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ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

29 April 2015
English (only)

10th Meeting of the Compliance Committee of the Barcelona Convention
and its Protocols

Athens, Greece, 21-22 May 2015

**Informal session: Hearings of the Representatives of Contracting Parties
on meeting their reporting obligations**

**Letter co-signed by the President of the Bureau and the Chairperson of the Compliance Committee
to Contracting Parties having not submitted their reports for the Bienna 2008-2009 and 2010-2011**

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United Nations Environment Programme
Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan
 Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement
 Unité de coordination du Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée



Reference: GL/ DG

Athens, 14 avril 2015

Subject: Barcelona Convention and its Protocols: Invitation to an informal Session with the Compliance Committee on submission of Biennial Reports

Dear MAP Focal Point,

We wish to inform you that issues of compliance were discussed at the 79th Meeting of the Bureau of the Barcelona Convention (Antalya, Turkey, 3-4 February 2015), attended by the Chairperson of the Compliance Committee as observer. On that occasion, it was noted with concern that the Recommendation of the Compliance Committee on non-compliance issues regarding submission of Reports, contained in Decision IG. 21/1 (in particular, paragraphs 35 and 36 of Doc. UNEP DEPI/MED IG.21/8 attached herewith) of the 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, have not been implemented yet. In particular, some Contracting Parties, including the one that you represent, have not satisfied their report obligation repeatedly and the related request to submit an explanatory note, as well as to make a referral to the Compliance Committee under paragraph 18 (a) of Decision IG. 17/2.

Attaining particular importance to upcoming 40th Anniversary of Barcelona Convention and following the Bureau's recommendations, we are jointly writing to remind you of the necessity to implement the above mentioned Decision IG. 21/1; in particular, to submit Reports on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in a timely fashion. We also invite you, or your Representative, to participate in an informal session to be held during the 10th Meeting of the Compliance Committee in the morning of 21 May 2015, at the premises of the Coordinating Unit in Athens, Greece. Please note that the 10th Meeting of the Compliance Committee will meet in parallel with the Meeting of Focal Points scheduled for 19-21 May 2015.

This informal session is meant to allow Members of the Compliance Committee to understand the reasons of the delay in the submission of your Reports and to agree about the initiatives to be undertaken to ensure the full and timely implementation of the said Decision for facing the Reporting obligations of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as well as to provide the advice and support that you may require to fulfill those obligations.

.../...



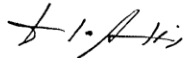
P.O.Box 18019, Athens 11610, Greece • Tel: [30 1] 7273117 • Fax: [30 1] 7253196 or 7
 E-mail: rena.cavoura@unepmap.gr • URL: <http://www.unepmap.gr>

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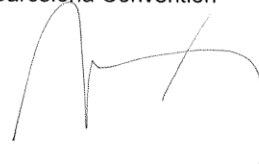
We count on your presence at this informal session in order to find, in a constructive spirit, appropriate ways and means that will allow all Parties to fully satisfy the reporting obligation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the future. Please confirm your attendance by responding to Mr. Didier Guiffault, UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention at the following email address: didier.guiffault@unepmap.gr

Yours sincerely,

Atty. Daniela Addis
Chairperson of the Compliance
Committee



Prof. Dr. Mehmet Emin Birpinar
President of the Bureau of the
Barcelona Convention



Annex Doc. UNEP DEPI/MED IG.21/8, paragraphs 35 and 36

(...)

VII. Recommendations

35. The Compliance Committee recommends that the meeting of the Contracting Parties:

A. Approves the conclusions of the Compliance Committee according to which:

- - 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;
- - 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 will receive a warning under paragraph 34 (a) of Decision IG. 17/2.

B. Requests the Governments of Albania, Algeria, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Slovenia, Syria and Tunisia to submit their 2010-2011 report within two months of the final day of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, and invites them, where necessary, to request assistance in drafting the reports.

C. Earnestly invites the Governments of Albania, Libya, Malta and Slovenia to submit to the Committee within two months of the final day of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, 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.

D. Invites the Governments of Albania, Algeria, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Slovenia, Syria and Tunisia 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 can assist them in meeting their obligations to submit reports under Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention.

E. requests the addition to the 8th Consideration of the draft Decision IG. 21/1 submitted for examination at the Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the following text “ (...) and noting the cases of non-submission of reports which have been subject to a special and reasoned recommendation by the Compliance Committee”.

36. The Compliance Committee requests the Meeting of Contracting Parties to approve the conclusions as follows:

- - 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;
- - 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 will receive a warning under paragraph 34 (a) of Decision IG. 17/2.

- - The Governments of Albania, Algeria, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Slovenia, Syria and Tunisia to submit their 2010-2011 report within two months of the final day of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, and are invited, where necessary, to request assistance in drafting the reports.
- - The Governments of Albania, Libya, Malta and Slovenia to submit to the Committee within two months of the final day of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, 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.
- - The Governments of Albania, Algeria, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Slovenia, Syria and Tunisia have 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 can assist them in meeting their obligations to submit reports under Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention.