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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

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

Cairo (Egypt), 30 and 31 October 2006

**REPORT**

**OF THE 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**



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## **Introduction**

1. The 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 was held at the Hotel "Grand Hyatt", Cairo (Egypt), on 30 and 31 October 2006.

## **Participation**

2. The meeting was chaired by Mr Mitja Bricelj, representing the President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, H.E. Janez Podobnik, Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia. The following members of the Bureau attended: Ms. Soledad Blanco, Director of International Affairs and the LIFE Programme, DG-Environment, European Commission, (European Community) (Vice-President); Mr Osama A. El Salam, Director of International Affairs of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) (Egypt) (Vice-President); Mr. Sedat Kadioglu, Head of the Department for External Relations and the EU, Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Turkey) (Vice-President); Mr. Mohamed Said, Official at the Ministry of the Environment of Tunisia (Vice-President); and Mr. José Fernandez, Director-General of Coasts of the Ministry of the Environment of Spain (Rapporteur).

3. Mr. Paul Mifsud, Coordinator, Ms. Tatjana Hema, MEDU Programme Officer, and Ms Luisa Colasimone, Information Officer, 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. The meeting was opened by Mr Mitja Bricelj, Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia, on behalf of H.E. Mr Janez Podobnik, President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia. He welcomed the participants and extended thanks to the Egyptian authorities for hosting the meeting. The meeting was expected to culminate in practical, concrete decisions to provide guidance to the National Focal Points at their forthcoming extraordinary meeting on how to enhance the implementation of the Convention.

6. Mr Paul Mifsud, MAP Coordinator, thanked the Egyptian authorities for organizing the meeting, the second Bureau meeting to be held in Cairo, expressing particular gratitude to H.E. Mr Maged George Elias Ghattas, Minister of the Environment of Egypt, with whom he discussed, during a special event on the previous day, the Agenda of the Bureau meeting and Euro-Med Environment Ministers' meeting. He looked forward to a fruitful meeting.

7. The representative of Egypt conveyed a message from Mr Mohamed Khalil, Chief Executive, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, who was unable to attend the meeting. He welcomed participants and looked forward to the discussion of possible ways of overcoming the pressures facing the Mediterranean region. He stressed in particular the importance of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) both as a framework for MAP activities and in raising awareness of the linkages between environment and development. Consistency between National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs) and the MSSD was essential. Egypt's new environmental policy directives focused

on mainstreaming environmental dimensions into other sectoral plans in the broader perspective of sustainable development, and supporting at the highest level the multilateral environmental agreements signed by Egypt, including the Barcelona Convention, in order to ensure timely fulfilment of commitments. It was hoped that the Bureau discussions would lead to the adoption of measures to ensure better compliance with the obligations under the Convention and enhance the efficiency of MAP, through specific, concrete recommendations setting a precise agenda for the immediate future.

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

8. The meeting adopted the agenda prepared by the Secretariat (UNEP/BUR/65/1/Corr.1) and the organization of work set out in the annotated agenda (UNEP/BUR/65/2). The agenda is attached as **Annex II** to the present report.

**Agenda item 3: Progress report by the Secretariat on activities carried out since the last Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Ljubljana, 6-7 April 2006)**

9. The meeting agreed to take up the report section by section.

10. Introducing the progress report, the Coordinator said that he would merely highlight some of the salient points.

***Legal issues***

11. Regarding the status of ratification, the Coordinator said that the situation regarding ratifications and acceptance of amendments remained unchanged, although he was informed that procedures were at an advanced stage in several countries. The issue of the delay in ratifying the MAP legal instruments would be submitted to the MAP Focal Points for discussion at their extraordinary meeting in November.

12. With regard to the draft ICZM Protocol, the Coordinator reported that good progress had been made by the Working Group on drafting the new protocol, but that two more meetings would be needed to finalize the draft. A positive development was that the representative of the European Commission now had a mandate to participate fully in the drafting of the Protocol.

13. On the subject of reporting, Contracting Parties were reminded that reports on the 2004-2005 biennium were due to be submitted by the end of 2006. Considerable importance was attached to harmonizing the MAP reporting system with the systems of other conventions and of the EC. The European Environmental Agency (EEA) had provided useful input in that regard.

14. The Working Group on Compliance was working on follow-up to initial activities and a further meeting to be held in December 2006 would discuss new elements of the compliance mechanism.

