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## **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

Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), 19-20 May 2003

### **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AGAINST POLLUTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS**

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## Introduction

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols was held at Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) on 19 and 20 May 2003, at the Ministry of Trade and Economic Relations of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Participation

2. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Bernard Fautrier, Minister Plenipotentiary for Environmental Cooperation on the Environment and Development (Monaco). The following members of the Bureau attended: Mr. Mormir Tasic, Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr. Alexandre Lascaratos, official responsible for liaison with the MAP (Greece), Ms. Reem Abad Rabboh, Director of the Water Safety Directorate in the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs (Syrian Arab Republic), and Mr. Slavo Mezek, consultant with the Regional Development Agency (Slovenia). H.E. Mr. Bernard Fautrier was accompanied by Mr. Patrick Van Klaveren, technical adviser, and Mr. Mormir Tasic by Mr. Ibro Cengic, Executive Director of the Steering Committee for Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr. Mehmed Cero, Deputy Minister, and Mr. Tarik Kuposovic, MAP Focal Point.

3. Mr. Arab Hoballah, Deputy Coordinator, and Ms. Tatjana Hema, Programme Administrator, represented the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

4. The full list of participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present report.

## **Agenda item 1:           Opening of the meeting**

5. H.E. Mr. Bernard Fautrier, President of the Bureau, welcomed participants and thanked the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina for hosting the meeting. He expressed his personal satisfaction at being in Sarajevo, a city with such a particularly rich cultural and historical heritage.

6. Mr. Mormir Tasic, Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, speaking on behalf of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, expressed the hope that the members of the Bureau would have a most enjoyable stay in his country. Bosnia and Herzegovina had had to overcome many obstacles before being able to take an active part in the regional cooperation process and the present meeting therefore marked an important step forward of which it was proud. It was fully aware that, with a view to its future membership of the European Union, it had to meet the environmental criteria fixed by the Union. Over 70 per cent of water courses and almost all the natural and artificial lakes in Bosnia and Herzegovina were linked to the Mediterranean basin. In order to guarantee their protection, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations had set up an environmental protection unit responsible for coordinating all activities at the national level, drafting legal texts and preparing for the adoption of the relevant international conventions. In that respect, immediately after the meeting, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, would be participating in the Fifteenth Ministerial Conference in Kiev "An Environment for Europe", where it would sign three protocols on strategic environmental assessment, pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTR) and civil liability for transboundary damage caused by hazardous activities. In conclusion, he wished members of the Bureau every success in their work.

7. The President of the Bureau thanked the Minister for his words of welcome and for the statement focusing on the importance of regional cooperation. He also noted that, at the

Bureau meeting in Sarajevo, a minister responsible for foreign trade and economic relations was leading his country's delegation. That was fully consonant with the new concerns in the approach to environmental and sustainable development issues, which had to take into account the three environmental, economic and social "pillars" highlighted at the Johannesburg Summit.

8. All the members of the Bureau took the floor to thank the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the warmth of their welcome and the excellent organization of the meeting.

9. The President read out a message from Mr. Lucien Chabason, MAP Coordinator, addressed to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the members of the Bureau conveying his apologies for not attending due to an operation. In his message, Mr. Chabason confirmed that, unless there were any new developments, he would be leaving on 30 June 2003, as provided in the extension of his term of office granted by UNEP. The President pointed out that the question of Mr. Chabason's departure and the procedures which the Bureau might once again undertake in order to allow him to guide preparations and proceedings at the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania would be considered later in the meeting. The message from Mr. Chabason is reproduced in full in **Annex II** to this report.

**Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

10. The meeting adopted the agenda drawn up by the Secretariat and circulated under the symbol UNEP/BUR/60/1, together with the annotated agenda under the symbol UNEP/BUR/60/2.

**Agenda item 3: Progress report by the Secretariat on activities carried out since the last meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (October 2002–April 2003)**

11. Mr. Arab Hoballah, Deputy Coordinator, presented the broad outlines of the progress report circulated under symbol UNEP/BUR/60/3 and proposed that the meeting consider it point by point, focusing on the recommendations in bold type, which the Secretariat was submitting to the Bureau for possible use as a basis for its decisions.

**A. COORDINATION**

**Legal matters**

***Union of Serbia and Montenegro***

12. The representative of the Secretariat said that a letter had been received from the UNEP Office in Geneva stating that the Permanent Mission of the Union of Serbia and Montenegro to the United Nations Office in Geneva had informed it that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, by means of its declaration of 16 July 2002 on succession, had regulated its status regarding the Barcelona Convention and its four Protocols. The Permanent Mission had attached a copy of the Act attesting to deposit with the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which was the depositary. In turn, Spain had included former Yugoslavia in the list of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. Attention was drawn in that connection to the decision of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Antalya (1993) to the effect that any new State recognized by the United Nations which so desired should be allowed to accede to the Barcelona Convention. It was also noted that the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had become the Union of Serbia and Montenegro.

13. The President said that the return of Serbia and Montenegro, at the end of a decade marked by tragic events, was a major development that should be welcomed because it meant that the countries bordering the Mediterranean were now all in the MAP and the situation had once again become normal, which was a good omen for peace and stability in the Balkan region and for Mediterranean cooperation as a whole.

## **DECISION**

**The Bureau requested the Secretariat to initiate the necessary procedure to invite the authorities of the Union of Serbia and Montenegro to participate in the forthcoming meetings of the MAP National Focal Points in Athens and the Contracting Parties in Catania.**

### ***Ratification process***

14. The Deputy Coordinator informed the meeting of the status of ratification of the revised Barcelona instruments and the fact that the return of Serbia and Montenegro had increased to 17 the number of countries required for the entry into force of the amended instruments. The members of the Bureau described the status in their respective countries. The President, having made a rapid calculation, said that in all likelihood only one more ratification would be needed in order to reach the figure required at the Catania meeting, which would be of considerable importance for the credibility of the MAP and not only symbolic. For his part, he was ready to utilize his forthcoming visits around the Mediterranean to encourage ratification, although it did not only depend on governments but also, in certain cases, on a long and complex parliamentary procedure.

### ***Reporting system***

15. After the item had been presented by the Secretariat, the members of the Bureau approved the proposal to convene a fourth and last meeting of the working group in order to review the exercise being conducted with participating and other countries. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic requested that the negative and positive aspects of the reporting formats used during the voluntary test be highlighted and that, in the report to be submitted to the Contracting Parties, there be provision for technical assistance from the Secretariat to help certain countries to apply the new system.

## **DECISION**

**The Bureau requested the Secretariat to follow the reporting exercise closely. It examined the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting of experts and asked the Secretariat to organize, in early July 2003, a consultation meeting with the countries participating on a voluntary basis and open to all other countries that so wished. In addition, after this exercise, provision should be made for technical assistance for the compilation of reports for countries that so requested.**

### ***Liability and compensation***

16. The Deputy Coordinator said that the work recently undertaken with legal experts on the issue, which the MAP had already worked on in the past, had focused on the value-added of any such instrument for the Mediterranean. The Programme Administrator added that, in addition to the need for such an instrument specifically for the Mediterranean, the meeting had shown the complexity of the socioeconomic element and the need to consult the partners concerned, starting with insurance companies, particularly on the creation of a Mediterranean compensation fund.

17. The President considered that, from a theoretical standpoint, the instrument envisaged could be extremely useful in the Mediterranean. He stressed that its elaboration would be a highly complex task because it would come up against the reticence of certain countries due to the fact that systems were already in place, particularly in the European Union. Since the recent "Erika" and "Prestige" accidents, the latter had adopted new very stringent provisions and was closely following the situation with a view to improvements. It was thus necessary not to be too ambitious regarding the timeframe and to give further thought to the gaps in the systems currently in force in the region. Consequently, it appeared premature to make a proposal on a draft at the next meeting of the Contracting Parties.

18. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic considered that the meeting did not have the necessary expertise to discuss the legal aspects of the problem which, in the last analysis, was the responsibility of national legislation. The representative of Greece pointed out that, after the Erika 1 and 2 incidents, the EU was preparing new legislation and he was not sure that a new Mediterranean Protocol would be the best option; it would take months, if not years, to be drafted and even more years to be ratified. In addition, its provisions would perhaps become null and void due to legal developments in that area. In his view, it was preferable for the moment to adopt a more modest procedure of continued consideration of the problem.

19. At the President's proposal, which was endorsed by the meeting, the Secretariat's recommendation was revised in order to take into account the comments made.

## **DECISION**

**The Bureau requested the Secretariat to continue the investigations conducted with the experts and to submit a progress report on the subject to the meetings of the MAP National Focal Points and Contracting Parties for consideration and follow-up.**

### ***Monitoring system for the enforcement of MAP legal instruments***

20. The Secretariat introduced the note it had prepared on the issue as a follow-up to a decision by the previous meeting of the Bureau.

21. The meeting agreed that it was necessary to move ahead along the lines proposed by the Secretariat, noting that Articles 26 and 27 of the Convention provided the legal basis to do so, and that mechanisms applied under other conventions that were not repressive but on the contrary sought a consensual approach could be used as a basis, it being understood that it was not a question of establishing a mechanism for interference in the domestic affairs of countries. It appeared normal to ensure that Contracting Parties exercised their own controls to see whether the commitments they had undertaken in the legal texts of the Barcelona Convention to which they had acceded were in fact being enforced and thus guarantee the effectiveness of Mediterranean cooperation.

## **DECISION**

**The Bureau discussed the issue of the mechanism to examine the implementation of MAP's legal components in parallel with the reporting system exercise. The proposed meeting on the reporting system could also be used to discuss the need for a mechanism to monitor implementation of MAP's legal component and to debate further the possibilities for its application, including an institutional body entrusted with assessing and controlling compliance with commitments, with a well-defined mandate and working method, with the aim of preparing a strong and clear recommendation for the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania.**

## **Institutional matters**

### ***MAP evaluation***

22. The meeting decided to postpone discussion of the item until the following day because the members of the Bureau had only just received the relevant report and needed some time to study it.

### ***Evaluation of SPA/RAC and REMPEC***

23. The President said that, at a bilateral level, he had had an opportunity to discuss the question of SPA/RAC with the Tunisian authorities and they were fully aware of the need to resolve certain problems, notably at the administrative level. They had indicated their intention to take the necessary steps before the meetings of the MAP Focal Points and the Contracting Parties.

## **Cooperation and partners**

### ***Cooperation with the European Commission***

24. The Deputy Coordinator briefly described the background to MAP's relations with the EC and their new context following the Athens Euro-Ministerial Conference in July 2002, the role entrusted to MAP for the elaboration of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, the concrete proposals for joint half-yearly meetings and reciprocal invitations made at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of SMAP correspondents. It was no longer a question of considering the EC to be solely a Contracting Party; there was a new process that would gain even more momentum following the imminent and the subsequent accession of new Mediterranean countries to the EC. The Secretariat proposed that contacts should be made rapidly with the new team at the Environment DG when the Coordinator visited Brussels, if possible together with the President of the Bureau so that the visit had a more official character.

25. The President endorsed the Deputy Coordinator's remarks and considered that the time had come to strengthen and place on an institutional footing the already fruitful contacts initiated with the EC as three new MAP countries would become members in 2004 and, in the medium term, the EU might comprise 11 Mediterranean countries. In order to initiate such coordination, the Bureau could ask its President to send a letter to the European Environment Commissioner so that the Secretariat and President could go to Brussels together in order to formalize certain aspects of cooperation.

26. The representative of Greece considered that it was a crucial matter and that it should be approached in a new action-oriented spirit such as that underpinning the revision of the Barcelona Convention in 1995. The majority of Contracting Parties were clearly aware that many activities and projects in the MAP's programme could not be put into effect without the resources which the EU could provide. There were many positive signs and it was also an advantage that the Mediterranean had, to a certain degree, presided over the EU, in the form of Greece during the first half of 2003 and Italy during the second.

27. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic wished to put forward the views of a non-European country, stating that cooperation with the EU was vital. She added that, in her view, there should be a regional coordination body for various EU and MAP programmes in order to prevent duplication.

## **DECISION**

**The Bureau decided that its President should address a letter to the European Environment Commissioner to express satisfaction at the results of the preliminary**

**contacts between the EC/DG and the MAP, recalling the commitments undertaken at the Euro-Mediterranean Meeting in Athens in July 2002 and proposing an official meeting with the DG/Environment in order to examine ways and means of putting them into practice.**

***Synergy and cooperation with other programmes and initiatives in the region***

28. The Secretariat described the background and presented the prospects for cooperation with several programmes mentioned in the progress report, which should be encouraged.

29. The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina described his country's experience of cooperation with the REREP and the REC, which had been positive. In the Balkans, those structures were particularly involved in projects and activities under the Stability Pact, with the REC playing a more technical role but having diplomatic status. The environment-development issues that had arisen in Bosnia and Herzegovina following the conflict it had suffered could not have been resolved without their support.

30. The representative of Slovenia added that his country also had extremely positive experience of its cooperation with the REC, which had helped to prepare a strategic environmental assessment. Likewise, cooperation with the Baltic 21 Programme had been valuable. Those programmes had a great deal to teach countries such as his, particularly as regarded financing. The lessons which Slovenia had drawn were available to other candidates for membership of the EU.

31. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic considered that those aspects were extremely interesting and asked whether the information on the REREP could be made available to Arab countries with a view to their possible participation in the programme. It was decided that the Secretariat would attach an information note on the REREP and the REC to the report of the meeting (see **Annex VI**).

32. The President stated that the comments made had shown that the Secretariat's proposal to strengthen cooperation with those programmes was fully justified. The forthcoming Kiev Conference should provide the opportunity for renewing contacts. In that respect, the Bureau should be aware that the draft ministerial declaration of the Kiev Conference had originally totally ignored the Mediterranean and that the omission had been made good in part through the intervention of the representative of Monaco, supported by that of Canada. There were therefore reticences to be overcome, a combat to be waged, in order to ensure that international forums understood that the Mediterranean existed and had its own special characteristics.

**DECISION**

**The Bureau requested the Secretariat:**

- (a) to envisage modalities that would enable improvement of cooperation and synergy with the REREP Programme, the REC Centre, the Euro-Arab Management School, the Baltic 21 Programme, as well as the ESPO Convention;**
- (b) to send to the Baltic 21 Programme a letter inviting them to attend the Contracting Parties meeting in Catania and proposing the organization of a joint side event at the next meeting of the MCSD;**
- (c) to remain in contact with the Secretariat of the ESPO Convention in order to prepare a joint working plan to be implemented during the next biennium and to promote bilateral agreements at the national level, and to invite the ESPO Convention to attend the meeting of Contracting Parties in Catania;**



- (d) to strengthen cooperation with the conventions addressing horizontal and cross-cutting issues and the relevant implementation programmes, taking into account the results of the Kiev Conference and the "Environment for Europe" process.

#### ***List of partners***

33. The meeting listened to the arguments put forward by the Secretariat concerning the reinsertion on the list of partners of an NGO that had been removed by mistake and the inclusion of two NGO networks that met the criteria approved by the Bureau, and took the following decision.

#### **DECISION**

**In the light of the explanations given by the Secretariat, the Bureau decided to add the organizations INARE, UNASD and APNEK to the list of MAP partners.**

#### **Financial and personnel matters**

##### ***Financial matters***

34. The representative of the Secretariat presented the sections of the progress report dealing with payment of contributions for the current and previous financial years, the status of the Trust Fund after taking into account arrears, and interest credited in 2001-2002.

##### **Requests for withdrawal from the Trust Fund**

35. The meeting requested the Secretariat to give more detailed explanations concerning the requests for withdrawal it had made. Regarding the meeting of MAP Focal Points, the Deputy Coordinator explained that there had been virtually a twofold increase in the costs originally foreseen when the budget had been drawn up and there were several reasons for that: the general increase in hotel rates in Athens following their renovation for the Olympic Games in 2004; higher living costs following the introduction of the euro, a phenomenon that had also been noted in other euro zone countries; and, for the aforementioned reasons, a sharp rise in the United Nations daily subsistence allowance for Athens to be paid to participants.

