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I. Introduction

In compliance with the Terms of Reference of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development, the Secretariat is submitting this report of the activities carried out by the MCSD during the period June 2005 and May 2006 for the attention of the 11th Meeting of the MCSD which will be held on 24 – 26 May 2006 in Nicosia, Cyprus at the kind invitation of the Cypriot Authorities. These activities dealt mainly with the implementation of the decisions of the MCSD as well as of the Contracting Parties.

Following the approval of the draft text of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and the Athens Charter by the 10th Meeting of the MCSD (Athens, June 2005), the Secretariat's efforts were focused mainly on promoting the MSSD among the countries, encouraging them to adopt the Strategy at the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Portoroz, Slovenia and supporting NSSD processes in related countries. As recommended by the 10th Meeting of the MCSD (Athens, June 2005) copies of the MSSD were sent to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Contracting Parties through diplomatic channels in preparation for the Portoroz Meeting. A draft text of the Portoroz Declaration was also elaborated and sent in advance to the Contracting Parties to be considered as the basis for the adoption of the MSSD. The Contracting Parties eventually adopted the MSSD on the basis of the Portoroz Declaration (**Annex I**) during their 14th Meeting.

Reference is also made in this report to the endorsement of the MSSD by the Euro-Mediterranean Summit in Barcelona, in November 2005. This was an important development considering the short period of time between the adoption of the MSSD by the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Portoroz (8-11 November, 2005) and the Euro-Med Summit in Barcelona (27th November, 2005). Endorsement at such a high level is a major achievement that was possible also with the strong support of the NGO network.

The effective implementation of the MSSD calls for concrete actions at the national and regional levels. Under their respective government leadership, the countries are the main actors of implementation. The MAP system –including the Coordination Unit, the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD)- is committed to support them by encouraging and facilitating the development and implementation of national and regional initiatives and pilot actions within the overall national policy frameworks, particularly National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD).

The MAP system will resort to existing structures, expertise and networks, essentially relying on the RACs, the network of Focal Points and MAP partners. While specific RACs will lead the work on certain themes about which they have comparative advantages and accumulated experience, the Coordination Unit will ensure coherence and synergy between the different contributions within the MAP system and with the relevant initiatives of other partners in the region, particularly the EC.

Considering the Blue Plan long-lasting contribution in “Water demand management”, “Energy”, “Tourism”, and “Agriculture and rural development”, its recognized expertise and its regional outreach through expert networks, the MAP Coordinating Unit has entrusted BP /RAC to lead the work in these areas with the full support of the other MAP components and under the supervision of the Coordinator.

Considering its function as a Mediterranean Environment and Development Observatory and achievements in the domain of and its responsibility in the technical preparation of the MSSD under the overall supervision of the Coordinating Unit, the Blue Plan (BP/RAC) will also be in charge of monitoring MSSD implementation. Details will be given during the 11th Meeting of the MCSD in Cyprus about the process that has been launched by the Secretariat and BP/RAC to monitor the MSSD's implementation with the support of the countries.

During the Cyprus meeting, the members of the Commission are expected to discuss the process being proposed by the Blue Plan/RAC for the monitoring of the implementation of the MSSD on the basis of a set of indicators, the setting up of working groups of experts to discuss the thematic issues, the support to the countries to develop their NSSD, the MAP's components contribution to the implementation of the MSSD, a vision of an Information and Communication Strategy to promote the MSSD being developed by INFO/RAC, the BP's Environment and Development Report as well as the topic on Education for Sustainable Development proposed by MIO-ECSDE, a member of the MCSD Steering Committee.

At the request of Friends of the Earth, which also sits on the Steering Committee of the MCSD, a presentation will be made on the first results of the Strategic Impact Assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Zone. A discussion will follow with the participation of representatives of the countries from the Southern Mediterranean.

The relationship between the MCSD and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Initiative "Horizon 2020" will be also presented.