15. The Secretariat had started working on the preparation of preliminary draft guidelines concerning liability and compensation.

16. Assistance on legal matters had been given to some countries at their request.

***Institutional matters***

17. In anticipation of the Extraordinary Meeting of the MAP Focal Points to be held in Catania in November 2006, a draft of the strategic vision and mission statement had been circulated to Contracting Parties; only the EC had responded with comments that represent the common position of the EU members States that are also Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. All working documents for the meeting had been sent out in good time, and he looked forward to active participation by all MAP Focal Points.

18. Another important institutional development had been the appointment of a new Executive Director of UNEP, who had been briefed on MAP's activities during his visit to Athens in August 2006.

19. On the occasion of his own visits to Lebanon and Montenegro in the course of the year, he had witnessed strong support for the Convention and MAP's activities, and had taken the opportunity to highlight the importance of adopting and ratifying the Convention and its Protocols.

20. The representative of Spain informed the Bureau that Spain, after some administrative delays, was on the point of ratifying the new Emergency Protocol. At the end of November it would be hosting an important Workshop on Places of Refuge to address problems caused by incidents at sea. The forthcoming Meeting of MAP Focal Points would be crucial to the implementation of the Convention and to the future of MAP, and Spain would be participating actively.

21. Several representatives expressed concern that several instruments had still not entered into force and raised the question of the financial, administrative or other reasons for non-ratification of the legal instruments, recommending that the matter should be brought before the Focal Points at their Extraordinary Meeting. It was agreed that ratification was essential to the implementation of common activities under the Convention. The representative of Turkey pointed out that one of the obstacles to ratification might be the financial implications of certain protocols, notably the LBS Protocol.

22. The Chairman, speaking as the representative of Slovenia, observed that another important matter for consideration by the Extraordinary Meeting of MAP Focal Points was the need to focus on enhanced coordination between the MAP components for more effective action. The representative of Tunisia suggested, by way of general comment on the holding of meetings, that savings could be made on logistics by convening working group meetings at the same time.

23. The Coordinator, responding to comments, said that ratification was ultimately a sovereign matter for Contracting Parties, and that there was no obligation for Parties to explain the reasons for non-ratification. The Secretariat could do little more than approach Contracting Parties informally. He agreed that financial implications might be an obstacle to ratification of the LBS Protocol, but recalled the substantial assistance that could be provided, for instance, under the GEF Strategic Partnership. In response to a question by the representative of the EC about the visit of the Executive Director of UNEP, he reported that the discussions had covered such issues as the proliferation of regional instruments and hence of meetings, the difficulties of developing countries in attending such meetings, UNEP reform plans and MAP activities. Regarding the attendance of one or more representatives at meetings, he said that was a matter for Contracting Parties to decide.

24. Returning to the issue of non-ratification, several representatives stressed the importance of diplomatic representations and the pressure that could be brought to bear on Contracting Parties in the course of bilateral discussions. The representative of Turkey suggested visits to interested countries by Bureau members, the Secretariat and, where appropriate, EC representatives. The representative of the EC, noting that both internal and external pressure could be brought to bear, added, on the subject of financial difficulties, that attention should be drawn by environmental authorities to the financial cost of non-implementation. That being said, consideration might be given to withdrawing protocols that had no chance of being ratified. The representative of Spain said that, as the Depositary State, it had made a number of representations, but to no avail. He agreed with the representative of Tunisia that it was somewhat illogical – and indeed sent out a bad message – to be discussing a new protocol when there were protocols that had not yet entered into force. It was agreed that in forthcoming meetings of the Working Group on the draft ICZM Protocol, a clear message should be given to Contracting Parties that if they embarked on drafting a new protocol it must be with a view to ratification and implementation.

25. The Coordinator assured the Bureau that in drafting the ICZM Protocol, it would be made clear that implementation was the ultimate aim. Recalling some of the steps taken in the past to remind Contracting Parties of the need for ratification, he observed in regard to the LBS Protocol that, even if the amendments were not yet in force, the Protocol itself was, and required implementation. As to withdrawing any of the protocols, which have been awaiting ratification for years, he felt that that would damage the image of the Convention, but he did not wish to prejudge the outcome of discussions on the subject at the Focal Points meeting.