36. The President said that he believed he expressed a widely held view when he declared that he was "dismayed" by such an increase, which should have been foreseen. He considered that the figure given should be kept within bounds as far as possible by negotiating the terms for the rental of the meeting room, if necessary looking again at the choice of hotel and venue for the meeting and, as the daily subsistence allowance fixed by the United Nations could not be changed, parties should be informed that MAP would only pay for one single participant from EU member countries or countries shortly to become members, with a second participant from countries with economies in transition, but only in very special and duly justified cases. Subject to those conditions, the Bureau agreed to allocate an additional amount of US \$30,000 instead of the US \$65,000 sought by the Secretariat.

37. The request to withdraw US \$10,000 to offset purchasing power losses on the salaries of personnel of the Split PAP/RAC, US \$20,000 to finalize the MAP evaluation process (subject to further discussion that would take place the following day), US \$20 000 for the purpose of continuing the elaboration of the MSSD, and US \$2,000 for the new programme on the cultural heritage were agreed without objection.

38. With regard to the request to withdraw US \$55,000, to be added to a possible US \$30,000 contribution from Monaco for the purposing of holding a meeting on drawing up a strategy for implementation of the Malta Protocol, the decision was postponed until the following day while the Bureau awaited receipt of the relevant recommendation from the meeting of REMPEC correspondents and had examined the Centre's activities (***consequently, the decision to approve the following amounts was only definitively agreed the following day after having examined REMPEC's activities, the activities of the MCSD, and the report on the evaluation of MAP***).

#### ***Use of the euro***

39. The representative of the Secretariat recalled the various steps taken over the past two years in Nairobi and New York to make the euro MAP's reference and accounting currency. A positive response had finally been received in February 2003, it being understood that MAP's next budget would be drawn up in euros and in dollars for indicative purposes, because the latter currency was still the basis for statements of account in the United Nations in conformity with its rules. An account in euros would shortly be opened in a European bank in the name of the Trust Fund.

40. Following those favourable developments, the members of the Bureau agreed that the next budget should be drawn up in euros and that its basis would be the budget in euros approved in Monaco in November 2001, otherwise, in view of the sharp drop in the dollar in comparison with the euro over the past year, in November 2003 the Parties would approve a correspondingly lower budget, for the moment 25 per cent less, which would not allow the programme to continue operating. In 2001, the budget had been drawn up in dollars (a legal obligation at that time) and in euros because the Secretariat was already working with a view to the introduction of the euro. The euro would now become MAP's currency of account, notices of contribution would also be drawn up in euros and paid in an equivalent amount, irrespective of the currency used, including dollars. Voluntary contributions were by definition free, so the countries could calculate them in the currency of their choice.

41. The representative of the Secretariat noted that, as a result of the transition from the dollar to the euro from one accounting year to the next, the MAP would still be receiving contributions committed in dollars for 2001 so there would be a loss of revenue corresponding to the drop in the dollar and that would have to be taken into account.

42. Regarding the contribution of the Union of Serbia and Montenegro, the amount determined was purely indicative and the definitive figure would be communicated to the Catania meeting. The resumption of activities there would, however, mean an increase in MAP's expenditure.

#### **DECISION**

**(a) The Bureau authorized the following withdrawals from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF):**

- **US \$30,000 to supplement the existing funds (US \$50,000) for the forthcoming MAP Focal Points meeting, due to the increase in costs in the host country; in that respect, the Secretariat was urged to negotiate the most advantageous rates for accommodation of participants, and the rental of the meeting room and conference services, only to cover the cost of one person from EU member countries, including candidates, and, for other countries, to cover the cost of an additional person if the countries so requested for reasons related to the agenda or organization of the meeting; the Secretariat was also requested to contact the relevant Greek authorities, in close cooperation with the National Focal Point, in order to obtain additional support;**

- **US \$10,000 to offset the loss of purchasing power for all PAP/RAC personnel salaries;**
  - **US \$20,000 to finalize the MAP evaluation process;**
  - **US \$20,000 to pursue the elaboration of the MSSD;**
  - **US \$2,000 to assist the establishment of a new programme under the MCSD on the cultural heritage.**
- (b) The Secretariat was invited to present the 2004-2005 budget to the Contracting Parties in euros, for adoption, using as a reference the budget in euros approved in Monaco in 2001.**

### ***Personnel matters***

#### *Extension of the Coordinator's mandate*

43. For this item of the agenda, the Deputy Coordinator said that, as he himself was a candidate for the post of MAP Coordinator, he would prefer that the discussions took place in his absence and left the room, leaving Ms. Hema to represent the Secretariat.

44. The President recalled that, at its last meeting held in Monaco, the Bureau had unanimously expressed the wish to see the mandate of the current MAP Coordinator extended until December 2003 to allow him to provide the essential continuity for preparations and conduct of the next meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania. The Executive Director of UNEP, after having contacted the United Nations Secretariat in New York, was only able to accept a three-month extension until 30 June 2003 and Mr. Chabason himself, in a letter dated 15 May 2003, which had been read out at the opening of the meeting, appeared to take that deadline into account by referring to his imminent departure. One new element that had occurred had been the new post vacancy notice issued at the request of certain Parties. Consequently, it appeared unlikely that a new Coordinator would be appointed in the near future and the extension of Mr. Chabason's mandate was therefore even more essential, despite the pessimistic view of the Executive Director of UNEP expressed in his letter to the President of the Bureau concerning agreement to a new extension. Under such circumstances, what position did the Bureau wish to adopt?

45. The representative of Greece emphasized the gravity of the question: the success of the Catania meeting, which would be the culmination of careful preparations and whose success everyone wished to see, absolutely required the presence of Mr. Chabason. Obviously, a person designated on an interim basis by UNEP, however competent they might be, could not immediately become familiar with the issues that were crucial for MAP's future and be in a position to guide fruitful debates. He pointed out that there was a contradiction in Nairobi's position: although it was UNEP that appointed the Coordinator, it was in fact the Contracting Parties that paid his salary and they therefore had their input into such a decision. The Bureau should therefore insist and request its President to inform the Executive Director of UNEP that an approach would be made directly in New York through the diplomatic missions of member countries in order to transmit a joint memorandum to the United Nations Secretary-General.

46. The representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, Slovenia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina unreservedly supported the position of the representative of Greece, but wondered what should be done if the reply from New York was negative.

47. Following a further exchange of views, the Bureau decided that the Greek Ambassador to the United Nations, as Greece was currently president of the European Union, and the Ambassador of Monaco would hand over to the United Nations Secretary-General without delay a joint memorandum explaining their request for an extension, as far as possible in conjunction with the ambassadors of other countries belonging to the Bureau if

the necessary administrative procedures could be completed in time, so that the decision on an extension could be taken at the latest in early June. If the Secretary-General replied in the negative, the Bureau did not consider it necessary for UNEP to send a person from outside the MAP to act as interim Coordinator and would rely on the competence of the Coordinating Unit in Athens for that purpose.

48. Lastly, with regard to the process for appointing the new Coordinator, the President said that in the letter he had received from the Executive Director of UNEP, the latter had responded positively to the Bureau's request to be associated at the appropriate time with the choice of the person to be appointed as Coordinator. The Bureau requested its President, in his further letter to the Executive Director of UNEP, to propose that a preliminary list of appropriate candidates be drawn up for that purpose and to recall that the Contracting Parties had decided that the person appointed should be a citizen of a Mediterranean country.