During the period covered by the report, the Secretariat continued to assist countries with the elaboration of their National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs). An update of the report about NSSD in the countries will also be available in Cyprus.

Recent developments involving the departure of key persons dealing with the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development and the elaboration and implementation of the MSSD have put more pressure on the Secretariat to ensure that the work of the MCSD and on the MSSD is not affected in a negative manner. Mr. Arab Hoballah, Deputy Coordinator, who was responsible for the MCSD, has taken up a new appointment with UNEP in Paris and the Sustainable Development Officer has resigned his appointment. Moreover, M. Guillaume Benoit, the Director of Blue Plan, who led the process for the technical elaboration of the MSSD, is leaving the Centre after having been assigned new responsibilities by the French Authorities. To bridge the gap until a new full time Sustainable Development Officer is recruited, as approved by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz, a Senior Sustainable Development Officer has been recruited on a contract basis for six months.

As has been the practice in previous meetings of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development, all the sessions will be held in plenary. If necessary, ad hoc sessions could be organized to discuss specific topics. However, no simultaneous interpretation facilities will be available during these ad hoc sessions. At the end of the meeting, the Secretariat will submit for adoption a number of conclusions. The report of the meeting will be circulated to the members of the Commission at a later stage for comments.

The work of the 11th Meeting of the MCSD will follow the Agenda which was approved by the Steering Committee during its 10th Meeting which was convened on 16th March, 2006 at the MEDU offices in Athens.

II. Brief history of the MCSD: benchmarks and decisions

The post-Rio era was an important period in the history of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) during which the Governments of the Mediterranean region and the European Community, in cooperation with concerned partners, started the process of translating and adapting UNCED principles to the Mediterranean context through the preparation of Agenda MED 21, reorientation of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its protocols and the creation of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD). This commitment towards sustainable development in the region was further strengthened during the preparatory process for the WSSD and then the application at the regional level of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation that resulted in the preparation of a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, as well as National Strategies for Sustainable Development.

The MCSD was established in 1995 within the framework of MAP, as an advisory body with the following mandate:

- to identify, evaluate and examine major economic, ecological and social problems set out in Agenda MED 21, make appropriate proposals thereon to the meetings of the Contracting Parties, evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of decisions taken by the Contracting Parties and facilitate the exchange of information among institutions implementing activities related to sustainable development in the Mediterranean;
- to enhance regional cooperation and rationalize the inter-governmental decision-making capacity in the Mediterranean basin for the integration of environment and development issues.

At their Extraordinary Meeting (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Terms of Reference and the Composition of the Commission. According to the Terms of Reference, the Commission is composed of 36 members, sitting on equal footing, consisting of high-level representatives from each of the Contracting Parties (21), representatives of local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organisations (15), working in the fields of environment and sustainable development.

During its first meeting (Rabat, December 1996), the Commission elected its first Steering Committee; it agreed on a programme built on activities corresponding to some of the priority needs of the Mediterranean region: sustainable management of coastal regions and management of water demand, sustainable development indicators, tourism, information, awareness and participation, free trade and environment, industry and sustainable development, management of urban and rural development.

The method of work consisted in organizing thematic Working Groups with Task Managers and Support Centres to deal with each selected theme. The MAP funds allocated to the MCSD will be considered as seed money since the Task Managers and Support Centres were expected to look for the necessary additional human and financial resources and expertise for the activities of the thematic Working Groups.

The second meeting of the Commission (Palma de Majorca, May 1997) has mainly reviewed progress achieved and problems encountered since its first meeting.

At their third meeting (Sophia Antipolis, October 1997) the members of the MCSD agreed upon sets of recommendations and proposals for action related to management of water demand and sustainable management of coastal zones, together with MCSD's draft rules of procedure, before presenting them to the Contracting Parties that adopted them at their tenth meeting (Tunis, November 1997).