### **Components**

26. The Coordinator outlined the section of the progress report on MAP components, drawing attention *inter alia* to the RACs' contribution to the implementation of the MSSD and to the assistance provided to several countries in preparing their National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs).

### **Cooperation with partners**

27. The Coordinator underscored the enhanced cooperation with the EC in the framework of the Joint Work Programme and MAP's future involvement in the Horizon 2020 initiative to depollute the Mediterranean. He further referred to the closer cooperation being developed with the EEA and the European Parliament. A good example of practical cooperation with United Nations agencies had been the concerted IMO/UNEP/MAP efforts in connection with the oil spill in Lebanon in July 2006. He further mentioned examples of cooperation and coordination with other regional initiatives, such as the Adriatic initiative, ICPDR and the Black Sea Commission. Further contacts had been established and consolidated with NGO partners, and assistance provided for various activities.

28. The representative of Tunisia, stressing the importance of the NSSDs, said that a further effort was needed to invite countries that had not yet developed NSSDs to do so and to offer them assistance if necessary.

29. The representative of the EC, agreeing with the representative of Tunisia, pointed out that, EU member countries that were parties to the Barcelona Convention had an obligation to develop NSSDs. Montenegro and Albania, as candidates to accession to the EU, could be added to the countries committed to having an NSSD. The European Commission had cooperated in the Lebanon oil spill response. Such cooperation could be strengthened in the



future for a coordinated response to such incidents. The EC was highly satisfied with the development of cooperation with MAP and hoped that it would be pursued in the future. The representatives of Spain and Slovenia endorsed those comments, stressing the importance of cooperation with the EC in general and involvement in the Horizon 2020 initiative, in particular the opportunity such cooperation afforded for enhancing the visibility of the Convention and of MAP and convincing Contracting Parties that had not yet done so to ratify the LBS Protocol. The representative of Spain also drew attention to Spain's commitment to combating marine pollution and to the need for EU member countries to cooperate with other countries in the Mediterranean basin. The Chairman, speaking as the representative of Slovenia, further stressed the importance of integrating the general approach under Horizon 2020 with the regional approach, in the interests of the development of all Mediterranean countries. Linkages with the EU marine strategy and maritime policy were likewise to be explored further in that perspective, for the future of both partners. MAP's cooperation at the subregional level was to be commended. Those matters should be placed before the Focal Points at their forthcoming meeting.

30. The representative of Egypt commended the Secretariat's follow-up to the MSSD recommendations. There was an urgent need to implement the MSSD fully at the regional and national levels, through projects that could feed into the Strategy and serve as a model for other Contracting Parties. The representative of Turkey drew particular attention to cooperation with the EC and with such regional organizations as the Black Sea Commission.

31. The Coordinator observed that MAP's role was to provide assistance to all countries that so requested in preparing their NSSDs, but resources were limited.

#### ***Communication and media relations***

32. The Coordinator informed the Bureau that MAP's new Information Officer had joined the Secretariat at the time of MAP's involvement in the response to the Lebanon oil spill, which had prompted a strong media focus on MAP. With regard to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary events, he drew attention to the exhibition held in Athens under the patronage of the Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs.

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

33. The Coordinator said he was pleased to report that MAP's financial situation was healthy, with 91% of the contributions in respect of 2006 already received. He thanked the Egyptian authorities for full payment of the pledges to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF). He also thanked those Contracting Parties that had offered additional voluntary contributions for specific activities.

#### ***Pollution prevention and control***

34. The Coordinator outlined the section of the progress report on pollution prevention and control, highlighting action taken by and with MED POL to assess and control land-based pollution, including an interesting MED POL initiative, still in the early stages, based on a "burden-sharing" principle. In connection with action taken to combat sea-based pollution, after referring to the SAFEMED project, he drew attention to REMPEC's continued involvement in the response to the Lebanon oil spill and to its strengthened cooperation with partners. He briefly outlined activities undertaken to promote cleaner production.

35. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives referred to communication matters. The representative of Spain expressed an interest in producing documents and developing

the general UNEP-MAP website in Spanish, not only related to MEDPOL, but the rest of documents that could be of interest, taking into account the potential wider Spanish speaking people around the world. The representative of the EC raised the question, to be discussed later in the meeting, of the existence of separate communication tools and the need for better coordination of the work of INFO/RAC and the information activities of the Coordinating Unit in Athens. The representative of Tunisia suggested that the current 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition at the MAP Secretariat should be mounted as a travelling exhibition for display in the different Contracting Parties.