## **DECISION**

**The Bureau entrusted its President with sending a letter to the Executive Director of UNEP stating that a common approach would be undertaken without delay to the United Nations Secretariat in New York through the ambassadors of countries members of the Bureau in order to transmit a memorandum directly reiterating the request for an extension of the current mandate of the MAP Coordinator until the end of November 2003. If that approach was unsuccessful, the Bureau decided to rely on the competence of the team in the Coordinating Unit to ensure the interim coordination.**

**In the letter to be addressed to the Executive Director by the President, it would be recalled that some time ago the Contracting Parties had requested that the candidate nominated for the post be a citizen of a Mediterranean country and meet the criteria already proposed by the Bureau.**

## **Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development**

### ***Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development***

49. The Deputy Coordinator reported on the main results of the Meeting of the MCSD which had recently been held in Cavtat (Croatia), as well as the status of work on drawing up the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, with the completion of the "Vision" for the "Orientations framework", which was currently being finalized. The preparation of the Strategy had required a complex process involving all the actors concerned and it would be submitted to the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005.

50. The representative of Greece expressed his deep disappointment that the Mediterranean Strategy would not be ready for the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to be held in Catania in November 2003. Two years had already gone by since the decision to prepare the Strategy and a further two years would be required before it could be adopted at the 2005 meeting, with the risk that it would then be obsolete. The document on the "Orientations framework" submitted at Cavtat had appeared extremely weak and had led to considerable concern among several delegations, so a further delay would be a blow to the Commission and called for explanations on the part of the Secretariat.

51. The Deputy Coordinator recalled the various stages needed for the document's preparation because all Mediterranean countries, private actors and civil society had to be closely associated. A number of separate studies had been carried out on the various "pillars" and those had to be amalgamated and synthesized, which required a great deal of time, exchange and interaction in order to arrive at coherent results. In the absence of a

coordination entity at the regional level, the Secretariat had had to organize the whole process itself. The "Orientations" document would therefore be revised in the light of the comments made at the MCSD and submitted at Catania to serve as a basis for the preparation of the study during the next biennium. The Contracting Parties had perhaps underestimated the resources and time needed to complete the process.

52. The President said that he shared the relative disappointment at the substance of the document submitted at Cavtat, but the timetable was consistent with that fixed one year previously by the Commission and reiterated in the Athens Declaration. He pointed out that all Mediterranean countries were desirous of becoming involved in the process and some, such as France and Italy, planned to organize meetings of experts to which the MAP would be invited and which would constitute an important contribution. In addition, the reflection process had to be carefully organized and, for this purpose, much more substantial resources than those available within the MCSD framework were required. As the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership had entrusted the MAP/MCSD with the task of elaborating the Strategy at its meeting in Athens in 2002, there should be discussions with the EC on the material and intellectual resources which the latter could make available so that the task could be carried out properly.

53. After having explained that, due to the events that had occurred over the past decade, his country had been unable to prepare an Agenda 21 in the aftermath of the Rio Conference, the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina announced that his country had started to draw up a national sustainable development strategy and it would rely to a large extent on the regional strategy as a point of reference.

#### ***Evaluation and future of the MCSD***

54. The representative of the Secretariat presented the broad outlines of the document containing the 16 recommendations approved by the MCSD at Cavtat on the future prospects, based on certain conclusions of the Task Force, which would be submitted at Catania. He indicated that it was difficult for the MCSD to make proposals of an institutional nature on matters such as the composition and recruitment of its members because that was the responsibility of the meeting of the Parties. That was why the MCSD had recommended that the MAP Coordinator be entrusted with the task of identifying the appropriate means required for the MAP structure, including the MCSD, making use of an outside expert opinion, in order to promote sustainable development at the regional level and also that the relevant recommendations should be submitted to the Contracting Parties.

55. The President pointed out that the present meeting's role was simply to note information on the MCSD's proposals and the Task Force report and not to discuss them.

56. The representative of Greece agreed and indicated that the Task Force report had not been accepted by the MCSD, which had decided to incorporate a revised summary in its recommendations. The Task Force's report would therefore be submitted at Catania simply as an information document. Echoing views expressed at Cavtat by his delegation and those of other Contracting Parties and organizations, he emphasized that the intention was to remedy the weaknesses of the MCSD by appointing more personnel.

#### ***Cultural heritage and information***

57. The meeting noted with interest the Secretariat's report on the outcome of the meeting held in Nice in April 2003 on taking up the theme of cultural heritage - previously covered by the 100 Historic Sites Centre - within the MAP/MCSD framework, through new, more open and better targeted action that would not involve additional costs; it also noted the information activities carried out.

## **B. COMPONENTS**

58. The representative of the Secretariat outlined the activities carried out since the previous meeting of the Bureau under the various MAP components.

### ***MED POL***

59. Regarding the recommendation put forward by the MED POL Secretariat, the representative of Monaco asked whether the Bureau was really entitled to launch the Phase III process when the meeting of MED POL Coordinators would be held in a few days and, in September, the meeting of MAP Focal Points. The meeting decided to note the essential elements of the proposal as a basis and subject to the recommendations to be taken subsequently by the aforementioned meetings.

### ***Implementation of the MAP Land-Based Sources Protocol and the Strategic Action Plan, pollution "hot spots", monitoring activities***

60. After the representative of the Secretariat had described the relevant activities, the President emphasized the need to disseminate widely throughout the region the report on pollution "hot spots", whose first version had led to reactions by some countries. It was a vital issue of transparency that would allow the "bad elements" to be identified and to formulate the recommendations essential for stronger cooperation and commitments in that area. The meeting endorsed that view.

61. Regarding monitoring activities, the representative of Monaco pointed out that, in the report of the European Environment Agency to be published as part of the documentation for the Kiev Conference, it was noted that there was a wide difference between the level of information on the Atlantic and the North and Baltic Seas, and the much lower volume of information on the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea.

62. The meeting adopted the following decisions:

## **DECISIONS**

### **▪ MED POL**

**In view of the fact that Phase III of the MED POL will end in 2005, the Bureau, without prejudging the recommendations and proposals to be made by the meeting of MED POL National Coordinators and the meeting of MAP Focal Points, requested the Secretariat to commence the review of the MED POL programme in order to prepare a new programme (2006-2013) for submission to the meeting of Contracting Parties in 2005 for adoption.**

### **▪ Implementation of the SAP**

**The Bureau urgently calls on Contracting Parties to spare no effort to complete the preparatory phase of the elaboration of national action plans to address pollution caused by land-based activities and, in particular, to finalize the National Diagnostic Analysis (NDA) and the Baseline Budget of emissions/pollutant releases (BB).**

- **Monitoring activities**

**The Bureau urges Contracting Parties that have not yet done so to formulate and implement national monitoring programmes in order to complete the geographical coverage of the region and create an efficient system of marine pollution assessment and control in order to track pollution reductions that should be achieved through the implementation of the SAP.**

- **Reporting under MED POL**

**The Secretariat is called upon, in close consultation with countries, to strengthen cooperation with the EEA on the harmonization of reporting systems and the EIONET process.**

## **REMPEC**

### ***Strategy for the implementation of the new “prevention and emergency situations” Protocol***

63. The Bureau took note of the proposal made by REMPEC correspondents in February 2003 and recently circulated concerning the elaboration of a strategy for the implementation of the “prevention and emergency situations” Protocol by a meeting of experts to be held in September 2003 prior to the meeting of MAP Focal Points and its subsequent submission to the meeting of Contracting Parties. The Bureau considered that there was no obvious need for such a document at the current stage inasmuch as the Protocol had not yet been ratified by a single country and would only enter into force in a few years. At the most, such a strategy would be a useful accompaniment to the Protocol without any practical scope. In addition, the high cost of the meeting of experts in question was not included in the 2001 budget and required a new budget line for the present financial year. The Bureau was therefore fully entitled to express its views on the matter. On the other hand, at the political level and bearing in mind the “Prestige” accident and the new issues it had raised in all countries and within the EU, it was entirely appropriate for the Ministers present in Catania to adopt a declaration on the issue expressing their concern and determination regarding the crucial issue of maritime safety. It would then be up to REMPEC to prepare a draft of such a declaration to be considered by the Focal Points in Athens before being submitted to the Ministers in Catania for adoption.

