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Action Plan**
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95th Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 3-4 April 2024

Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2024

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Introduction

1. At the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, in accordance with Article IV.2 of the Terms of Reference of the Bureau and in consultation with the President and members of the Bureau, the 95th Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 3-4 April 2024.

Participation

2. The meeting was attended by the President of the Bureau, Mr. Mitja Bricelj, accompanied by advisors; the Vice-Presidents: Mr. Ali Abou Sena (Egypt); Ms. Marie Thérèse Gambin (Malta); Ms. Nassira Rheyati (Morocco); Ms. Itziar Martin Partida (Spain); the Rapporteur, Ms. Djurdjina Bulatovic (Montenegro) and the Ex-Officio Member, Ms. Vildan Bolukbasi Atay (Türkiye). The Secretariat was represented by the Coordinating Unit (Coordinator and Programme Management Officer - Governance). The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

I. Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

3. The meeting was opened at 10:00 (UTC+1) on Wednesday, 3 April 2024, by Mr. Mitja Bricelj, President of the Bureau, who welcomed the Bureau members to the first Bureau meeting of the biennium and thanked the Secretariat and Bureau Members for the hard work done during this period. He emphasized that the President of the Sava Youth Parliament was present and would address the meeting and informed the meeting that the heads of the three Regional Conventions, Barcelona Convention, Black Sea Commission and Danube River Protection Convention, would meet in May in Istanbul, Türkiye, to discuss ways to strengthen collaboration between these Conventions.

4. The UNEP/MAP Coordinator, Ms. Tatjana Hema, welcomed all participants to the meeting and thanked the Government of Slovenia for kindly hosting the meeting. She also stressed the importance of the meeting, which was expected to address a number of issues in view of the follow-up of COP 23 of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Portorož, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023), including the implementation of the Portorož Ministerial Declaration and the Program of Work and Budget for 2024-2025.

5. The President of the Sava Youth Parliament, Mr. Blaž Lipovšek, explained that this initiative is bringing together youth (18-25 years old) from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia. He also highlighted the work of the Sava Youth Parliament and the importance of youth involvement in relation to the global and regional sustainable development challenges.

6. The members of the Bureau welcomed the presentation of Mr. Lipovšek, encouraging such initiatives and the enhanced involvement of youth in the work of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention. They also noted the importance of bringing together youth from the north and south of the Mediterranean.

II. Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work

7. The Bureau reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda as contained in document UNEP/MED BUR.95/1. No other issues were added in the Agenda.

III. Agenda Item 3: Progress Report for October 2023 - February 2024

8. The MAP Coordinator introduced the document “*Progress Report by the Secretariat on the Activities Carried Out for the Period October 2023 - February 2024*” (UNEP/MED BUR.95/3). The Coordinator also referred to document “*Progress Report by the Secretariat on the Implementation of COP23 Decisions*” (UNEP/MED BUR.95/4).

9. The Coordinator summarized the progress achieved in the implementation of the seven Programmes of the 2022-2027 UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy during the reporting period. She referred to the implementation of projects related to pollution and marine litter, as well as on the implementation of COP 22 Decision on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SOx ECA). In relation to biodiversity and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), the Coordinator referred to the implementation of existing European Commission (EC) and GEF funded projects as well as to the preparation of a new project on

Mediterranean Forests by UNEP, MAP and FAO. She also noted the importance of adhering to the 30x30 biodiversity commitment, and referred to the amendments to the Annexes of the SPA/BD Protocol agreed at COP 23. In relation to climate change she referred to the limited funds available for this theme and to the preparation of a mapping exercise in relation to the climate change work of MAP, following the relevant COP 23 decision. On the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources including circular and blue economy, the Coordinator highlighted the collaboration with the EC on blue economy, the progress in the CAMP projects and the relevance of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) which is currently being updated.

