



## Introduction

1. The Meeting of the Bureau was convened in Athens, (Greece) at the Caravel Hotel, on 4-5 November 1996, upon an invitation from the Government of Greece.

### Agenda item 1:        Opening of the Meeting

2. The Meeting was called to order by H.E. Mr. Theodoros Koliopoulos, Deputy Minister of Environment of Greece and Vice-President of the Bureau. H.E. Mr. Nouridine Benomar Alami, President of the Bureau was unable to attend the meeting due to last minute *force majeure*. He delegated the authority to preside over the meeting to the Vice-President from Greece.
3. Ms. Bani Layachi, representing the President of the Bureau. H.E. Mr. Alami (Morocco), Ms. Nehama Ronen, Vice-President (Israel), H.E. Ambassador Samir Ben Yazal, representing Mr. Salah Hafez, Vice-President (Egypt) and Mr. Joaquin Ros, Rapporteur (Spain) were present. Mr. Slimane Zaouche, Vice-President (Algeria) was not able to attend the meeting.
4. Mr. Lucien Chabason, MAP Coordinator, and Mr. Ibrahim Dharat, Senior Programme Officer, represented the Secretariat, joined also by Mr. Arab Hoballah, Deputy Director, BP/RAC, considering his involvement in the preparation of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development. Mr. I. Dharat also acted as the Technical Secretary of the Meeting.
5. H.E. Mr. Theodoros Koliopoulos, welcomed all members of the Bureau and the Secretariat. He emphasised the importance of the meeting which has to select the members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development from the three groups other than those of the Contracting Parties. He expected that the Commission would take important decisions for the protection of the Mediterranean region. He referred to the important issue of the external funding of MAP which is a critical factor for the success of MAP. The Deputy Minister of the Environment expressed the readiness of Greece to make available to MAP its expertise in dealing with EC financial programmes. Finally he pointed out that the establishment of peace in the Mediterranean basin is a goal that should not be lost sight of and that all our efforts should be focused towards this aim.
6. The Vice-President from Israel, Ms. Ronen, stated that it was an honour for her to be present at this meeting for the first time as the new Director General of the Ministry of Environment of Israel, and as one of the Vice-Presidents of the Bureau. She assured the members of the Bureau of her commitment both to the Bureau and to MAP as a whole. The Vice-President from Israel pointed out that MAP is a living proof of the way countries can work together for the benefit of the whole region, improving the environment and building strong links among the peoples of the Mediterranean. She further added that Israel remains committed to the pursuit of peace in our region and to the future of cooperation in all spheres of life. Finally, she referred to the launching of a new CAMP in Israel next week.
7. The Vice-President from Egypt, Mr. S. Seif El-Yazal, expressed the thanks of his delegation to the Greek Government for hosting this meeting. He offered the apologies of Mr. S. Hafez for being unable to attend due to previous commitments related to the preparation of the International Economic Summit to be held this month

- in Cairo. He expressed the support of Egypt for the establishment of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development which will strengthen the dialogue on environmental issues among Mediterranean countries and with the international organisations.
8. Mme B. Layachi, representing the President of the Bureau expressed the regrets of H.E. Minister Benomar Alami for being unable to attend the meeting due to reasons beyond his control. She also thanked Greece for its hospitality.
  9. Mr. J. Ros, Rapporteur, expressed his thanks to Greece for hosting the meeting.
  10. Mr. L. Chabason, MAP Coordinator, expressed on behalf of the Secretariat, his congratulations to Mr. Koliopanos for his appointment as Deputy Minister for the Environment. He also joined the other speakers in thanking Greece for its hospitality.
  11. The list of participants is contained in Annex I to this report.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and organisation of work

12. The meeting adopted the Provisional Agenda contained in document UNEP/BUR/49/1, as well as the organization of work suggested by the Secretariat in the Annotated Provisional Agenda, contained in document UNEP/BUR/49/2.