## **DECISION**

**The Bureau considered that, at the present stage, it would be premature to consider holding a meeting to elaborate a strategy for the implementation of the Malta Protocol; on the other hand, a meeting on the lessons learned from these events would be appropriate; the question could be put to the Focal Points for consideration. In any event, the Secretariat, together with REMPEC, should prepare a draft political declaration for the Ministers on that crucial issue for the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania; a draft text should be submitted to the MAP Focal Points.**

## **CP/RAC**

64. The meeting noted with interest the many training and publication activities at the Barcelona Centre, particularly in regard to the GEF and the LIFE programme. It considered that the recommendation before it not only underlined and rationalized the complementarity of the two programmes, which were increasingly associated in the SAP framework, but also had the advantage of achieving economies of scale.

## **DECISION**

**The Bureau requested the Secretariat in the future to organize joint meetings of the national MED POL Coordinators and the CP/RAC Focal Points so as better to integrate the work of the two programmes within the framework of the implementation of the SAP.**

### **SPA/RAC**

65. The Programme Administrator briefly described the state of work on the SAP BIO and underlined the political importance of the document, which still had to be improved considerably before submission in Catania.

66. The representative of Greece said that, at the last meeting of the MCSD at Cavtat, emphasis had been laid on the contribution which the Mediterranean scientific community could make to SPA/RAC's activities, particularly the CIESM's work on invasive species.

67. The representative of the Secretariat pointed out in that connection that the conclusions of the SPA/RAC evaluation were eagerly awaited because those carrying out the evaluation had been asked to identify the Mediterranean institutions with which the Centre should work in order to boost synergy and avoid duplication. The meeting decided to complete the recommendation along those lines and, without seeking to interfere in the mandate of the meeting of Focal Points for SPA/RAC, considered that care should be taken to ensure that certain activities such as those on taxonomy or the creation of a clearing house did not duplicate activities already being carried out elsewhere in the Mediterranean.

68. Regarding the implementation of action plans to protect endangered species, the President regretted that, for several years, at each of its meetings the Bureau had simply made purely formal statements on the monk seal, marine turtles or other species without any essential work being done in the field to halt their decline or even prevent their complete extinction. In that respect, it should be strongly emphasized that the countries concerned had direct responsibility and the SPA/RAC should monitor the situation more closely. The meeting shared that view and amended the recommendation along those lines.

## **DECISION**

**The Bureau requested the Secretariat to apply a wide participatory approach in the process of formulating the SAP BIO. The SAP BIO, which was an extremely important policy document to be approved by the Contracting Parties in Catania, should be based on an in-depth analysis of the present status of biological diversity; it should also determine priorities, identify existing and potential resources, possible actors and partners in order to ensure successful implementation and derive the greatest benefit from current scientific knowledge as a whole and the contribution of competent institutions in the Mediterranean, while at the same time avoiding duplication.**

**The Bureau urged the Contracting Parties concerned to take more effective measures for the safeguard of endangered Mediterranean species such as the monk seal and marine turtles and requested SPA/RAC to once again draw the attention of countries to that vital issue.**

### **Environment and development (BP/RAC)**

69. The representative of the Secretariat briefly described Blue Plan's activities and said that the Centre intended to publish the final version of its Environment-Development Report in summer 2004.



## **DECISION**

**The Secretariat was requested to follow closely the process of preparation of the Environment-Development Report in order to provide the Contracting Parties in Catania with a comprehensive first draft of the report.**

### **Integrated coastal area management (PAP/RAC)**

70. After having considered the main activities of the Split Centre, particularly the progress made in the CAMPs strategy and in ICAM, which would be submitted to the meeting of Contracting Parties in Catania for adoption, discussions took place on the advisability of also submitting a document on a new legal instrument on coastal management. Two participants expressed their doubts regarding the possibility of producing such an ICAM protocol as a majority of Contracting Parties had been extremely reticent on the issue in the past. Another participant pointed out that the new title of the revised Barcelona Convention referred to the protection of the coast and that a feasibility study at least appeared to be indicated. The meeting shared that view after the representative of the Secretariat had pointed out that the study had been requested by the Contracting Parties in Monaco and that the recommendation proposed to the Bureau in the progress report had to be clarified.

71. Regarding the CAMPs in Lebanon and Algeria and all the new CAMPs to be accepted in the future, the Deputy Coordinator said that projects now included a follow-up of at least two years in the countries concerned after they had been completed, with a detailed timetable for examination of commitments. Regarding the feasibility study under way, the experts responsible for it were aware of the difficulty of arriving at a protocol, which was only one legal option among others, and for the time being guidelines appeared to be the most realistic formula .

## **DECISION**

**The Secretariat was requested to follow closely the preparation of the strategic paper on ICAM, including CAMPs, and to carry out a feasibility study for a new legal instrument in that area for submission to the meeting of Contracting Parties in Catania for examination and follow-up.**

### **C. NEXT MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES**

72. The Bureau took note of the preparations being made for the next meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania, the documents being prepared or already issued, the main subjects proposed for the ministerial discussion and, in accordance with the wishes expressed by several countries, welcomed the MAP's recommendation that each MAP component should limit its recommendations as far as possible and avoid recommendations that were too general, which was the case each time.

73. Regarding the draft regional plan for a 50 per cent reduction in BOD of industrial origin by 2005, it was emphasized that it would be unrealistic to envisage such a reduction within two years, or even four or five years, and that the Secretariat should verify that point.

74. In response to a request by the President, the representative of the Secretariat explained that, for the moment, it was not proposed to separate the ministerial segment and the remainder of the Catania meeting, but the meeting of National Focal Points in September had to approve the technical aspects of the programme and budget while the meeting of the Contracting Parties had to discuss political issues or only those technical or budgetary aspects that had not met with consensus among the Focal Points.

## Evaluation of MAP

75. After considering the Secretariat's progress report, the meeting had taken up institutional matters but had decided to postpone consideration in order to allow members of the Bureau time to study the document.

76. The Programme Administrator outlined the main sections of the interim report "Evaluation of the MAP": Introduction, Context of the MAP Evaluation, MAP's Performances – Main Conclusions, Recommendations, Annexes.

77. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic considered that the measures taken and the action conducted should be better defined in comparison with the objectives set and the expenditure committed. She proposed that a further meeting of the Think Tank be held for that purpose so that the technical aspects could be clarified, with the quantified results of the Activity Centres at the regional and national levels included in the chapter on the performance of the RACs and MED POL. The representative of Greece shared that view and added that the impact of MAP's activities at the national level depended to a large extent on the countries themselves.

78. The representative of the Secretariat said that the Secretariat was aware of those lacunae but the necessary data on national plans had to be communicated by the Focal Points and that work could not be done before the Catania meeting.

79. After the President had commented that complementing and expanding the report could now only be done through written consultation, the representative of Greece said that the most serious weakness was the future of the MCS D, which fully justified a further meeting of the Think Tank before Catania, because the latter had not taken up the question during its two meetings as it had been awaiting the official conclusions of the Task Force. The representative of Monaco noted that the question of MAP and RAC focal points and their role had not been dealt with and it was also necessary to take up the question of experts and consultants. Lastly, the meeting considered that the charts in the annexes should be revised to make them clearer and more functional.

80. At the conclusion of the exchange of views, the President noted that there appeared to be a consensus on holding a third meeting of the Think Tank, so the principle was adopted and the Secretariat was requested, in consultation with members of the Think Tank, to fix a date some time between the end of June or after the beginning of July.

81. The meeting then considered the recommendations proposed in the report and made a number of comments to allow the Secretariat to make the necessary amendments of form and substance.