At its fourth meeting (Monaco, October 1998) the Commission examined the progress made by the six "medium-term" thematic Working Groups, as well as issues related to follow-up of recommendations, new themes, method of work and cooperation with UN agencies and other partners. Moreover and in conformity with the MCSD's specific rules of procedure, a new Steering Committee was elected.

The fifth meeting of the MCSD (Rome, July 1999) discussed the preparatory process of the Strategic Review and agreed on sets of recommendations and proposals for action related to "Sustainable Development Indicators" and "Information, Awareness, Environmental Education and Participation"; the ones related to "Tourism and Sustainable Development" were reviewed and finalized some weeks later; they were then all presented to the 11th meeting of the Contracting Parties (Malta, October 1999) who adopted the three sets of recommendations.

At the sixth meeting of the MCSD (Tunis, November 2000), the fifteen new members representing the three Major Groups took over; the meeting examined the Strategic Review and its recommendations and proposals for action, as well as a draft "Tunis Declaration"; this meeting comprised an important High Level Segment with the participation of several Ministers of the Environment; it was also the occasion for a very animated debate on the follow up of MCSD proposals, possible new issues and method of work, preparing the ground for relevant discussions in the next MCSD and Contracting Parties meetings.

At its first Extraordinary Meeting (Monaco, 12 November 2001), the organization of which was decided because of the international situation and the holding of the 12th meeting of the Contracting Parties (Monaco, 14-17 November 2001), the MCSD members discussed and prepared four sets of findings and proposals related to: "Industry and Sustainable Development", "Urban management and Sustainable Development", "Free Trade and Environment in the Euro-Mediterranean context", and "Implementation and Follow up of MCSD recommendations and proposals for action"; proposed recommendations were then reviewed and approved by the 12th meeting of the Contracting Parties.

The seventh meeting of the MCSD (Antalya, March 2002) was postponed from October 2001 to March 2002 because of the international situation and its impacts at the regional level; as the thematic issues from the Working Groups were dealt with by the Extraordinary MCSD meeting, the 7th MCSD has mostly focused on MCSD Assessment and Prospects, and the process for the preparation of the "Framework Orientations" for a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. The meeting agreed on a methodology for the "Orientations", decided to establish a Task Force to consider further MCSD Prospects, and opted four new themes (financing, agriculture, consumption patterns and waste).

The eighth meeting of the MCSD (Cavtat, May 2003) has mainly focused on discussing and reviewing the draft reports on the "Vision" and "Orientations" for the MSSD together with the MCSD assessment and prospects. Between this meeting and the one of the Contracting Parties, an intensive work was undertaken so as to review and finalize documents on the Vision and Orientations. A set of recommendations related to the MCSD were adopted by the 13th meeting of the CP in November 2003, in which the Parties took note of the contents of these two documents, and requested additional consultation before their finalization. These consultations took place during the first semester of 2004 with meetings of the MCSD and the Bureau of the CP.

The ninth meeting of the MCSD (Genoa, June 2004) has approved the final text of the Vision and Framework Orientations for the MSSD, including few amendments made upon request for comments in conformity with the decision of the 13th meeting of the CP; it also discussed the preparatory process for the MSSD, under the supervision of the new Coordinator of UNEP/MAP. A medium term programme of work was considered, keeping in mind that it would be revised once the MSSD would be finalized and approved. A new Contracting Party, the Union State of Serbia and Montenegro, represented by Montenegro joined the MCSD.

The 10th Meeting of the MCSD which met in Athens, Greece (June 2005) was dedicated entirely to discuss and approve the text of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and the Athens Charter. Both text were eventually approved. The MSSD was then submitted first to the MAP Focal Points in September and then to the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties which adopted the Strategy on the basis of the Portoroz Declaration which in turn was based on the main political messages and the commitments that emerge from the MSSD.

