



UNITED  
NATIONS

**EP**

UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR/79/8

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UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

27 February 2015  
Original: English

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79<sup>th</sup> 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

Antalya, Turkey, 3-4 February 2015

## Report

**79<sup>th</sup> 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. At the invitation of the Government of Turkey, the 79<sup>th</sup> 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 on 3-4 February 2015 in Antalya, Turkey.

## **Participation**

2. The President of the Bureau, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Emin Birpinar (Turkey), the Vice-Presidents H.E. Ambassador Xavier Sticker (France); Mr. Ilias Mavroidis (Greece); Mr. Saleh Amnissi (The State of Libya); and the Rapporteur, Mr. Senad Oprasic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) attended the Bureau meeting. Vice-President Mr. Mohamed Benyahia (Morocco) excused himself for not being able to attend the meeting. France was also represented by Mr. Charles-Henri De Barsac. In addition, as per Terms of Reference of the Bureau, Ms. Marijana Mance from the European Commission attended the whole meeting as observer. Ms. Sarah Humphrey, one of the two experts who carried out the outcome evaluation of UNEP/ MAP Five-Year Programme of Work 2010-2014 attended the relevant sessions to present the outcome of the evaluation.
3. As per the request by the Compliance Committee regarding the participation of their representative as an observer in the relevant session at the 79<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau and as agreed by the President of the Bureau, the President of the Committee, Ms. Daniela Addis also attended the Bureau Meeting on the second day during the morning session dedicated to discussions on compliance.
4. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

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

5. The meeting was opened by the President of the Bureau, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Emin Birpinar. He welcomed the Bureau members and other participants.
6. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator, welcomed the Bureau Members and thanked Turkey for hosting the meeting. He provided the Bureau with an overview of the recent developments and work of UNEP/MAP since the 78<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau.

## **Agenda item 2:           Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work**

7. The Bureau reviewed and adopted the agenda as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/1. (Annex II)

## **Agenda item 3:           Progress Report by the Secretariat on Activities Carried out During the Period July – December 2014**

8. The Secretariat presented the document entitled “Progress Report by the Secretariat on Activities carried out during the period July – December 2014” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/3), as well as the “Progress of the Implementation of COP 18 Decisions” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/6).
9. Bureau members who took the floor commended the work done and at way progress was presented. They welcomed in particular the efforts made towards better integration and coordination of the work of the MAP Components, and towards new or enhanced partnerships, including the private sector.

10. A Bureau member requested the correction of the total number of Mediterranean Ecologically and Biologically Significantly Areas (EBSAs) in the progress report from 16 to 15, as adopted by the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity.
11. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:
  - i. Acknowledge with satisfaction the progress made, as described in report UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/3, by the Secretariat and MAP components during the second half of 2014; and express support to the work being done towards coherence and integration among the Components;
  - ii. Stress the importance of visibility and recognize the need for wider outreach and enhanced communications on the work and achievements of the MAP system.

**Agenda item 4:**            **Update on Financial Situation**

12. The Secretariat presented to the Bureau members for their comments and recommendations a financial update, as contained in the “Report by the Secretariat on Financial and Administrative Issues” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/5) including:
  - Status of contributions as of 31 December 2014, which in the case of the MTF had reached the unprecedented level of about 98%
  - Status of funds committed
  - Interim Report with the balance between income and expenditure
  - Letters requesting payments or reminders
13. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:
  - i. Express great satisfaction on the rate of collection of 2014 contributions and the efforts made on resource mobilization and encourage the Secretariat to continue its efforts to ensure the full payment of contributions;
  - ii. Thank the parties who already paid their 2015 contributions, and note with concern the negative impact that delays in the payment of contributions may have on the implementation of MAP’s Programme of Work;
  - iii. Recall Decision IG21/15 and request the Contracting Parties to pay their 2015 annual contributions and arrears as soon as possible and to strictly adhere to the agreed timeframe for the payment of contributions of the subsequent years;
  - iv. Request that the income and expenditures table in future financial reports include separate lines for the working capital reserve and for the uncollected contributions respectively;
  - v. Welcome the retaining of Mr. Habib El Habr as Deputy Coordinator in order to ensure continuity;
  - vi. Take note of the status of recruitment of the posts approved by COP 18 depending on the receipt of the 2015 contributions;
  - vii. Encourage Contracting Parties, who may be able to do, so to contribute human resources to the MAP system through Junior Professional Officers (JPO) and non-reimbursable loan of experts’ schemes.