10. Regarding governance, Ms. Hema referred to the efforts to increase ratification of Protocols (especially ICZM and Dumping), to the update of the MSSD and of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework and the possibility to also include in the latter resilience, to the financial support by Italy, France and the EC, and to partnerships with other Conventions such as ESPOO. Regarding the revised reporting format she noted that the first draft is expected in summer 2024, that it will include new legally binding measures adopted by the last COPs as well as considerations to simplify its format, adding that it will be difficult to have a dedicated meeting while the draft will be open for feedback by the Contracting Parties through online tools. Regarding monitoring, assessment, knowledge and vision of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast, she referred to the progress in the preparation of the Summary for Policy-Makers of the 2023 MED QSR, to the progress in monitoring and to the revision of IMAP, to the finalization of the MAP Knowledge Management Policy by INFO/RAC, to the revamped UNEP/MAP website to be ready soon, to the finalization of the MED2050 Foresight Study and to the MSSD Dashboard. Finally, regarding advocacy, awareness, education and communication, the Coordinator referred to the publication of the Parliamentarians' Guide to protecting the Mediterranean Sea and coast, to the publication of the 2023 MED QSR, and to the Young Person's Guide to the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention.

11. The President and the Members of the Bureau congratulated the Secretariat for the significant progress achieved during this short reporting period and for the effort put in this detailed report.

12. One Bureau member referred to the importance of the implementation of the Med SOx ECA Decision, while one other referred to his country's progress in relation to the ratification of MARPOL Annex VI, noting also the interest of his country in desalination.

13. Regarding biodiversity loss and ecosystem services, the President of the Bureau noted the importance of action at national level, together with collective action. In relation to the annexes of the SPA/BD Protocol, one Bureau member referred to the need to proceed with the socio-economic analyses in order to find a solution in relation to the reservations set in the relevant COP 23 Decision. On non-indigenous species, one Bureau member referred to the need to work more on the accuracy of the percentages of contribution of different ways with which they enter the Mediterranean. The Coordinator noted that in relation to fisheries, FAO/GFCM has opened a funding stream for countries and that Contracting Parties can make their proposals to GFCM, together with SPA/RAC.

14. Regarding sustainable use of coastal and marine resources including circular and blue economy, one Bureau member referred to the importance of Nature based Solutions (NbS) and to the relevant UNEP and IUCN guidelines. He noted that links should be more clearly provided between the work of MAP on this issue and these guidelines.

15. In relation to governance, the President referred to the work of EUSAIR and the different scenarios prepared in relation to effective spatial planning in MPA management, noting the need to further strengthen synergies with this strategy/initiative.

16. **Conclusions:**

(a) The Bureau expresses its appreciation for the work done in the period October 2023 - February 2024 as presented by the Secretariat, and its satisfaction for the efforts and results achieved so far through the integrated work of the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components;

(b) The Bureau encourages the Secretariat and the Contracting Parties to participate in global and regional fora and events of UNEP/MAP relevance and to showcase the Mediterranean achievements and best practices.

IV. Agenda Item 4: Report by the Secretariat on Financial and Administrative Issues

17. The MAP Coordinator presented to the Bureau members a financial and administrative update as contained in the “*Report by the Secretariat on Financial and Administrative Issues*” (UNEP/MED BUR.95/5), addressing the status of financial contributions, personnel, administrative matters and consultancy reporting. She highlighted the good collection rate of assessed contributions, the positive balance of the MTF and the healthy financial situation. She added that the Secretariat is following-up with Contracting Parties in arrears, noting that there is some progress in collecting arrears and adding that continued support will be provided to Contracting Parties facing difficulties. The Coordinator stressed that Bureau members should lead by example and kindly asked to finalize the payment of their countries’ assessed contributions for 2023. She highlighted the importance of early payment of contributions, so that there is a timely transfer of funds to MAP components for the implementation of their respective mandates/activities.

18. Regarding the level of the budget consumption for the biennium 2022-2023, the Coordinator noted that the exact rate of expenditure will be available in July 2024, when the accounts will be closed and audited. She explained the situation regarding Programme Support Costs (PSC), and the relevant exchanges with the UNEP Headquarters, noting that the UN controller has clarified that no exception should be made to the PSC of 14%. She added that the Secretariat will explain this to Greece in relation to the Host Country Contribution and that at the next Bureau meeting the Secretariat will be in a position to provide more information in this respect. Regarding consultancy reporting, she noted that since this is only the beginning of the biennium, relevant information will be provided at the next Bureau meeting. Finally, she referred to the progress on Human Resource issues, as well as to the refurbishment of the UNEP/MAP premises.

19. The Bureau members welcomed the information provided by the Secretariat. One Bureau member requested the Secretariat to send the letter and invoice on the payment of contributions as early as possible in the year, so that the internal process of payment can be timely initialized.