Agenda item 3: Progress report by the Coordinator on activities carried out since the last meeting of the Bureau (Cairo, 1-2 April 1996)

Agenda item 4: Implementation of the decisions of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996)

13. Mr. L. Chabason, MAP Coordinator, gave a general presentation of the progress report, as contained in document UNEP/BUR/49/3 and focused on a few important topics, i.e. the financial, institutional and legal aspects of MAP, relations with METAP and the EU, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development and activities of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs).
14. With regard to the financial situation of MAP, he pointed out that the situation now is better compared to previous years. However, the Bureau noted that certain Contracting Parties have not yet paid their outstanding contributions. A reminder should be sent by the Secretariat to that effect.
15. With a view to improving further the financial capability of MAP, he referred to the efforts made by the Secretariat and the President of the Bureau to strengthen relations with the European Union and METAP.
16. The Coordinator stated that the process of filling the posts of Deputy Coordinator, MED POL Coordinator, and Fund Management Officer has been launched. In fact the vacancy announcement for the post of Fund Management Officer has already been distributed to MAP Focal Points.
17. During the discussion on this issue, it was stressed by members of the Bureau that as the posts will be entirely financed through the MTF, the selection criteria should be based on MAP's interests and the selected staff should be nationals of a country signatory to the Barcelona Convention and have substantial experience in the management of Mediterranean environment problems. English and French languages

are required by the incumbent and working knowledge of other Mediterranean languages is an asset. The Bureau invited its President to address a letter to the Executive Director of UNEP reflecting the views of the Bureau.

18. With regard to the small *ad-hoc* group entrusted by the meeting of the Contracting Parties with the task of examining and reviewing the structure, role and function of the Coordinating Unit and RACs, the Bureau recalled the concern expressed by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties on this issue and stressed that the work and the proposals of the group should be both realistic and feasible. It was also pointed out that the results of the group's work will be reviewed first by the meeting of the National Focal Points and then submitted to the Tunis meeting in 1997.

19. At the end of its deliberations on this item, the Bureau took the following decisions on the *modus operandi* of the *ad-hoc* group:

a. The purpose of the exercise is to undertake an analytical review of the status, structure, functions, financial aspects and links with the Contracting Parties, of the Coordinating Unit, MED POL and the RACs *vis-à-vis* the new MAP responsibilities and the need to remedy, as far as possible, the discrepancies that exist among the Centres.

b. The exercise should also take into consideration the new developments within the MAP system including the adoption of new protocols (offshore, hazardous waste) and the integration of the sustainable development and biodiversity elements in MAP II.

c. The *ad-hoc* group should be small, with no more than five or six members, who would be technical experts familiar with the work of MAP and come from different parts of the Mediterranean (principle of fair geographic distribution).

d. A draft secretariat report should be submitted to the meeting of the *ad-hoc* group as the secretariat's proposal for the work of the group. The report will be in two parts:

The first part will contain:

(a) an analysis of the current work of both MEDU and the RACs and the inter-relation between the two

(b) the status of each Centre within the MAP system

(c) their future tasks with regard to the new objectives included in Agenda MED 21 and MAP II

The second part of the report will deal with other important issues such as the host country agreements, the financial component, the personnel of the Centres, etc.

e. The meeting of the *ad-hoc* group should be convened during the first quarter of 1997.

20. With regard to the item on information, the representative of Israel referred to the importance of introducing the Internet within the MAP system. The proposal was supported by others and the Coordinator agreed to start using the Internet on a preliminary basis.
21. The Coordinator briefed the meeting on the results of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries concerning the protocol on hazardous wastes which was a successful one. He also referred to the need for speeding up the process of ratification of the new MAP legal instruments.
22. With regard to the proposal of the Secretariat to postpone the meeting of experts on liability and compensation for the first half of 1997, the Bureau approved the proposal, and also took note of the information given by the Coordinator concerning the possible offer of Croatia to host this meeting in Zagreb.
23. Finally, the Bureau took note of the information given by the Coordinator concerning the meeting of experts and the meeting of plenipotentiaries on the three annexes to the SPA protocol, to be held in Monaco on 23 and 24 November 1996.
24. Certain members of the Bureau expressed their concern about holding MAP meetings during weekends and expressed the wish that this concern should be taken into consideration as far as possible, when organising future meetings.
25. After an exchange of views, the Bureau took note of the progress report (UNEP/BUR/49/3).