**Agenda item 5: Specific Issues**

14. The Secretariat presented the “Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/4).

**5.1. Governance and Organizational Matters, including the date of COP 19**

15. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Governance Decision IG.21/13 and the Decision on MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2014-2015 biennium (Decision IG.21/17), adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the UNEP/MAP Coordinator presented an update on issues regarding the status of Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Related Protocols; Host Country Agreements with countries hosting MAP Regional Activity Centers; and evaluation method on measures to enhance the functioning of the Secretariat and MAP Components.
16. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:
- i. Call upon the two countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lebanon), where the ratification of the amended convention is pending, to complete the ratification process as soon as possible and in time for COP 19;
  - ii. Call upon the Contracting Parties that have not yet done so to sign or ratify the Barcelona Convention Protocols and in particular the revised Dumping Protocol, so that it may enter into force by COP 19. The Bureau requests the Secretariat to continue following closely with the Contracting Parties the ratification process;
  - iii. Request the Secretariat to continue close follow-up with concerned governments and UNEP Headquarters, as relevant, to finalize the Host Country Agreements (HCAs) as per the Decision IG.21/13 as soon as possible and preferably by COP 19;
  - iv. Hold COP 19 on 9-12 February 2016 and approve the calendar of its governing bodies and MCSD as shown below:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Proposed date</b>
<b>MSSD REVIEW CONFERENCE, MALTA</b>	<b>17-18 February 2015</b>
Deadline for MAP Focal Points Meeting documents	<b>27 March 2015</b>
<b>MAP FOCAL POINTS MEETING</b>	<b><del>28-30 April 2015</del> (Meeting later postponed to 19-21 May 2015)</b>
Deadline for MCSD documents	<b>8 May 2015</b>
<b>16<sup>TH</sup> MCSD MEETING</b>	<b>9-11 June 2015</b>
Deadline for Bureau Meeting documents	<b>15 June 2015</b>
<b>80<sup>TH</sup> BUREAU MEETING, GREECE</b>	<b>14-15 July 2015</b>

Deadline for MAP Focal Points Meeting documents	<b>18 September 2015</b>
<b>MAP FOCAL POINTS MEETING</b>	<b>October 2015 (exact date to be confirmed)</b>
Deadline for draft documents to be ready for translation into the 4 official languages	<b>18 November 2015</b>
Deadline for COP 19 Documents	<b>9 December 2015</b>
<b>COP 19</b>	<b>9-12 February 2016</b>

- v. Encourage all parties to be represented at Ministerial level at COP 19, considering the important strategic products to be approved in that occasion, and that COP 19 will be the culminating event of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MAP/Barcelona Convention;
- vi. Put in place the following evaluation process, as per the Terms of Reference of the Bureau, Article IX paragraph 5:
  - a. continue submission of an enhanced delivery report to each Bureau meeting, indicating the status of expenditures for each expected result of the Programme of Work;
  - b. submit a consolidated report to each COP on the delivery of the Programme of Work.

## 5.2. Compliance Issues

17. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decision IG.21/1 on Compliance Committee and the Decision IG.21/2 on Reporting Format, adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the President of the Committee Ms. Daniela Addis provided an update on the outcomes of the 9<sup>th</sup> Compliance Committee Meeting. She reported on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Biennia 2010-2011 and 2012-2013) and on the revision of the Reporting Format of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The statement of Ms. Addis is in Annex III.
18. The President of the Compliance Committee recommended the regular participation of a representative of the Compliance Committee as observer in all future Bureau meetings.
19. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:
  - i. Remind all Contracting Parties that have not yet done so, to officially submit their pending reports on measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as soon as possible in compliance with the obligations of Article 26 of the Convention and with a view to facilitate the work of the Compliance Committee;
  - ii. Send a letter jointly signed by the President of the Bureau and the President of the Compliance Committee to those Parties that have not submitted reports for at least two consecutive biennia before 2012, requesting them to meet their reporting obligations and explain the difficulties they encountered for not submitting their reports;
  - iii. Hold a brief formal session during the next MAP Focal Points meeting to inform the Parties on compliance issues and an informal session to discuss the matter with the non-compliant and other interested Parties;

- iv. Request the Secretariat to ensure that adequate budget provisions be included in future Programmes of Work and budgets for support to the Contracting Parties who request technical assistance for their reporting.