20. Conclusions:

(a) The Bureau takes note of the Financial Statements provided in response to the Conclusions and Recommendations of the 94th Bureau meeting requesting for the certified and audited financial statements for the year 2023 to be shared as soon as they are available;

(b) The Bureau notes with appreciation the contributions received for the years 2022 and 2023 and encourages the Contracting Parties which did not pay to do so as soon as possible;

(c) The Bureau draws the attention of the Contracting Parties to adhere to Procedure 4.2.b of the Financial Regulations and Rules and Procedures, which states that contributions for each calendar year are expected within the first quarter of that year and should be paid promptly and in full;

(d) The Bureau encourages the Contracting Parties in arrears to pay them as soon as possible, while noting the specific circumstances of each Contracting Party in arrears;

(e) The Bureau supports the efforts made by the Secretariat and urges the Secretariat to continue its efforts to maximize the collection of contributions and arrears in line with the Financial Rules and Procedures;

(f) The Bureau takes note of the status of the financial implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023 and requests the Secretariat to provide the final picture at the next Bureau meeting after the closure of the respective accounts;

(g) The Bureau takes note of the efforts by the Secretariat to close the Audit recommendations and to operationalize the PoW and Budget 2024-2025 into Project Documents and Legal Instruments in a timely manner, noting that information on the financial implementation of the first semester of the PoW and Budget 2024-2025 will be provided at its 96th Meeting;

(h) The Bureau takes note of the Audit recommendation and the advice of UNEP HQs for the revision of Programme Support Costs on the MAP contributions/funds and request the

Secretariat to initiate a dialogue on this matter with the concerned Contracting Parties and to report the outcome at its 96th Meeting;

(i) The Bureau takes note of the status of recruitment and welcomes the new RAC Directors to the MAP system;

(j) The Bureau takes note of the efforts made with regards to the refurbishment of the UNEP/MAP premises and requests the Secretariat to accelerate the process with the support of the Greek Government and to report the progress to the next Bureau meeting.

V. Agenda Item 5: Specific Issues

21. The MAP Coordinator presented the “*Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues*” (UNEP/MED BUR.95/6).

22. The meeting discussed the matters as summarized in the following paragraphs.

A. Ratification, Reporting and Compliance

23. The Coordinator, referred to issues related to ratification, reporting and compliance, noting that two ratifications are pending for the entry into force of the Amendments of the Dumping Protocol and that the Secretariat is following-up with relevant Contracting Parties on this issue. Regarding reporting, she highlighted that reporting rates are low and that although reporting is not mandatory for Parties that have not ratified a Protocol, reporting by all Parties is very useful in assessing the situation in the Mediterranean region. On Compliance she noted that two nominations have been received for the position of a Member from Group III (as reflected in documents UNEP/MED BUR.95/6 and its Add.1), while no nomination was received regarding an Alternate Member from Group III. The Coordinator highlighted the importance of a full Compliance Committee membership for the smooth operation of the Committee.

24. One Bureau member noted that her country is close to finalizing the procedure for the ratification of the Offshore Protocol, while adding that there are challenges related to the ratification of the Hazardous Waste Protocol. Regarding the Compliance Committee membership, she asked the Secretariat to continue efforts for the nomination of an Alternate Member by Group III. She also noted that regarding the nominations of a Compliance Committee Member from Group III, preference should be given to the candidacy nominated by a Contracting Party who has not been in the Compliance Committee before. The other Bureau members agreed with this proposal.

25. Another Bureau member noted the difficulties faced in reporting as well as in collecting data and expressed appreciation for the establishment and operationalization of the Reporting Implementation Task Force in this respect.

26. **Conclusions:**

(a) The Bureau takes note of the current status of ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, noting also the limited progress in ratifications during the last biennium and urges the Contracting Parties which have not yet done so to make efforts for the ratifications of the Protocols, with particular focus on the Dumping Protocol to ensure its entry into force as soon as possible;

(b) The Bureau encourages the President and the Secretariat to enhance their efforts with the respective Contracting Parties to achieve the full ratification of the Protocols to the Barcelona Convention;

(c) The Bureau calls on Contracting Parties to submit their national implementation reports for the period 2022-2023 by December 2024 and strongly urges those Contracting Parties who have not yet done so, to submit their national implementation reports for the previous reporting periods 2012–2013 and 2014–2015 (2 Contracting Parties), 2016-2017 (4 Contracting Parties), 2018-2019 (9 Contracting Parties) and/or 2020-2021 (12 Contracting Parties) without further delay, implementing COP 23 Decision IG.26/1;