## DECISION

- (a) **The Bureau examined the provisional report on the "Evaluation of MAP" together with its conclusions and proposals; it approved the orientation and the method used to draw it up and made comments on the amendment of certain recommendations so that more quantified elements on the performance of the RACs and the impact of the programme in countries were included and the presentation of the charts in the annexes to the report was improved; finally, it approved the recommendations in the provisional report on the "Evaluation of MAP" after having made a number of amendments.**
- (b) **The Bureau accepted the principle of a further meeting of the Think Tank on the evaluation to be organized before the meeting of MAP Focal Points in order to**

**provide better justification in support of certain recommendations and to undertake an in-depth examination of the future prospects for the MCSD.**

**Agenda item 4: Adoption of the summary of decisions of the meeting**

82. The Bureau adopted the summary of decisions prepared by the Secretariat.

83. In addition, it considered and revised the draft memorandum to be signed by all members and transmitted to the United Nations Secretary-General requesting an extension of the mandate of MAP's current Coordinator until December 2003 (the text is attached as **Annex IV** to the present report).

**Agenda item 5: Closure of the meeting**

84. Mr. Mensur Sehagic, Minister for Urban Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Bosnia and Herzegovina, addressed the meeting stating that his country had made every effort to organize the current meeting, devoted to the future of environmental protection in the Mediterranean, to the best of its ability and it was up to the participants to see whether its effort had been conclusive. Bosnia and Herzegovina was determined to be involved in resolving problems of pollution and to be fully integrated in MAP's regional cooperation process. Together with the Republic of Croatia and with the support of the World Bank, it was working actively on an important project to protect catchment areas in the Adriatic. It also hoped to host the meeting of the Contracting Parties to follow that in Catania.

85. The President of the Bureau once again thanked the Minister and the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina for their warm welcome and excellent organization. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, he declared the meeting closed on Tuesday, 20 May 2003, at 1 p.m.

## ANNEX I

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

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## ANNEX II

### Message of the MAP Coordinator to the Bureau

Athens, 15 May 2003

Mr. President, Members of the Bureau,

An accident in which I ruptured my right Achilles tendon means that an operation and immobility in Athens have obliged me to refrain from going to Sarajevo in order to represent the Secretariat at the Bureau meeting.

I regret this and convey my apologies to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Bureau.

Ms. Tatiana Hema, our new Programme Administrator, who I would like to introduce to you, has prepared the progress report and the recommendations under my guidance. She has just arrived in the Unit and is undertaking this difficult task for the first time; I am sure you will show your understanding. Mr. Hoballah, Deputy Coordinator, will be in charge of the Secretariat during the meeting.

It is also my duty to inform you of my forthcoming departure at the end of June next. This is what emerges from the letter received by His Excellency Mr. Fautrier, your President, from UNEP and he will undoubtedly inform you of its contents.

Pursuant to the recommendation made by the last meeting of the Bureau, on two occasions I have taken the necessary steps to obtain an extension of my term of office until the end of 2003 in order to carry out preparations and represent the Secretariat at the meeting of Contracting Parties in November. The extension was finally limited to three months and will end on 30 June 2003. Although I have not received any official reply to my latest request and, unless there are any new developments, I believe it is appropriate to consider this matter closed.

I will therefore be leaving the MAP on 1 July and will make myself available to the authorities in my country in order to return to the public administration.

There will then be an interim period during which the Bureau's role will be decisive just a few months before the meeting of the Contracting Parties; the success of that meeting is to a large extent determined by the quality of the preparatory work, which requires firm guidance from the Secretariat.

You may rest assured that the Secretariat has planned preparations for the meeting well. Nevertheless, it is important not to underestimate the coordination work that needs to be carried out and the impetus that needs to be given in order to finalize the working documents and recommendations, as well as the budget, complete the strategy documents to be adopted in areas such as biological diversity, prevention of maritime accidents, finalize the evaluation of the MCSD in particular and the MAP in general and draw the necessary conclusions, undertake the preparations and consultations required in order to strengthen our links with our main partners, first and foremost the European Commission.



In this task, the Bureau can rely on the devotion and willingness of the personnel in the Secretariat.

As foreseen in the agenda for your meeting, sufficient time will have to be devoted to reviewing the state of preparations for the Catania meeting.

It has given me a great deal of pleasure to work with the Bureau elected in Monaco and under its guidance. I believe that during this period the MAP has become stronger and has gained credibility. The months and years to come will be critical for consolidation and development.

Lastly, I would like to assure the Bureau that it can always count on my assistance as Coordinator right up until my last day at my post.

After that, I shall still always be ready to make myself useful to the Mediterranean Action Plan.

Lucien Chabason  
Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan

## ANNEX III

### AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU (Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), 19 and 20 May 2003)

- 1) Opening of the meeting
- 2) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and organization of work
- 3) Progress Report by the Secretariat on activities carried out since the last Bureau Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Monaco, 18-19 October 2002)

#### A. COORDINATION

a. *Legal matters:*

- Serbia-Montenegro adhesion by succession
- Status of ratification of the Convention and Protocols
- Progress on reporting system exercise, preliminary findings
- Liability and compensation
- Review mechanism for the implementation of the MAP legal frame
- MAP support to countries on legal matters

b. *Institutional matters:*

- MAP evaluation

c. *Cooperation and Partners*

- Cooperation with EC
- Synergy and cooperation with other programs and initiatives in the region
- Cooperation with NGOs
- Update of the list of partners

d. *Financial and personnel matters*

- Contributions, Euro and other issues
- Personnel

e. *Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)*

- 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MCSD
- Framework Orientations for a Mediterranean for Sustainable Development Strategy
- Task Force on MCSD, assessment and prospect
- Cultural heritage

*f. Information*

- Relations with Mediterranean Media and Network
- Improvement of RACs Information tools
- Mediterranean Regional Strategy
- Information tools: Website, Library, Publications and dissemination

**B. COMPONENTS**

*g. Pollution prevention and control*

- Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme
- Strategy for the implementation of the protocol concerning cooperation in preventing pollution from ships and in case of emergency combating pollution of the Mediterranean sea
- Cleaner production

*h. Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity*

- Implementation of the SPA & Biodiversity protocol
- State of the preparation of the SAP BIO

*i. Environment and Development*

- State of the preparation of the report Environment and Development

*j. Sustainable Management of Coastal Zones*

- Feasibility study for a regional protocol on sustainable coastal management
- Future of CAMPs

**C. NEXT CONTRACTING PARTIES MEETING**

*k. Preparations for the next Contracting Parties Meeting*

- Meeting documents and their status of preparation

*l. The principal themes for ministerial discussion and decision making*

4) Any other business

5) Closure of the meeting

## **ANNEX IV**

### **SUMMARY OF DECISIONS OF THE MEETING**

#### **Legal matters**

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to initiate the necessary procedure to invite the authorities of the Union of Serbia and Montenegro to participate in the forthcoming meetings of the MAP National Focal Points in Athens and the Contracting Parties in Catania.

#### **Reporting system**

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to follow the reporting exercise closely. It examined the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting of experts and asked the Secretariat to organize, in early July 2003, a consultation meeting with the countries participating on a voluntary basis and open to all other countries that so wished. In addition, after this exercise, provision should be made for technical assistance for the compilation of reports for countries that so requested.

#### **Liability and compensation**

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to continue the investigations conducted with the experts and to submit a progress report on the subject to the meetings of the MAP National Focal Points and Contracting Parties for consideration and follow-up.

#### **Monitoring system for the enforcement of MAP legal instruments**

The Bureau discussed the issue of the mechanism to examine the implementation of MAP's legal components in parallel with the reporting system exercise. The proposed meeting on the reporting system could also be used to discuss the need for a mechanism to monitor implementation of MAP's legal component and to debate further the possibilities for its application, including an institutional body entrusted with assessing and controlling compliance with commitments, with a well-defined mandate and working method, with the aim of preparing a strong and clear recommendation for the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania.

#### **MAP evaluation**

- (a) The Bureau examined the provisional report on the "Evaluation of MAP" together with its conclusions and proposals; it approved the orientation and the method used to draw it up and made comments on the amendment of certain recommendations so that more quantified elements on the performance of the RACs and the impact of the programme in countries were included and the presentation of the charts in the annexes to the report was improved; finally, it approved the recommendations in the provisional report on the "Evaluation of MAP" after having made a number of amendments.
- (b) The Bureau accepted the principle of a further meeting of the Think Tank on the evaluation to be organized before the meeting of MAP Focal Points in order to provide better justification in support of certain recommendations and to undertake an in-depth examination of the future prospects for the MCS D.