### **5.3. Outcome Evaluation of UNEP/ MAP Five Year Programme of Work 2010-2014**

20. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decision on MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2014-2015 Biennium (Decision IG.21/17), adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Coordinator of MAP explained the process of the outcome evaluation of the Five Year Programme of Work of UNEP/ MAP (2010-2014, with one year extension to 2015). Ms. Sarah Humphrey, one of the two experts who carried out the evaluation presented the outcome of the evaluation, as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/Inf.4.
21. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to: acknowledge the work done by the evaluators and draft findings; and request the Secretariat to reflect them into the process of preparation of the 2016-2021 Midterm Strategy, as appropriate.

### **5.4. Development of the 2016-2021 Midterm Strategy: Issues and Framework**

22. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decision on MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2014-2015 Biennium (Decision IG.21/17), adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Coordinator of MAP updated Bureau members on the progress of the development of the Mid-Term Strategy for the period 2016-2021 and explained the proposal of the draft set of issues and the framework as provided in the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/7.
23. After discussions, the Bureau welcomed the proposed Midterm Strategy thematic areas and structure proposed by the Secretariat, and asked the Secretariat to:
  - i. Reconsider titles of thematic areas;
  - ii. Take into account issues of public communications;
  - iii. Ensure inclusion of cross-cutting and emerging issues, such as sustainable consumption and production; and,
  - iv. Consider synergies with other existing regional initiatives in the development of the Midterm Strategy.

### **5.5. Update on Mandated Strategic Processes**

24. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decisions IG.21/10 on Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), IG.21/11 on Review of Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD), and the Decision IG.21/17 on MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2014-2015 biennium, adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Coordinator of MAP updated Bureau members on the current status of the development of SCP Action Plan, review of MSSD, Offshore Protocol Action Plan, Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, and implementation of Decision IG.21/16.
25. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:
  - i. Welcome the progress made in the revision of MSSD, development of SCP Action Plan and the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, as well as the Offshore Protocol Action Plan;
  - ii. Ask the Secretariat to finalize the Terms of Reference of the MAP II evaluation; launch the process of assessment of MAP II and inform 80<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau on the

progress. For this purpose, ask the Secretariat to carry out a budget revision to mobilise the necessary resources for this evaluation.

#### **5.6. Environment Friendly Cities Award**

26. With reference to the Istanbul Declaration, adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Coordinator of MAP presented an update on actions taken regarding nomination and selection principles and criteria for the award.
27. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to request the Secretariat to identify with the Turkish authorities the dates and venue of the workshop to discuss and agree the criteria and state of play of the Environment Friendly Cities Award, to be brought to the attention and endorsement by the 80<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau.

#### **5.7. Cooperation Agreements**

28. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decision on Cooperation Agreements (Decision IG.21/14), adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Coordinator of MAP presented an overview of cooperation with International and Regional Organizations, and bilateral cooperation agencies, and updated Bureau members on the operationalization of current agreements (GFCM, UfM Secretariat and IUCN). Bureau members were also informed of the ongoing dialogue with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), the Black Sea Commission, European Environment Agency (EEA), OSPAR and HELCOM, as well as possible future cooperation with other partners, including the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet).
29. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:
  - i. Welcome the progress on the cooperation with UfM;
  - ii. Note with satisfaction the progress on the cooperation agreements between the Secretariat and CBD Secretariat, as well as with the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution, and ask the Secretariat to report progress to the first MAP Focal Points meeting and submit the cleared draft MoU documents to the 80<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau;
  - iii. Ask the Secretariat to continue working on possible cooperation with EEA, OSPAR and HELCOM.

#### **5.8. MAP 40 Communications Plan**

30. The Coordinator of MAP presented an update on the outreach activities carried out and on the communications plan regarding the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MAP/Barcelona Convention.
31. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:
  - i. Confirm its support to the organization of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MAP;
  - ii. Encourage Parties and partners to host national events, as appropriate, and provide full support to the observance of this important anniversary.

#### **Agenda item 6: Conclusions and Recommendations**

32. The Bureau discussed and adopted conclusions and recommendations as listed above.

**Agenda item 7.**            **Date and Venue of 80<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau**

33. The 80<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau will be organized in Athens, Greece in late January 14-15 July 2015.

**Agenda item 8:**            **Any Other Matters**

34. The President of the Bureau announced a statement on behalf of the Turkish Government on the establishment of a new Regional Activity Center on Climate Change. The statement is provided in Annex IV.