(d) The Bureau, in relation to the membership of the Compliance Committee for the biennium 2024-2025, elected Mr. Weckel, nominated by Monaco, as a Member of the Compliance

Committee;

(e) The Bureau, following the adoption of the amendments to MARPOL Annex VI concerning the Med SOx ECA at the 79th session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 79) (London, UK, 12-16 December 2022), recalls the urgency of ratification, transposition and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI, by the six remaining Contracting Parties particularly in view of the expected date of entry into effective application of the Med SOx ECA on 1 May 2025.

B. COP23 Key Mandates-Timeline and Milestones for their Effective Delivery

27. The Secretariat informed the members of the Bureau about the progress in relation to key COP 23 mandates, with a focus on the processes and on the actions taken as well as on the next steps for their efficient delivery. The Coordinator noted that the update of the Mediterranean Strategy of Sustainable Development would be discussed during the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Athens, Greece, 18-19 April 2024). Regarding the revision of the Ecosystem Approach roadmap she noted that it will take place in parallel with the evaluation of the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme. She also referred to the revision of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, and the relevant possibilities for funding. She referred then to the independent mapping exercise including a fully fledged assessment of the UNEP/MAP system and its different components with a view to define the mandate and integrate the newly established CC/RAC within the UNEP/MAP system, for which the process of hiring an independent consultant is under way, noting also that the Director of Climate Change/RAC, Mr. Mustafa Baskara, has been officially appointed. She also presented the progress regarding the Internal Evaluation of Coherence of the MAP System to the “Common Operational Principles for MAP Components”, noting that this has been discussed in the Executive Coordination Panel and is proceeding with the cooperation of all MAP Components. Regarding this issue, the Coordinator added that a recent evolution is related to the organization of meetings by MAP Components: according to UN rules, participants deserve at least 20% of the DSA even if their expenses are paid based on receipts.

28. One Bureau member highlighted the importance of MAP Components to have Host Country Agreements and asked the Secretariat to share the first assessment of the situation with the Bureau at its next meeting.

29. On the issue of Host Country Agreements, the Coordinator highlighted that the Secretariat is also considering what other Multilateral Environmental Agreements are doing in relation to their regional centers (e.g. the Basel Convention and the Cartagena Convention) and that it is preferable that all UNEP/MAP RACs apply the UN Rules and Regulations. She added that the Secretariat will present the first outcome of this exercise at the next Bureau meeting, while the final outcome will be presented in the last Bureau meeting of the biennium, planned for June 2025. She also expressed appreciation for the collaboration of the directors of MAP Components in this endeavour.

30. **Conclusion:**

(a) The Bureau notes with appreciation the information provided on the key mandates of COP23 and their implementation and requests the Secretariat and the respective MAP Components to ensure all steps are undertaken for their effective and timely implementation.

C. Collaboration and Partners

31. The Coordinator presented the work of the Secretariat, which has been very active in enhancing partnerships during this reporting period. She referred to the active contribution of UNEP/MAP in UNEA-6 (Nairobi, Kenya, 26 February–1 March 2024), where, *inter alia*, the Coordinator was a key speaker in the side event on the 50th Anniversary of the Regional Seas as well as to the Resolutions adopted at UNEA-6, four of which were very relevant to the work of UNEP/MAP. Furthermore, the Coordinator referred to the active involvement of UNEP/MAP in the 9th Our Ocean Conference (Athens, Greece, 15-17 April 2024).

32. The Bureau members congratulated the Secretariat for the work done and the progress achieved in relation to partnerships and collaboration. One member of the Bureau noted that the EU Marine Directors meeting, which took place in November 2023 during the Spanish Presidency of the

EU, invited the Coordinators of the UNEP Regional Seas to participate and thanked the Coordinator for her active presence in that meeting where she presented the 2023 MED QSR. She suggested that it would be very relevant for Regional Seas representatives to be present at all the EU Directors meetings that take place twice per year, so that they are informed on marine and freshwater issues.