III. MCSD Steering Committee

In accordance with the Rules of Procedures of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development, a new Steering Committee would be elected at the beginning of the 11th MCSD meeting. In principle, the Steering Committee would include Cyprus as the Host and co-organizer of the meeting, Slovenia as the current President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, two other members from the Contracting Parties and one member from each of the major groups. These will need to be designated during the meeting in Cyprus.

The list of present and previous members of the Steering Committee is attached as **Annex II** of the present report.

MCSD members have been requested to inform the Secretariat, before the MCSD meeting, about their interest in sitting on the Steering Committee.

The last meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee was held on 16th March, 2006 at MEDU offices in Athens. During the meeting the Steering Committee members advised the Secretariat on the activities carried out during the inter-session period, discussed the vision for an Information and Communication Strategy elaborated by INFO/RAC and approved the Agenda for the 11th Meeting of the MCSD.

The Conclusions of the Steering Committee meeting are in **Annex III**. The MCSD members will receive the full report of the meeting of the Steering Committee before the 11th meeting of the MCSD.

IV. MSSD: From Preparation to Implementation

MSSD preparation and adoption

At the last meeting of the MCSD (20–22 June, 2005, Athens) the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development was finalized and approved together with the Athens Charter. The finalization of the strategy has been the culmination of several years of work by the MCSD involving all MAP components, as well as the result of a participatory process including civil society and other stakeholders.

The MSSD was adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 14th Meeting (8–11 November, 2005, Portoroz, Slovenia) on the basis of the Portoroz Declaration that recognized, inter alia, that the MSSD is an opportunity for the Mediterranean countries to achieve progress in environmental protection, as well as in the economic, social and cultural fields in a sustainable manner.

Throughout the preparation of the strategy, emphasis was made on the need to secure political support and to develop a sense of ownership of the MSSD. The MSSD was eventually endorsed by the Euro-Mediterranean Summit held in Barcelona on 27–28 November, 2005 on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Partnership. Leaders from the 25 EU Member States and 10 Mediterranean countries, made a commitment to implement the MSSD and to use the strategy for

the implementation of the European Commission's initiative "Horizon 2020" to de-pollute the Mediterranean by the year 2020.

MSSD Implementation

Following the adoption of the MSSD, the major challenge for the MCSD now is to promote the implementation of the Strategy's objectives through initiatives at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. This should require the mobilization of concerned authorities and partners in the countries and at the regional level so as to increase the ownership of the strategy by the relevant actors, taking advantage of the MCSD as a forum for discussion and the formulation of proposals on relevant issues.

At the national level, specific measures, projects, actions and partnerships related to the MSSD's objectives and orientations should be identified and implemented within the framework of National Strategies for Sustainable Development.

The entire MAP system has a key role to play in the implementation of the seventh priority field of the MSSD (promoting the sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones) which constitutes the "*raison d'être*" of MAP and the Barcelona Convention. The challenge for MAP, including all components, is to promote ownership by regional and national actors, to support implementation and to ensure synergy between MAP and other European and international initiatives.

With regard to the other six priority fields of action (water, energy, transport, tourism, agriculture and rural development, urban development), the implementation of the strategy will have to involve actors and stakeholders other than those dealing with the environment.

The challenge is to sensitize and involve in each thematic field key actors, be they national or regional. BP/RAC being a Mediterranean Environment and Development Observatory and considering its role in successfully carrying out the technical preparation of the MSSD under the overall supervision of the Coordinating Unit, will ensure follow-up and technical monitoring of progress in the implementation of the strategy with the support of the other MAP components and under the supervision of the Secretariat.

V. National Strategies for Sustainable Development

Current Situation in the Region

In order to inform the parties and partners on the current situation of sustainable development frameworks in the countries, the Secretariat has carried out a "Regional Review and Assessment of NSSD in the region". The report was completed in 2005 and has been disseminated to MAP/MCSD Focal Points and partners. The tables in annex to the Regional Review and Assessment report offer a compilation of the different sustainable development related processes in the countries, with a focus on NSSD (**Annex IV**).