**Agenda item 9:**            **Closure of the Meeting**

35. The meeting was closed by the President of the Bureau at 17:00 on Wednesday, 4 February 2015.



**Annex I**

**List of Participants**



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## **Annex II**

### **Agenda**



**TIMETABLE**

<b>Tuesday, 3 February 2015</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>		<b>Documents</b>
09:00 – 09:15	1. Opening of the meeting 2. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and organization of work	President of the Bureau	UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/1 UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/2
09:15– 10:30	3. Progress Report by the Secretariat on activities carried out during the period July – December 2014	Coordinator of MAP	UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/3 UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/6
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
11:00-12:30	4. Update on Financial Situation	Coordinator of MAP	UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/5
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
14:00 – 15:30	5. Specific Issues	Coordinator of MAP	UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/4
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
16:00 – 17:00	5. Specific Issues (cont'd)	Coordinator of MAP	UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/4 UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/7
<b>Wednesday, 4 February 2015</b>			
09:00 – 10:30	5. Specific Issues (cont'd)	Coordinator of MAP	UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/4
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
11:00 – 11:30	5. Specific Issues (cont'd)	Coordinator of MAP	UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/4
11:30 – 14:00	<i>Extended Lunch break (preparation of the draft list of conclusions and recommendations for adoption)</i>		
14:00-16:00	6. Conclusions and recommendations	Coordinator of MAP	
16:00-16:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
16:30-16:45	7. Date and Venue of 80 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau	Coordinator of MAP	
16:45-17:00	8. Any other Matters	President of the Bureau and Secretariat	
17:00	9. Closure of the Meeting	President of the Bureau	



**Annex III**

**Statement of the President of the Compliance Committee**



**Participation of the Compliance Committee's representative as an observer in the relevant session at the 79th Meeting of the Bureau**

*Mr President,*

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the **Compliance Committee**, representing the views of its Members.

At the outset, let me express my gratitude for having invited me to participate, as an observer, in the today Bureau meeting on issues related to the work of the Committee, and to expose the terms of the issue that motivate such participation. The Compliance Committee is determinate to work in close cooperation with all Contracting Parties, the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, convinced that the collaboration will ensure the effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

The Committee at its first session after the COP 18 (the Ninth Committee Meeting, held in Split, Croatia, on 27 and 28 November 2014), aware that the Conclusions of its Recommendation on non-compliance obligations regarding submission of Reports (annexed to its activities report for the biennium 2012-2013, at paragraphs 35 and 36, UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.21/8), **approved by the 18th Ordinary Meeting** of the Contracting Parties in **Decision IG.21/1, have not been implemented by the concerned Contracting Parties.**

In fact, since the COP 18, no response was given by the concerned Contracting Parties to the requests made by the above mentioned Decision IG.21/1.

**Mr President,**

With regard to the Compliance Committee Recommendation, and the related Decision IG 21/1 adopted by the Conference of the Parties, I may recall the content, which requires:

- that the Governments of **eight Contracting Parties** (Albania, Algeria, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Slovenia, Syria and Tunisia), by not submitting their **2010-2011 Reports**, have not complied with their obligations under Article 26 of the Convention and therefore **to submit** their **2010-2011 report** within **two months** of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (by February 2014). They were invited, as well and where necessary, to request assistance in drafting the reports.
- that the Governments of **four Contracting Parties** (Albania, Libya, Malta and Slovenia), by not submitting their **2008-2009** and **2010-2011 Reports**, have demonstrated **serious and repeated non-compliance** with their obligations under Article 26 of the Convention. As such, they have received a **warning** under paragraph 34 (a) of Decision IG. 17/2 and therefore they were requested **to submit** to

the Committee within 2 months of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (by February 2014), **a note explaining how they will proceed** in the future to prepare their Reports and **detailing the means and resources** they have mobilized to submit their reports.

- that the Governments of the above mentioned **eight Contracting Parties** had to **make a referral** to the **Compliance Committee** under paragraph 18 (a) of Decision IG. 17/2 so that the Committee may examine the difficulties and obstacles encountered by these Parties and assist them in meeting their obligations to submit reports under Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention.

**Mr President,**

The Committee urges Contracting Parties compliance and consequently the necessity to reiterate to those Contracting Parties their duty to meet, as soon as possible, the measures that have been requested in accordance with article 26 of the Barcelona Convention.

Therefore, the Compliance Committee deeply concerned about the consequences, have asked its Chairperson to address a message to the President of the Bureau with the aim of **exchanging views** on the status of the implementation of the above mentioned Decision IG.21/1 and related matters, and **to agree about the initiative to be undertaken** to ensure the full and timely implementation of the said Decision.