Agenda item 5: Selection of the members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and dates and venue of the First Meeting of the Commission

26. Mr. I. Dharat introduced document UNEP/BUR/49/4 "Note by the Secretariat", which contains the list of candidatures received by the Secretariat as at 20 October 1996, relevant to the composition of the Commission. He pointed out that the last meeting of the Contracting Parties (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996), 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, the socio-economic actors and the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). He also informed the meeting on the proposals received recently by the Secretariat. He further referred to document UNEP/BUR/49/Inf.3 which contains background information on NGOs which are MAP Partners.
27. The meeting thoroughly reviewed the list of candidatures and the criteria for the selection of the 15 members of the three groups.
28. A certain number of issues were raised and discussed, namely:
  - the duration of mandate of selected members
  - the number of alternates and their selection as well as their status.
29. In the ensuing discussion, the following points were agreed upon:
  - a. The mandate of members selected from these three groups will last until the next meeting of the Contracting Parties

- b. With regard to alternate members from these groups, it was agreed to select just two alternates at this stage.
- c. Only regular members will attend the meetings of the Commission. However, in case of absence of a regular member, the Secretariat would invite an alternate from the list of the already selected alternates.
- d. With regard to the groups of local authorities and socio-economic actors, and as the list of candidatures in these two groups is very limited and not adequate for a geographically balanced selection, it was agreed that the selection of five members from each list would not be completed at this stage.

In this connection, the Bureau invited the Secretariat to reopen the possibility for submission of more candidates from these two groups.

30. On the basis of the above considerations, the Bureau selected the following organisations representing the three groups:

**A. Local Authorities**

MEDCITIES Network (Réseau medcités)

Centre des Régions Euro-méditerranéennes pour le Développement Durable (CREE)

City of Rome

**B. Socio-Economic Actors**

European Chemical Industry Council (Conseil de l'Industrie Chimique Européenne) (CEFIC/EUROCHLOR)

Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Association des Chambres de Commerce et l'industrie de la Méditerranée) (ASCAME)

Group of Chambers for the Development of the Greek Islands

**C. Environmental NGOs**

World Wide Fund for Nature (Fonds Mondial pour la Nature) (WWF)

Mediterranean information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) - Athens - Network of NGOs in the Mediterranean

Association de Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement de Kairouan (APNEK) -Tunisia

ECO Mediterrania - Barcelona

Foundation for International Studies (FIS) - Malta

**Alternates for Environmental NGOs**

Mediterranean Wetlands (MEDWET)

European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Date and place of the first Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

31. The representative of Morocco informed the Bureau that due to certain circumstances beyond the control of her Ministry, she proposed that the first meeting of the Commission be convened on 16-18 December 1996, rather than 5-7 December 1996 as originally scheduled.
32. The Bureau authorised the Secretariat to make the necessary adjustments in the budget in order to cover the extra financial costs.

Agenda item 6:        Date and place of the next meeting of the Bureau

33. The meeting decided to convene its next meeting during the first half of 1997. With regard to the venue of the meeting, the Vice-President from Israel expressed the view that Israel would be happy to host the next meeting of the Bureau in Israel. The Bureau decided to undertake further consultations under the guidance of its President, on the venue and the exact dates of its next meeting.

Agenda item 7:        Any other business

34. No other matters were raised during the meeting.

Agenda item 8:        Adoption of the report of the meeting

35. The meeting adopted its report on Tuesday, 5 November 1996.

Agenda item 9:        Closure of the meeting

36. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the meeting closed on Tuesday, 5 November 1996, at 15.00.

**ANNEX I**

**List of Participants  
Liste des Participants**

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