36. Regarding MED POL and REMPEC activities, the representative of Tunisia noted the significant volume of activities but suggested that there should also be qualitative indicators of results and benefits of depollution. The Chairman, speaking as the representative of Slovenia, shared that view, adding that depollution activities in all subregions and ecoregions should be the focus of the development of the new MED POL programme and of the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol. The database must be accessible and the website improved.

37. The Coordinator observed that there was widespread acknowledgement of MED POL's significant achievements over the years, but the problem was that they were not sufficiently well promoted and hence accessible to a wider audience. The Chairman, summing up, said that simple, user-friendly data and improved data management were clearly needed, and focused guidance should be given to the Focal Points on that issue.

#### ***Biological diversity and specially protected areas***

38. The Coordinator drew particular attention to the Conference on Monk Seal Conservation held in Turkey in September 2006; the Sponsorship Agreement with the Total Corporate Foundation for Biodiversity and the Sea for a project to map and monitor *Posidonia* meadows, an important new development in seeking alternative sources of funding; the "Study and Information Day on SPAMIs" organized in cooperation with the Spanish authorities; and other RAC/SPA activities, including participation in a major GEF project proposal on biodiversity.

#### ***Environment and Development***

39. The Coordinator referred briefly to major PAP/RAC activities and significant ICZM activities carried out under PAP/RAC coordination, and to the wide range of Blue Plan activities, noting the appointment of a new Director of Blue Plan. He further drew attention to the information and communication activities carried out by INFO/RAC, including the development of the MED POL Info System and information and communication plan for the MSSD.

40. The question of information and communication gave rise to a lively debate. The representative of the EC, after questioning the placing of INFO/RAC's activities under the chapter on "Environment and development" in the progress report, voiced concern about the duplication of information activities between INFO/RAC and the MEDU Coordinating Unit. The representatives of Spain, Slovenia, Egypt and Tunisia echoed those concerns.

41. The Coordinator explained that there was clearly scope for both the Information Unit of MEDU and INFO/RAC, but their respective missions and roles must be clarified and defined, a task which should be undertaken by the Catania meeting of the Focal Points. The Information Officer at MEDU was responsible among other for the coordination of any

communication activities *inter alia* relating to the media, a recent example being the response to the oil spill in Lebanon. INFO/RAC has a major role in dissemination information and expertise but its activities should be coordinated with those of the information unit of MEDU in Athens since they were of a horizontal nature, unlike the work of other RACs.

42. The Bureau agreed that the respective roles of the two entities should be identified and a clear mandate determined by the Focal Points, it being understood that information and communication were cross-cutting themes. In particular, there was general agreement that the development of the MAP website - a task that had been entrusted to INFO/RAC - had so far produced unsatisfactory results. In the view of the representative of the EC, INFO/RAC should be asked to implement and complete the MAP website as a matter of priority. The website was indeed the website of the Convention, not specifically of the Coordinating Unit.

43. The representative of Tunisia, referring to the horizontal nature of information and communication activities, questioned the need for a separate entity and said that consideration should be given to re-incorporating all such activities within the Coordinating Unit. It was pointed out, however, that the decision to entrust information and communication activities to INFO/RAC had been taken by the Contracting Parties. Nonetheless, INFO/RAC, like all other RACs, are there to serve a common cause.

44. In response to a question by the representative of the EC, the Coordinator explained that the signature of partnership agreements between INFO/RAC and other RACs was an INFO/RAC initiative and that the other RACs were under no obligation to sign.

45. Returning to the Coordinator's introduction on pollution assessment and control, the representative of Spain noted that, when implementing MAP activities in respect of specially protected areas, due account should be taken of developments elsewhere in the world and of the activities of other organizations such as IMO. He again stressed the importance of improving the visibility of MAP's significant achievements and of making the data in its possession widely available.