**Mr President,**

We consider important to inform the Bureau about the actions the Committee intends to take in the absence of an adequate response by the concerned Contracting Parties. In particular, the Committee decided to write to **the concerned Contracting Parties** informing them of the measures that will be undertaken with a view to promoting compliance in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Decision IG.21/1, addressing these cases of non-compliance, in the light of the amended Decision IG. 17/2 supplemented with the provision 2a. of Section V on the referral to the Committee on its own initiative, asking the Party concerned to provide all additional information and asking about the steps that they intend to take to comply with their commitments and the assistance that they may need to meet their reporting obligations.

The measures to be undertaken by the Committee may include the **organization of hearings** for the representatives of the concerned Contracting Parties, pursuant to paragraph 27, second sentence of the Decision IG 17/2.

We principally consider essential and necessary, in this particular case of non-compliance, to **ask the Parties in default to participate in the next meeting of the Committee**, "back to back" with the meeting of the MAP Focal Points, tentatively scheduled in late April 2015, to have the opportunity to

understand the reasons behind the delay in submitting reports within the framework of the questionnaire and to ask them about the initiatives they envisage to comply with their commitment on reporting up to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the advice and assistance they may need to fulfil their reporting obligations.

Furthermore, the Committee, evoking the role of the Bureau, which has the necessary authority to allow the implementation of the Recommendation, in accordance with Article IX of the Terms of Reference of the Bureau, wish to find shared and common solutions **to recall the concerned Contracting Parties to respect their obligations**; in particular the Governments of the four Contracting Parties which repeatedly failed to abide by their reporting obligation, who should receive a warning addressed by the Conference of the Parties, pursuant to the Decision of the Conference of the Parties contained in paragraph 36, and in accordance with paragraph 34.a of the Decision IG 17/2.

Additionally, in order to better contribute to the effectiveness of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the Committee wishes to take this opportunity to advance and share the following **proposals**:

1. the amendment of Article II, para. 3 of the Terms of Reference of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, adding after the words “*and regular attendance at the meeting of the contracting Parties*” the following words “*and compliance with their obligations under the Convention, in particular Article 26, and its related Protocols*” (to add a compliance criteria in electing the members of the Bureau);
2. the regular participation of a Committee’s representative, with the status of observer, to the Bureau meetings dealing with compliance issues (for a better and strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the Committee, the Bureau and the Secretariat);
3. the necessity to provide a specific and dedicated regular support (i.e. a legal officer) to the Compliance Committee to help it carry out its mandate at its best, and the related need for appropriate resources.

***Mr President,***

With regard to the revision of the **Reporting Format** of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the Committee is pleased to inform that at its Ninth meeting has considered a **simplified and practical draft report format** that the Secretariat has prepared, in consultation with the Committee, to be submitted for review and adoption by the Nineteenth meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Then the Committee asked the Secretariat to continue the preparation of the revised Report format, taking into consideration the comments given by its members, to be examined during the next meeting.

Moreover, the Committee reiterated its request to **organize a workshop** that is open to the Contracting Parties, aiming at getting familiar with the use of the revised report format online.

The Committee would also like to take this opportunity to underline the **importance to organize such a workshop** on the compilation and submission of reports, and the related need for appropriate resources.

**Mr President and Members of the Bureau,**

I would be pleased to answer to the request of clarification and more information you may need.

I would like to thank again for having invited me as the representative of the Committee to the today Bureau meeting to exchange views on the status of the implementation of the above mentioned Decision IG.21/1 and related matters, and **to consider** and **undertake any additional action that may be required** for achieving of **and** to ensure the full and timely implementation of the said Decision.

*Thank you, Mr President*

Daniela Addis  
Chairperson of the Compliance Committee

**Annex IV**

**Statement of the President of the Bureau on Behalf of the Turkish Government on the  
Establishment of a New Regional Activity Center on Climate Change**

**Statement of the President of the Bureau on behalf of the Turkish Government on the establishment of a new Regional Activity Center on Climate Change**

Considering the high priority of combating climate change in the Mediterranean region, it is evident that we need to take some extra solid steps for tackling this challenge. In this respect, establishment of a new Regional Activity Center which directly deals with climate change would be an added value to the MAP system.

Taking into account the support and importance given by Turkey to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols together with Turkey's capacity in the field of climate change, Turkey is willing to take a leading role on the establishment of this mechanism both financially and technically.