their groups or networks, will be selected through proposals from the governments of the Contracting Parties, which transmit their candidatures to the Secretariat of MAP.

(iii) NGO's

1. The criteria and the list of MAP/NGO partners approved by the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Barcelona, 5-8 June 1995), shall be used as the reference text for any NGO that wishes to participate in the Commission's work.
2. Three categories of NGO's shall be represented in the Commission:
 - NGOs with international scope and multidisciplinary interest recognized in their status, especially those contributing to Mediterranean cooperation and concerned with matters covering a substantial portion of MAP's field of activity;
 - NGOs with regional scope covering more than one country in the whole Mediterranean area and covering a portion of MAP's field of activity;
 - NGOs with national or local scope covering a portion of MAP's field of activity.

3. The selection of five NGOs from this category will be done through NGO networks in the region and through direct applications to be submitted to the MAP Secretariat.

b. Method of nomination of members of the MCSD

1. The meeting of the Contracting Parties shall nominate the members of the Commission, other than those representing the Contracting Parties.
2. For the first meeting of the Commission (Fez, Morocco, December 1996), the Bureau of the Contracting Parties shall make the selection of the members of the Commission, following consultation with the Contracting Parties.

(c) SELECTION CRITERIA FOR MEMBERS OTHER THAN THOSE REPRESENTING THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

The following general selection criteria are proposed:

1. The criteria and the list of MAP/NGO partners, approved by the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Barcelona, 5-8 June 1995 (document: UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/16), shall be used as a reference text for selection of members representing NGOs.
2. Priority for selection shall be given to Mediterranean local authorities, socio-economic actors and NGOs that are concerned with environmental and sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean.
3. The principle of equitable geographical distribution should be respected (north/south and east/west).
4. Fragile and island ecosystems will be given due consideration.
5. With reference to the three specific categories, the following are the selection criteria, giving priority to the groups or networks concerned:

(i) local authorities

1. Local authorities to be selected should be concerned with environmental and sustainable development issues.

(ii) Socio-economic actors

1. Selection within this group should take into consideration the major problems and decisive factors in the Mediterranean as well as the following factors:
 - north/south representation
 - developed/developing countries
 - rural/urban
 - past and current activities at the Mediterranean level.
2. Priority of selection shall be given to socio-economic networks active in the Mediterranean.

(iii) NGOs

1. The members representing NGOs should be selected from the list of MAP/NGO partners.
2. The members should be selected from among three NGO categories:
 - NGOs with global scope
 - NGOs with regional scope
 - NGOs with national and local scope
3. The NGOs to be selected should have a concrete and action-oriented approach towards the Mediterranean.

(d) DURATION OF THE MANDATE

1. The duration of the membership of the Commission shall be as follows:
 - a. all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention shall be permanent members of the Commission (21);
 - b. representatives from each of the three categories (local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organizations), shall be selected for a duration of two years by the meeting of the Contracting Parties (15);