33. **Conclusions:**

(a) The Bureau notes with appreciation the UNEA 6 Resolution on Ocean Governance highlighting the Regional Seas as a key contributor to this process and welcomes the work of the Secretariat in enhancing ocean governance at regional and global level and the strengthening of cooperation and partnerships with global and regional organizations for joint impact on the ground;

(b) The Bureau welcomes the work by the Secretariat to strengthen participation and involvement in global processes and to raise the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system's profile, its work and its contribution to the implementation of the SDGs, and encourages the Secretariat to further work in this direction;

(c) The Bureau appreciates the existing collaboration of the Regional Seas surrounding Europe with the work undertaken for the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and to this aim, encourages further strengthening of this collaboration within the established mechanisms and related meetings;

(d) The Bureau welcomes the involvement of UNEP/MAP in the BlueMissionMed Initiative, especially in relation to the preparation of the updated MSSD and its future implementation;

(e) The Bureau endorses the results of the evaluation conducted by the Secretariat of the new application submitted by the Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development, by Banlastic Egypt and by the European Public Law Organization (EPLO) as MAP Partners and requests that the Secretariat submits them to the MAP Focal Points and to COP 24 for consideration and endorsement.

D. Outreach, Communication and Advocacy

34. The Coordinator reported on the information and communication activities conducted and on the plans for the current biennium in this area, in the context of the most important global and regional events. To this end, the Coordinator referred to the outreach activities of UNEP/MAP in the upcoming 9th Our Ocean Conference (Athens, Greece, 15-17 April 2024): Ms. Hema would participate in the Ministerial Lunch and in the high-level panel of the Plenary Session VIII on "The Challenges & Solutions of the Mediterranean Countries"; INFO/RAC organized the booth of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system; a side event of UNEP/MAP and Italy on the implementation of the Agreement between UNEP/MAP and the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security was approved by the organizers.

35. The Coordinator highlighted the plans to use the 2025 UN Ocean Conference, to take place in Nice, France, in June 2025, as an opportunity to boost visibility of the work of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention, since 2025 marks the celebration of the 50 years of MAP and of the 30 years of the "Post-Rio" Barcelona Convention. She added that the celebrations will take place under the leadership of France (host of UNOC 2025), Slovenia (COP23 Presidency), Spain (Depositary and Contracting Party that has hosted the diplomatic conferences where MAP and the Barcelona Convention were adopted in 1975, 1976, 1995), and Egypt (COP24 Host).

36. The Bureau members thanked the Secretariat for the very good work done, discussed outreach, communication and advocacy issues and concluded as follows.

37. **Conclusion:**

(a) The Bureau welcomes the Secretariat's efforts in the field of outreach, communication and advocacy and requests the Secretariat to proceed with the arrangements for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the MAP in 2025 in order also to enhance the visibility of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system.

VI. Agenda Item 6: Calendar of Meetings and events

38. The Bureau was informed on the “*Tentative Calendar of UNEP/MAP Meetings and Major International Events in 2024*” (UNEP/MED BUR.95/Inf.3). The Secretariat noted that the structure of the document has been revised to better reflect the different types of meetings.

39. The Bureau reviewed the first section of the calendar, on Institutional Meetings of UNEP/MAP, and made appropriate changes. The meeting agreed that this Section will accompany the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting.

40. In relation to the dates of COP 24, the representative of Egypt suggested that these will be between 2-5 December 2025, so as not to coincide with UNEA-7 that was decided to be held in Nairobi, from 8 to 12 December 2025. The Bureau members agreed with this proposal.

41. **Conclusions:**

(a) The Bureau agreed with the Secretariat proposal to change the order of the organization of the Bureau meetings for the Biennium with a view to holding the last one at the Duty Station of the Coordinating Unit if there is no hosting invitation by another Bureau member, as appropriate;

(b) The Bureau took note of the proposed Calendar of MAP meetings by the Secretariat with an emphasis on those planned in 2024 and requested the Secretariat to conclude the 2025 meetings and events calendar as early as possible, to allow a smooth planning of participation by the Contracting Parties representatives. The list of institutional meetings/events for 2024 and 2025 is attached as Annex to these conclusions.

VII. Agenda Item 7: Date and Venue of the 96th Meeting of the Bureau

42. The representative of Egypt kindly offered that the next, 96th Bureau meeting would take place in Egypt, in Cairo or Alexandria. The Bureau members expressed their appreciation to Egypt and agreed that the next Bureau meeting would take place in Egypt, on 19-20 November 2024.