In February 2006, the Country Profiles on which the Review is based were updated, since a more accurate perception of the evolving situation would contribute to increase the quality of our support to MSSD implementation.

Most countries have elaborated an overall policy framework for sustainable development: 10 countries have a NSSD (or are in the process of having one) and 8 countries have prepared National Environment Strategies or National Environmental Action Plans that often address most sustainable development issues. All these strategic frameworks entail coordination and

consultation mechanisms. They were mostly developed before the MSSD and its approval by the CPs in Portoroz (November 2005).

When analyzing the survey results, the following remarks can be made:

- In each country there is quite a number of policy processes, initiatives and mechanisms that pertain to sustainable development (not only in overall policy frameworks but also at the sector or programme level);
- National priorities in SD-related overall policy frameworks generally vary from country to country, and usually differ from the 7 priorities of the MSSD.

This situation has operational implication for the design and nature of MAP support as well as the implementation of the MCSD work programme that would need:

- to take stock of what already exists in order to avoid duplication and not overstrain the government financial and human resources;
- to identify the appropriate entry point in the on-going policy processes; and,
- to strive constantly to foster linkages and coherence between MSSD and NSSD or other overall SD related framework.

Current MAP Support to NSSD formulation in selected countries

Since 2005, MAP supports the formulation of NSSD, technically and financially, through a budget line in the MCSD/MSSD activities of the Secretariat.

Currently four countries are concerned: Egypt, Morocco, Serbia and Montenegro, and the Syrian Arab Republic. Funding sources are MEDU, Italy and Monaco.

The basic criteria used to identify these countries were the country interest/request and the absence of a NSSD or similar SD-related framework.

The 4 countries follow similar steps in the preparation of their NSSD, they:

- Define a process and prepare a road map;
- Establish various groups of resource persons and experts;
- Set up consultation mechanisms (e.g. National Sustainable Development Council) and a Steering committee;
- Take stock of SD issues and develop a vision and framework orientation;
- Organize a series of national workshops to review progress and NSSD draft.

Some distinctive features of country processes

In Montenegro, the expert work is coordinated by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning. It involves different ministries and local level government. A national NGO coordinates the consultation process (including national and regional workshops) that involves the civil society, NGOs and the private sector stakeholders. Montenegro successfully combines the expert work and consensus building, one feeding into the other. For instance, issues identified by expert work have been prioritized after a consistency analysis and the voting of stakeholders. Montenegro has managed to obtain complementary funding from Italy and UNDP's Small Grant Programme.

In Syria, the process coordination is entrusted to a national NGO under the supervision of the General Commission for Environmental Affairs. A stakeholders perception survey was conducted to identify the priority issues. The stocktaking analysis is completed. Complementary funding comes from GEF/Small Grant Programme.

Remarks

- In these countries, the NSSD formulation builds upon the recently approved MSSD that serves as a framework;
- The pace in strategy formulation varies significantly according to the countries. The countries have reached different phases;
- Since the financial support is limited (15 000 to 25 000 euros), the MAP support is used as a seed/catalytic funding by the countries that strive to identify additional financial resources;
- The NSSD preparation process itself is as important as the expected result (NSSD document) as it constitutes an opportunity to raise awareness, to build consensus, develop partnerships and strengthen the ownership of a variety of stakeholders.

Challenges

The countries have indicated the following issues and challenges:

- coordination with other on-going initiatives and planning cycles/frames;
- linkages between NSSD and its implementation with traditional sector policies and programmes;
- limited capacity to conduct multi stakeholder processes;
- involvement of the business sector.

Planned MAP Support to NSSD formulation

Based on the same criteria as above, four countries have been identified for MAP support to NSSD formulation: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon and Tunisia.

For the sake of consistency and sharing of experience between countries, the project document signed with the Spanish Cooperation Agency (AZAHAR Programme) follows the same activities pattern and steps as in the other four countries (road map, stock-taking, etc).