### **Cooperation with the European Commission**

The Bureau decided that its President should address a letter to the European Environment Commissioner to express satisfaction at the results of the preliminary contacts between the EC/DG and the MAP, recalling the commitments undertaken at the Euro-Mediterranean Meeting in Athens in July 2002 and proposing an official meeting with the DG/Environment in order to examine ways and means of putting them into practice.

### **Synergy and cooperation with other programmes and initiatives in the region**

The Bureau requested the Secretariat:

- (a) to envisage modalities that would enable improvement of cooperation and synergy with the REREP Programme, the REC Centre, the Euro-Arab Management School, the Baltic 21 Programme, as well as the ESPO Convention;
- (b) to send to the Baltic 21 Programme a letter inviting them to attend the Contracting Parties meeting in Catania and proposing the organization of a joint side event at the next meeting of the MCSD;
- (c) to remain in contact with the Secretariat of the ESPO Convention in order to prepare a joint working plan to be implemented during the next biennium and to promote bilateral agreements at the national level, and to invite the ESPO Convention to attend the meeting of Contracting Parties in Catania;
- (d) to strengthen cooperation with the conventions addressing horizontal and cross-cutting issues and the relevant implementation programmes, taking into account the results of the Kiev Conference and the "Environment for Europe" process.

### **List of partners**

In the light of the explanations given by the Secretariat, the Bureau decided to add the organizations INARE, UNASD and APNEK to the list of MAP partners.

### **Financial matters**

- (a) The Bureau authorized the following withdrawals from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF):
  - US \$30,000 to supplement the existing funds (US \$50,000) for the forthcoming MAP Focal Points meeting, due to the increase in costs in the host country; in that respect, the Secretariat was urged to negotiate the most advantageous rates for accommodation of participants, and the rental of the meeting room and conference services, only to cover the cost of one person from EU member countries, including candidates, and, for other countries, to cover the cost of an additional person if the countries so requested for reasons related to the agenda or organization of the meeting; the Secretariat was also requested to contact the relevant Greek authorities, in close cooperation with the National Focal Point, in order to obtain additional support;
  - US \$10,000 to offset the loss of purchasing power for all PAP/RAC personnel salaries;
  - US \$20,000 to finalize the MAP evaluation process;
  - US \$20,000 to pursue the elaboration of the MSSD;
  - US \$2,000 to assist the establishment of a new programme under the MCSD on the cultural heritage.
- (b) The Secretariat was invited to present the 2004-2005 budget to the Contracting Parties in euros, for adoption, using as a reference the budget in euros approved in Monaco in 2001.

### **Personnel matters**

The Bureau entrusted its President with sending a letter to the Executive Director of UNEP stating that a common approach would be undertaken without delay to the United Nations Secretariat in New York through the ambassadors of countries members of the Bureau in order to transmit a memorandum directly reiterating the request for an extension of the current mandate of the MAP Coordinator until the end of November 2003. If that approach was unsuccessful, the Bureau decided to rely on the competence of the team in the Coordinating Unit to ensure the interim coordination.

In the letter to be addressed to the Executive Director by the President, it would be recalled that some time ago the Contracting Parties had requested that the candidate nominated for the post be a citizen of a Mediterranean country and meet the criteria already proposed by the Bureau.

### **MED POL**

In view of the fact that Phase III of the MED POL will end in 2005, the Bureau, without prejudging the recommendations and proposals to be made by the meeting of MED POL National Coordinators and the meeting of MAP Focal Points, requested the Secretariat to commence the review of the MED POL programme in order to prepare a new programme (2006-2013) for submission to the meeting of Contracting Parties in 2005 for adoption.

### **Implementation of the SAP**

The Bureau urgently calls on Contracting Parties to spare no effort to complete the preparatory phase of the elaboration of national action plans to address pollution caused by land-based activities and, in particular, to finalize the National Diagnostic Analysis (NDA) and the Baseline Budget of emissions/pollutant releases (BB).

### **Monitoring activities**

The Bureau urges Contracting Parties that have not yet done so to formulate and implement national monitoring programmes in order to complete the geographical coverage of the region and create an efficient system of marine pollution assessment and control in order to track pollution reductions that should be achieved through the implementation of the SAP.

### **Reporting under MED POL**

The Secretariat is called upon, in close consultation with countries, to strengthen cooperation with the EEA on the harmonization of reporting systems and the EIONET process.

### **REMPEC**

The Bureau considered that, at the present stage, it would be premature to consider holding a meeting to elaborate a strategy for the implementation of the Malta Protocol; on the other hand, a meeting on the lessons learned from these events would be appropriate; the question could be put to the Focal Points for consideration. In any event, the Secretariat, together with REMPEC, should prepare a draft political declaration for the Ministers on that crucial issue for the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania; a draft text should be submitted to the MAP Focal Points.

### **CP/RAC**

The Bureau requested the Secretariat in the future to organize joint meetings of the national MED POL Coordinators and the CP/RAC Focal Points so as better to integrate the work of the two programmes within the framework of the implementation of the SAP.

### **SPA/RAC**

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to apply a wide participatory approach in the process of formulating the SAP BIO. The SAP BIO, which was an extremely important policy document to be approved by the Contracting Parties in Catania, should be based on an in-depth analysis of the present status of biological diversity; it should also determine priorities, identify existing and potential resources, possible actors and partners in order to ensure successful implementation and derive the greatest benefit from current scientific knowledge as a whole and the contribution of competent institutions in the Mediterranean, while at the same time avoiding duplication.

The Bureau urged the Contracting Parties concerned to take more effective measures for the safeguard of endangered Mediterranean species such as the monk seal and marine turtles and requested SPA/RAC to once again draw the attention of countries to that vital issue.

### **BP/RAC**

The Secretariat was requested to follow closely the process of preparation of the Environment-Development Report in order to provide the Contracting Parties in Catania with a comprehensive first draft of the report.

### **Integrated coastal area management (PAP/RAC)**

The Secretariat was requested to follow closely the preparation of the strategic paper on ICAM, including CAMPs, and to carry out a feasibility study for a new legal instrument in that area for submission to the meeting of Contracting Parties in Catania for examination and follow-up.

## **ANNEX V**

### **Memorandum addressed by the members of the Bureau to the Secretary-General of the United Nations**

Reference:

Sarajevo, 20 May 2003

#### **MEMORANDUM TO H.E. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, Mr Kofi Annan**

**Ref.: Vacancy at the head of the Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Regions of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention)**

**Consequent need to extend the mandate of the present incumbent of the post, Mr Lucien Chabason**

We, the undersigned, Members<sup>1</sup> of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, met in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 19 and 20 May 2003, and wish to draw the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to a question of the highest importance for the smooth advancement of our Convention.

The Secretariat of the Convention, legally entrusted to UNEP, is assured by a high official, called the Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), at present Mr Lucien Chabason, a French national, holding this post since 1 August 1994.

Mr Chabason reached the age of 62 on 20 March 2003. The vacancy announcement for his post (D1/D2) was published by UNEP in November 2002 and will be published again.

With a view of avoiding any vacancy in the head of the Secretariat, the Bureau asked its President, Mr Bernard Fautrier, Minister Plenipotentiary in charge of International Cooperation for Environment and Development, to request the Executive Director of UNEP, Dr. Klaus Töpfer, for an extension of the contract of Mr Chabason till the end of 2003. The letter was sent on 8 November, 2002.

In reply, Mr Chabason's contract has been extended for three months, i.e. until 30 June 2003.

We have to point out that this decision does not cover the needs of the Contracting Parties and does not reflect the decision of the Bureau. The Bureau considers that the post at the head of the Secretariat should not be vacant or at interim status at the moment when it has to prepare for the forthcoming Ministerial meeting of the Contracting Parties (November 2003). This preparatory period of the meeting is crucial and the Parties (which themselves bear the total cost of the Convention, amounting to US\$ 5.5 million) are expecting to find a correct appreciation of the needs of the Convention from the competent bodies.