#### **Agenda item 4: Specific issues**

##### ***Extraordinary Meeting of the MAP Focal Points***

46. The Coordinator, drawing attention to document UNEP/BUR/65/5, outlined the background to the holding of the extraordinary meeting, the purpose of which was to consider the conclusions and recommendations of the external evaluation of MAP and to discuss a draft vision and strategic mission statement, and to make recommendations to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007. In view of the importance of the Focal Points' meeting in determining the way forward for MAP, a five-day meeting had been scheduled and the documents had been distributed in good time. Together with the draft vision and strategic mission statement, a draft document, which might emerge from the Catania meeting as a resolution or a declaration, had been prepared by the Secretariat to serve as a basis for the discussion. It had been circulated to Bureau members, who might wish to give guidance on whether it should be on the agenda of the Focal Points' meeting.

47. The representative of the EC said that the EC's written comments on the meeting documents reflected the joint views of the seven Contracting Parties that were members of the EU, together with Croatia which had been invited to contribute as observer. Turkey was

also invited but sent its regrets. They had stressed the importance of the Catania meeting in mapping the way forward on the basis of the external evaluation, which was long overdue. While acknowledging MAP's achievements, the evaluation had pointed to areas requiring refocusing. The EU Members Contracting Parties considered that the vision and strategic mission statement needed reformulating, and that the Secretariat could and should play an active part in that task. MAP should be clearly identified as the implementing agency for the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The Catania meeting should produce operational recommendations that could be put into effect, and the document should be reformulated along those lines. A drafting group should be set up at the meeting, but final drafting should take place by electronic means after the meeting on the basis of the substantive comments and decisions emerging from the meeting.

48. The representative of Spain endorsed those comments, emphasizing the need to define clearly the role and responsibilities of MAP and the RACs. The Focal Points' meeting, drawing on the findings of the evaluation, was a unique – and indeed perhaps the last – opportunity for enhancing the visibility of the Barcelona Convention and pooling all possible resources for its implementation.

49. The representative of Tunisia, endorsing previous comments, agreed that the time had come to reformulate priorities. In addition to the vision and mission statement, he favoured the adoption of an updated document or plan of action on what might be termed MAP Phase III for practical implementation.

50. The Chairman, speaking as the representative of Slovenia, joined other speakers in calling for concrete, pragmatic proposals to emerge from the Catania meeting for submission to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties. Such proposals should identify priorities and specify the geographical location of activities, a time-frame for their implementation and their financial implications, with indications of various sources of funding.

51. The representative of the EC said in reply to the representative of Turkey that no action plan as such was required since the Convention and its Protocols served that purpose, and MAP's mission was to implement them. It was time to return to the fundamental issue of implementation of the Convention and the Protocols. The representative of Spain added that a refocusing of MAP's vision and mission, with the roles of the RACs clearly specified, was crucial in terms of visibility and credibility among stakeholders.

52. The representative of Turkey drew attention to the importance of national-level discussions prior to the Catania meeting.

53. The Coordinator thanked Bureau members for their comments, which provided sound guidance for the Focal Points.

***MAP's involvement in the EC Environment Strategy for the Mediterranean including the Horizon 2020 initiative***

54. The Coordinator welcomed the progress made with respect to MAP's participation in the Horizon 2020 initiative, noting with satisfaction that all MAP components would have a role in implementation. He expressed gratitude to the EC for its support and its recognition of MAP as a partner mechanism for implementing the environment strategy in the region. He looked forward to MAP's participation in the forthcoming Euromed Environment Ministers' Conference to be held in Cairo in November 2006, and commended the President of the

Bureau's role in ensuring MAP's active involvement in the Horizon 2020 initiative. The President would be addressing the Euromed ministerial conference in Cairo.

55. The Chairman, speaking as the representative of Slovenia, said that MAP's participation in the EC's Environment Strategy for the Mediterranean signalled new synergy between the two structures and, more fundamentally, built solid foundations for new partnerships recognizing the major role of the Barcelona Convention as a regional mechanism.

56. The representative of the EC, expressing satisfaction with the enhanced cooperation between the EC and MAP, said with regard to the contribution of the President of the Bureau to the Euromed Conference of Environment Ministers that it would be formally for the ministers to endorse the road map. However, the President of the Bureau might wish to emphasize in particular the role and contribution of the Barcelona Convention and its Contracting Parties to sustainable development and the reduction of pollution in the Mediterranean region. It might be more appropriate for the representative of UNEP at that meeting to convey the message about the role of MAP, as suggested by the Coordinator.