43. **Conclusion:**

(a) The Bureau agreed to hold its second meeting in Egypt on 19-20 November 2024 in Cairo or Alexandria, to be confirmed.

VIII. Agenda Item 8: Any Other Matters

44. No other issues were raised by the Bureau members.

IX. Agenda Item 9: Conclusions and Recommendations

45. The Bureau adopted the conclusions as set in this report.

X. Agenda Item 10: Closure of the Meeting

46. The meeting was closed by the President at 18:00 (UTC+1) on Thursday, 4 April 2024.

Annex I
List of Participants

**MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU AND ADVISORS/MEMBRES DU BUREAU ET
CONSEILLERS**

**SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE
(PRESIDENT)**

Mr. Mitja Bricelj
Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning

Mr. Iztok Škerlič
Public agency for promotion of entrepreneurship
and developing projects of Municipality of Izola

Mr. Tilen Obradovič
Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning

Mr. Dejan Guduraš
Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning
Water Directorate
Water Management Division

Ms. Helena Caserman,
Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia

Ms. Klara Jarni
Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia

Mr. Blaž Lipovšek
President of the Sava Youth Parliament

**EGYPT / ÉGYPTE
(VICE-PRESIDENT)**

Dr. Ali Abu Sena
Chief Executive Officer
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)

**MOROCCO / MAROC
(VICE-PRESIDENT)**

Ms. Nassira Rheyati
Head of the International Cooperation Division
Partnership, Communication and Cooperation
Division
Environment Department
Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable
Development

**MALTA / MALTE
(VICE-PRESIDENT)**

Ms. Marie Thérèse Gambin
Unit Manager Thematic | Biodiversity & Water
Environment & Resources Authority

**SPAIN / ESPAGNE
(VICE-PRESIDENT)**

Ms. Itziar Martin Partida
Deputy General Director
Ministry of Ecological Transition

**MONTENEGRO / MONTÉNÉGRO
(RAPPORTEUR)**

Ms. Djurdjina Bulatovic
Directorate for Nature Protection

Ministry of Tourism, Ecology, Sustainable
Development and Northern Region Development

TÜRKIYE / TÜRKIYE
(EX-OFFICIO MEMBER)

Ms. Vildan Bölükbaşı Atay
Head of Department
Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate
Change

**SECRETARIAT TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND COMPONENTS OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN / SECRÉTARIAT DE LA CONVENTION DE
BARCELONE ET COMPOSANTES DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE**

Ms. Tatjana Hema
Coordinator

Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis
Programme Management Officer

Ms. Elli Sfyroeras
Programme Management Assistant

Annex II

Agenda

Agenda

Agenda Item 1 Opening of the Meeting

Agenda Item 2 Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work

Agenda Item 3 Progress Report for October 2023 - February 2024

Agenda Item 4 Report by the Secretariat on Financial and Administrative Issues

Agenda Item 5 Specific Issues:

- Ratification, Reporting and Compliance
- COP23 Key Mandates-Timeline and Milestones for their Effective Delivery:
- MSSD Revision
- ECAP Roadmap
- Climate Change Adaptation Regional Framework
- Independent Mapping Exercise on the Climate Change/RAC
- Internal Evaluation of Coherence of the MAP System to the “Common Operational Principles for MAP Components”
- Other Mandates
- Collaboration and Partners
- Outreach, Communication and Advocacy
- Other Issues