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<sup>1</sup> Composed of Monaco (President), Greece, Slovenia, Syrian Arab Republic, Algeria (absent), Bosnia and Herzegovina



Furthermore, we are concerned that the process of nomination could be long and it might not be possible for the new coordinator to assume efficiently his/hers responsibilities shortly before the Contracting Parties Ministerial meeting.

Obviously, we are aware that such an extension must rely on rigorous motivations and be assured that the issue has been tackled by the Bureau in this context.

**This issue reflects a request expressed by the Parties to a Convention, situated in a sensitive region of the planet, whose Ministerial meeting requires a careful preparation process.**

**We solicit re-examination of this extension until 30 November 2003, when the forthcoming meeting of the Parties will be over.**

**However, as time is running short, we would like to express the wish that this decision could be addressed before the end of May/beginning of June 2003, in a way that will permit the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan to create the smooth and efficient conditions of work to the interest of the Contracting Parties.**

Alexander Lascaratos  
Vice President of the Bureau  
Greece

Slavko Mezek  
Vice President of the Bureau  
Slovenia

Reem Abed Rabboh  
Vice President of the Bureau  
Syrian Arab Republic

Mormir Tomic  
Rapporteur  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

For the Members of the Bureau  
The President

Bernard Fautrier  
Minister Plenipotentiary, in charge of International  
Cooperation for Environment and Development

**Letter from the President of the Bureau to Mr. Klaus TOPFER**

Monaco, .....

Mr. Klaus Töpfer  
Executive Director  
UNEP  
P.O. Box 30552  
Nairobi  
Kenya

Our Ref: BF/rb No.2003-

Sir,

I thank you for your letter of 25 April in reply to my letter of 2 April concerning the Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

I informed the meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 19 and 20 May, of the content of your letter.

As I explained to you in Kiev, the Bureau has unanimously considered that the departure of Mr. Lucien CHABASON just a few months before the meeting of the Contracting Parties would create an extremely difficult situation.

It has therefore decided that the permanent representatives of the member States of the Bureau in New York, headed by Monaco (current President) and Greece (host country of the MAP and current President of the Council of the European Union), should approach the United Nations Secretary-General in order to obtain an extension of Mr. Chabason's mandate until 1 December 2003, as had already been requested in October 2002. This step will be taken as of this week.

I wished to inform you of the above and to thank you, once again, for the action you have taken in this matter.



Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Bernard FAUTRIER







Enc.: Documents

## ANNEX VI

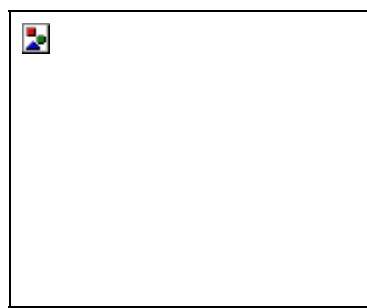
### INFORMATION NOTE ON THE REReP and REC

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 The Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for South Eastern Europe

 Introdu...
 REReP docum...
 REReP Task
 NGO particip...
 Contact
 Internet

The Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme (REReP) is the main environmental component of the Stability Pact, Working Table II.



The REReP is an initiative under the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe that was shaped by the countries of the region themselves - including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and Kosovo (currently under UN interim administration).

#### REReP Websites:

- [AIMS: Support for Acceptance and Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in South Eastern Europe](#)
- [Development of national environmental information systems in South Eastern Europe](#)
- [Directory of REReP projects](#)
- [Environmental NGO electronic networking in South Eastern Europe](#)
- [Transboundary cooperation through the management of shared natural resources](#)
- [Balkan Information Service](#)
- [Balkan environmental regulatory compliance and enforcement network](#)

#### What's new

[Highlights of REReP](#)  
(1.5-MByte PDF file) 115 pages, May 2003

[Balkan Environmental Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Network](#)

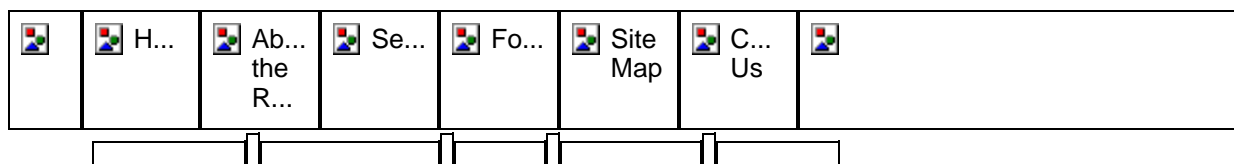
[Multilateral Environmental Agreements](#)


[Development of National Environmental Information Systems](#)

[Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity](#)

[Directory of REReP projects](#)

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 About the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)

### What do we do?

The REC carries out its mission in nine thematic areas called programmes. You can also check our current projects.

The organisation's work is guided by a new strategy, entitled the Role of the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe after 2004.



### Head Office, Country Offices

The REC has its head office in Szentendre, Hungary, and country offices in 15 Central and Eastern European countries. The REC is considering to extend its activities to Turkey.

### Organisational and Financial Information

- The REC's projects are financed by a wide range of international donor organisations. Please see the REC's Statement of Contributions for details.
- The REC collaborates closely with the Japan Special Fund and the Italian Trust Fund.
- The REC is structured into programmes. You can see some of the programme results under projects, publications, or directories.
- The REC's work is supervised and managed by its Board of Directors, General Assembly and Management Team
- The REC celebrated the tenth anniversary of its foundation in 2000.
- Annual reports
- Press releases
- United States - Central and Eastern European Environment Foundation

[How to find us](#)

[The REC at the Johannesburg Summit](#)

[Mission statement](#)

[Annual Reports](#)

[Programme areas](#)

[Press releases](#)

[Country Office Network](#)

[RECs in the Newly Independent States](#)

[US - Central and Eastern European Environment Foundation](#)

[REC Conference Center](#)

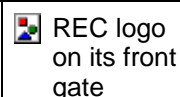
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REC



## The REC's Mission

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is a non-advocacy, not-for-profit organisation with a mission to **assist in solving environmental problems** in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The Center fulfills its mission through encouraging **cooperation among non-governmental organisations, governments and businesses**, supporting the **free exchange of information** and promoting **public participation** in environmental decision-making.



[Charter of the REC](#)  
(9-page, 3.45-MByte PDF file)

[Statement about the REC's legal status](#) (1-page PDF file)

[Board of Directors](#)

[General Assembly](#)

[Management Team](#)

[REC Statement of Contributions](#)

The REC was **established in 1990 by the United States, the European Commission and Hungary**. Today, the REC is legally based on a [Charter](#) (9-page, 3.45-MByte PDF file) signed by the governments of 27 countries and the European Commission, and on an International Agreement with the Government of Hungary.

The REC has its head office in Szentendre, Hungary and Country Offices in each of its **15 beneficiary CEE countries**: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, FYR Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the State Union Serbia and Montenegro.

**Recent donors** are the European Commission and the governments of the Netherlands, Denmark, United States, Japan, Norway, Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and Serbia and Montenegro as well as other inter- governmental and private institutions.

All funds generated by the REC are used to support activities in line with its mission.

## Founding Documents

- Charter of the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe: [download](#) the 9-page, 3.45-MByte PDF file.
- Agreement between The Government of The Republic of Hungary and the Board of Directors of the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe on The Legal Status of the Regional Center in Budapest: [download](#) the 7-page, 17-KByte PDF file.

## Location

The REC established its **head office** in [Szentendre](#), a scenic town 20 km north of the Hungarian capital, Budapest. This location features a multi-purpose, modern, fully air-conditioned [Conference Center](#) equipped to the highest technical standards necessary for organising a successful meeting. The Center is open to organisations wishing to hold events outside the bustle and noise of Budapest, while at the same time being conveniently near to it. Szentendre is easily and quickly accessible from Budapest, directly from the airport and railway stations by a special transfer service or car, or by public transportation.