#### ***Development of the draft protocol on ICZM***

57. The Coordinator requested the Bureau to authorize the Secretariat to withdraw the sum of € 60 000 from the MTF to cover the cost of the third meeting of the Working Group on ICZM in addition to the outstanding amount of € 20 000 not spent for the organization of the Working Group's second meeting. The drafting process was proceeding very smoothly, and the level of participation was high. Some issues needed further discussion and refinement, however, and another two meetings would be needed to produce the final draft.

#### ***Status of Montenegro with respect to the Barcelona Convention***

58. The Coordinator, referring to the relevant chapter in the report on "specific issues", explained that it remained for Montenegro to express formally its will to be admitted to the Barcelona Convention especially since it meets all three criteria for admission. He had been informed unofficially that the process for Montenegro to access to the Convention was under way, together with procedures for accession to other conventions. Pending the formal request, Montenegro would be considered to have observer status within MAP. Ongoing MAP activities with Montenegro should meanwhile continue as before.

59. The accession of Montenegro raised the question of the continuing status of Serbia as a Contracting Party, since that country no longer met the criterion of being a Mediterranean coastal state. It was proposed that the matter be broached with the Serbian authorities, together with the question of payment of contributions still due. The Bureau agreed to those suggestions, requesting the Secretariat to report back to it on the outcome of the discussions.

#### ***New graphic identity for MAP***

60. The Coordinator said that, following a recommendation of the external evaluation, work had begun on defining a new graphic identity and logo for MAP.

61. Ms Luisa Colasimone, Information Officer, described the initial steps taken to develop a new graphic identity for MAP in the wider perspective of enhancing its image. A reputed private agency with experience in international organization graphic design had been approached and briefed on the specifications for representing MAP's image, affiliation,

activities, goals and target audience. With the aid of an overhead projection, she displayed and explained the proposed new identity and new logo. In response to a question about collaboration between INFO/RAC and the Coordinating Unit on the publication "MedWaves" and the project for a new bimonthly electronic newsletter, she explained that Medwaves had always been produced by the Coordinating Unit because of its political content, which cannot be outsourced. INFO/RAC had contributed an article and photographs. There was scope for further cooperation in terms of the production of videos, photographs, etc. and specific articles related to their activities.

62. In the ensuing discussion, the representatives of Spain and the EC stressed the importance of a common identity for all Barcelona Convention structures, including the Secretariat and RAC publications. They were unconvinced by the proposed logo, which did not give sufficient prominence to the Barcelona Convention. What was important was public perception. The representative of Tunisia shared that view, stressing the need for legibility. He further remarked that only one proposal was submitted to the Bureau, and suggested holding a competition in Mediterranean countries in order to offer a variety of options for selection. During the ensuing exchange of views, it was suggested that it might be premature to take a decision on MAP's new logo before the Contracting Parties had determined the way ahead. It was agreed that, taking into account the outcome of the Catania Focal Points' meeting, to which the proposed logo would not be presented, work should continue on the design of MAP's new logo on the basis of the work already done. Terms of reference for the design of the logo should be prepared and a competition organized in Mediterranean countries. A precise deadline should be given for submission of entries to enable the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in September 2007 to take a final decision on the design of the logo.

**Agenda item 5:**        **Date and place of the next meeting of the Bureau**

63. The Coordinator said that Bureau members would be informed at a later stage of the date and place of the next Bureau meeting.

64. The representative of Spain said that his authorities would be willing to host the next meeting, at a place and on dates to be agreed with the Secretariat.

65. The Coordinator thanked the representative of Spain for that offer.

**Agenda item 6:**        **Any other business**

66. The Chairman, speaking as the representative of Slovenia, wished it to be placed on record that Slovenia was also making a voluntary financial contribution for the organization of the Extraordinary Meeting of Focal Points in Catania.

**Agenda item 7:**        **Conclusions and decisions**

67. The Bureau reviewed the draft decisions prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the meeting's discussions. Following minor amendments, the decisions were adopted. The decisions are attached as **Annex III** to this report.

**Agenda item 8:**      **Closure of the meeting**

68.      Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 31 October 2006.