Agenda Item 6 Calendar of Meetings and Events

Agenda Item 7 Date and venue of the 96th Meeting of the Bureau

Agenda Item 8 Any Other Matters

Agenda Item 9 Conclusions and Recommendations

Agenda Item 10 Closure of the Meeting

Annex III

List of institutional meetings/events for 2024 and 2025

**Tentative Calendar of Institutional Meetings of UNEP/MAP
(4/4/2024)**

ORGANIZERS	MEETING	DATE	VENUE
2024			
Secretariat	95 th Meeting of the Bureau	3-4 April	Ljubljana, Slovenia
Secretariat	25 th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee	18-19 April	Athens, Greece
SPA/RAC	6 th Meeting of the SAPBIO Advisory Committee	30 April	Teleconference
SPA/RAC	10 th Meeting of the SAPBIO National Correspondents	5 June	Teleconference
SPA/RAC	CORMON Meeting on Biodiversity and Fisheries	6-7 June	Teleconference
Secretariat	20 th Meeting of the Compliance Committee	19-20 June	Athens, Greece
MED POL	Preparatory Meeting for the Development of new NAPs and initiation of NBBs Reporting cycle	25-26 June	Athens, Greece
Secretariat	11 th Meeting of EcAp Coordination Group	2 October	Teleconference
Secretariat	Meeting of the Extended MCSD Steering Committee on the MSSD Update	15 October	Teleconference
MED POL	CORMON (Pollution and ML)	5-6 November (Pollution) 7 November (Marine Litter)	Teleconference
Secretariat	96 th Meeting of the Bureau	19-20 November	Cairo (TBC), Egypt
REMPEC	2 nd Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031)	19-20 November	Teleconference
Secretariat	Meeting of the Extended MCSD Steering Committee on the MSSD Update	11 December	Teleconference

Mediterranean Celebration/Observance Days

SPA/RAC	SPAMI Day	15 May	Tunis, Tunisia
PAP/RAC	Mediterranean Coast Day	25 September	Algiers, Algeria (TBC)

Meetings for which dates are not yet set

Secretariat	3 rd Steering Committee Meeting of PAMEx and its Local Investment Finance Facility	(TBC)	Athens, Greece
SPA/RAC	5 th Meeting of the Ad hoc Group of Experts on MPAs in the Mediterranean-AGEM	October (TBC)	Teleconference

2025			
SPA/RAC	6 th Meeting of the Ad hoc Group of Experts on MPAs in the Mediterranean-AGEM	21 January (TBC)	Teleconference
MED POL	Progress Meeting on the Development of new NAPs and NBBs Reporting Cycle	29-30 January	Istanbul, Türkiye (TBC)
Secretariat	Ad hoc meeting of the MCSD on the MSSD Update	Week of 10 February	Athens, Greece (TBC)
PAP/RAC	CORMON on Coast and Hydrography	March (TBC)	(TBC)
SPA/RAC	6 th Meeting of the SAPBIO Advisory Committee	April	Teleconference
MED POL	CORMON (Pollution and Marine Litter)	1 April (Marine Litter) 2-3 April (Pollution)	Athens, Greece
Secretariat/ REMPEC	5 th Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact	Week 7 April	Malta
Secretariat	26 th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee	Week 14 April	Athens, Greece
SPA/RAC	CORMON Meeting on Biodiversity and Fisheries	May (TBC)	(TBC)
PAP/RAC	Meeting of PAP/RAC Focal Points	6-7 May	Split, Croatia
REMPEC	16 th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points	13-15 May	Malta
INFO/RAC	Meeting of INFO/RAC Focal Points	20-21 May	Rome, Italy
SPA/RAC	11 th Meeting of the SAPBIO National Correspondents (Back-to-back to the 17 th SPA/BD FP meeting)	19-20 May	(TBC)
SPA/RAC	17 th Meeting of the SPA/BD Focal Points & SPA/RAC 40 th anniversary	21-23 May	(TBC)
Plan Bleu/RAC	Meeting of Plan Bleu/RAC Focal Points	27-28 May	Marseille, France
SCP/RAC	Meeting of SCP/RAC Focal Points	28-29 May	Barcelona, Spain
MED POL	Meeting of MED POL Focal Points	3-4 June	Athens, Greece

Secretariat	97 th Meeting of the Bureau	4-5 June	Athens, Greece
UN/France	UN Ocean Conference (incl. UNEP/MAP event on 50 years of MAP and 30 years of amended BC)	9-13 June	Nice, France
Secretariat	21 st Meeting of the MCSD	17-19 June	(TBC)
Secretariat	21 st Meeting of the Compliance Committee	24-25 June	Athens, Greece
Secretariat	12 th Meeting of EcAp Coordination Group	15 September	Athens, Greece
Secretariat	Meeting of the MAP Focal Points	16-19 September	Athens, Greece
SPA/RAC	7 th Meeting of the Ad hoc Group of Experts on MPAs in the Mediterranean-AGEM	November (TBC)	Teleconference
Secretariat	24 th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 24)	2-5 December	Egypt

Mediterranean Celebration/Observance Days

SPA/RAC	SPAMI Day	15 April	Teleconference+ in the SPAMIs
PAP/RAC	Mediterranean Coast Day	25 September	(TBC)