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## ANNEX II

### AGENDA

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 Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Ljubljana, 6-7 April 2006)
  - 1) *Legal Issues*
  - 2) *Institutional matters*
  - 3) *MCSD, MSSD, NSSD*
  - 4) *Cooperation with Partners*
  - 5) *Communication and Media Relations*
  - 6) *Financial, administrative and personnel issues*
  - 7) *Prevention and control of pollution from the land based sources and activities*
  - 8) *Prevention and control of pollution from maritime activities*
  - 9) *Conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity and special protected areas*
  - 10) *Coastal Zone management*
  - 11) *Environment and Development*
  - 12) *ICT and Public Awareness*
4. Specific issues
  - 1) *Extraordinary meeting of the MAP focal points*
  - 2) *MAP's Involvement in the EC Environment Strategy for the Mediterranean including Horizon 2020 Initiative*
  - 3) *Development of the draft protocol on ICZM*
  - 4) *New graphic identity for MAP*
  - 5) *Status of Montenegro with respect to the Barcelona Convention*
5. Date and place of the next meeting of the Bureau
6. Any other business
7. Conclusions and decisions
8. Closure of the meeting



## **ANNEX III**

### **DECISIONS**

#### **1. Ratification**

- 1.1 The Bureau expresses its concerns on the low progress of ratification process and encourages the Parties to make a thorough analysis and submit information to the Secretariat on the main reasons for the non-ratification of MAP legal instruments and if appropriate, to address the issue at the Extraordinary Meeting of MAP Focal Points in November.
- 1.2 The Bureau recommends that the Secretariat should send a clear message to the Contracting Parties, through their representatives on the Working Group mandated to develop a draft protocol on ICZM, that the objective, when drafting the new Protocol, should be to assure its ratification and entry into force within a reasonable period of time, and hence its implementation.

#### **2. Information and communication**

- 2.1 The Bureau invites INFO RAC to focus its energy and resources on implementing priority tasks assigned to it by the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties before taking on additional activities. In this respect the development and management of the UNEP MAP web site, under the guidance of the Coordinating Unit, is a priority task for INFO RAC.
- 2.2 The Bureau considers that information, as a tool should be addressed as a horizontal and not a vertical issue; stronger coordination with MEDU and other RACs and MED POL is therefore required. The Extraordinary Meeting of MAP Focal Points should further clarify responsibilities and competencies within the MAP Secretariat on information related issues.

#### **3. Follow-up of MAP evaluation**

- 3.1 The Bureau recommends that the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in Almeria, Spain, should take important decisions in order to orient MAP towards concrete commitments and actions with a view to the full and effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.
- 3.2 The Bureau proposes that a drafting committee be established by the Extraordinary Meeting of MAP Focal Points in Catania, in order to prepare the working documents/draft decisions related to the future of MAP including the strategic vision, mission statement and mandates of RACs, for submission to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in 2007 and later to the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

#### **4. Participation of MAP in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Horizon 2020 initiative**

- 4.1 The Bureau welcomes the proposed active participation of MAP in the process of the implementation of the Horizon 2020 initiative to depollute the Mediterranean.

- 4.2 The Bureau invites the President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, H.E. Mr Janez Podobnik, Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia, to address the Euromed Environment Ministers' Meeting to be held in Cairo in November 2006, emphasizing in particular the role and contribution of the Barcelona Convention to the reduction of pollution and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

## **5. ICZM Protocol**

Provided that no voluntary contribution is received by the Secretariat to meet the cost of the third meeting of the Working Group on ICZM, the Bureau authorizes the Secretariat to withdraw the sum of 60 000 euros from the MTF for this purpose in addition to the amount of 20 000 euros left unspent following the second meeting of the working group.

## **6. Status of Montenegro and Serbia**

- 6.1 The Bureau welcomes the intention of Montenegro to become party to the new and revised legal instruments of MAP and agrees that Montenegro will enjoy observer status until it accedes formally to the Convention and its Protocols. In the meantime, the ongoing planned activities with Montenegro in the framework of MAP should continue as before.
- 6.2 The Bureau authorizes the Secretariat to discuss with Serbia its future relationship with the Barcelona Convention and to report to the next meeting of the Bureau in 2007 on this issue.

## **7. New graphic identity of MAP**

The Bureau recommends that the Secretariat should continue working on the preparation of the new graphic identity of MAP on the basis of the work already done taking into consideration also the discussion at the Meeting of Focal Points in Catania. Terms of reference for the design of the logo should be prepared and a competition organized in Mediterranean countries. Precise deadline should be given for submission of entries in order for the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in September 2007 to take a definitive decision on the design of the new graphic identity of MAP.