VI. Contributions of the different RACs to the implementation of the MSSD, particularly in the Priority Field of Action 2.7

The contributions of the different RACs to the implementation¹ of the MSSD vary according to their mandate and responsibility. This section reports on current and proposed activities relevant to Priority 2.7 of the MSSD. In addition to their specific sector of expertise and competence, most RACs are addressing cross cutting issues. Therefore, two aspects are considered: (i) Support to the implementation of MSSD objectives, orientations and actions; (ii) Addressing cross-cutting issues. For the former, a reference is made between bracket to the relevant section of the "Objectives, Orientations and actions" Box in the MSSD document.

¹ Although highly correlated, the implementation of MSSD, MCSD work programme, and Portoroz recommendations ought to be differentiated as they entail different levels of intervention with different operational implications in terms of resources allocation, responsibilities, partnership, reporting and monitoring.

PAP/RAC

Follow up on relevant Objectives, orientations and actions of Priority 2.7

In the Priority Field of Action 2.7 of the MSSD the main objective related to integrated management and development of coastal zones is the adoption of an ICAM Protocol. After the presentation of a draft document to the CPs in Portoroz, PAP RAC has established a Working Group of Government appointed legal and technical experts to develop a draft text of an ICAM protocol. The first of a series of meeting has been scheduled for April 2006 in order to present the final text of the Protocol to the CPs in 2007 (1).

Concerning the prevention of continuous and linear urbanization of coastal areas and in relation to urban management, the guidelines for coastal urban water resources management have been completed and translated into French, while the related training course is being prepared. This activity also contributes to implementing the MSSD orientation on improving integrated water resource and demand management. (2)

Cross-cutting issues

PAP/RAC fosters and applies an integrated approach. It also strives to involve the civil society, NGOs and private sector, which is the very essence of ICAM. Efforts will be pursued to support and improve governance at local and national levels.

The different activities pertaining to cross-cutting issues include: education, training and capacity building; mobilization of public as well as private resources; promotion of the economic instruments; and international co-operation.

The implementation and follow-up will be supported by a set of indicators proposed to follow the implementation of the MSSD. In close collaboration with Info/RAC and in the frame of the MSSD IC Strategy, information activities, communication and awareness raising campaigns will contribute to the dissemination of results.

REMPEC

Follow up on relevant Objectives, orientations and actions of Priority 2.7

REMPEC will support the implementation of the MSSD through the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships. During the current biennium, the Centre will focus on integrating the agreed goals of the Regional Strategy into NSSDs of the individual Mediterranean coastal States. (1)

Within the remit of its technical mandate, REMPEC will foster the adoption of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol as there are still fifteen coastal States which are not Parties to it. REMPEC will also promote the ratification by the Mediterranean coastal States of relevant international maritime conventions referred to in the Annex to Resolution I of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, whose implementation will enforce the MSSD. (1)

Cross-cutting issues

REMPEC will organize regional and national training activities and exercises on topics relevant to the Strategy including on the prevention of pollution from ships, and on full scale spill response exercise. A comprehensive training programme on prevention of pollution from ships (IMO funded) is being finalized. The capacity building activities have already started in Serbia and Montenegro.

As far as information and communication are concerned, REMPEC will update the relevant parts of the Regional Information System (RIS) and in collaboration with the national Focal Points improve the RIS in order to make it more accessible to the users within the Contracting Parties. The Centre will also make directly available to such users various databases and decision support tools. Depending on available financial and human resources, an information section on the legal framework on the protection of sensitive marine areas is being considered.

In addition to developing closer links with national Maritime Administrations of the Contracting Parties, the Centre will strengthen its interaction with NGO's or associations related to sea transport of oil and other Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) shipping or oil spill response, such as Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF), the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners for Safe Transport, Cleaner Seas and Free Competition (Intertanko), International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF), International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) and, at the regional level, the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG). Closer links will be established with organizations working in the field of rehabilitation of wildlife in case of spills and their partners in individual Mediterranean countries. REMPEC, in cooperation with NGO's and associations working in this field, intends to also explore possibilities for increasing awareness on the importance of the prevention of pollution from ships. Linkages established with several Regional Seas Centres strengthen REMPEC support to the implementation of the Regional Strategy.

REMPEC is the implementing body of the MEDA regional project "Euromed Cooperation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships (SAFEMED)". This EC project, contracted to IMO on behalf of REMPEC, aims at increasing the capacities, enhancing the knowledge and training of Maritime Administrations in the Project's beneficiary countries, which are the Mediterranean countries forming part of the Euromed process. The Centre will extend several key activities of benefit to the Mediterranean coastal States which are not Euromed partners, with a view to ensuring the uniform distribution of the project results throughout the entire region. The goals of SAFEMED project are fully compatible with the Regional Strategy.

Synergies with other MAP components have been identified in the field of water ballast management and protection of marine sensitive areas (SPA/RAC). REMPEC will liaise with INFO/RAC and other MAP Partners in order to establish a communication strategy for disseminating its information and technical guidelines. The latter refers in particular to the new guidelines on the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft, which REMPEC will develop during the biennium.

MEDPOL

In the framework of priority field 2.7 related to "Promoting sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones and taking urgent action to put an end to the degradation of coastal zones" and under the objective to the prevent and reduce land based pollution, all efforts will be concentrated on the preparation of an adequate legal, technical, institutional and financial ground to enable countries to fully implement the National Action Plans (NAPs) to address Land Based Sources of Pollution endorsed by the last Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005.

In this context MED POL carried out a preliminary analysis of the information included in the NAPs and prepared a country-by-country synopsis including a description of the priority issues and actions for 2010 and 2025, the proposed role of public participation and financial resources to cover the cost of the actions. In addition, MED POL prepared a regional sector-based analysis of the priority actions described in the NAPs.

Following the very positive experience of the process of preparation of NAPs, in which the participatory process (national and local authorities, private sector and NGOs) directly contributed to the identification of the priorities and the formulation of the Plans, concrete activities have been and will continue to be implemented to keep the momentum and promote and facilitate the participation of all stakeholders in the long-term process of implementation of the actions described in the Plans. In this connection, two major actions are being implemented: the creation of a platform (in cooperation with MIO-ECSDE) and a clearing-house mechanism to permanently keep NGOs informed of the developments and promote and assist their full participation in the decision-making process, and the inclusion of NGOs in the new GEF Strategic Partnership aiming at the implementation of the NAPs.

An analysis will be made of the content of the NAPs and the identification of national, and accordingly transboundary, priorities for municipal and industrial pollution reduction including policy and legislative gaps. The analysis will also include a review of the existing policies for transfer of technology and of the needs for achieving better integration of all stakeholders in the NAPs implementation process. The analysis, which will be made in cooperation with other relevant RACs and partners, is expected to provide the basic knowledge for the preparation of an assistance programme (including technical, legal, institutional and policy aspects) and for creating a mechanism of transfer of technology mostly related to the application of BAT and BEP. It will allow the identification of the main subjects needing capacity building and the formulation of a detailed formulation of a country by country capacity building programme which is expected to be implemented as part of the new GEF Project.

As it was for the preparatory phase of the NAPs, the new GEF initiative is again expected to play a substantial role to facilitate their concrete implementation. The new GEF initiative foresees a series a capacity building programmes that should help GEF-eligible countries in their implementation process, in parallel to similar initiatives carried out by MED POL in all the countries of the region. Work will continue on the strengthening of the existing inspection systems for pollution control in cooperation with WHO/MED POL as well the preparation of a number of technical documents on municipal wastewaters treatment plants and the use of reclaimed water.

Special efforts will be made to ensure the financial sustainability of the implementation of the NAPs in the countries. With the help of GEF and in cooperation with the UNEP/GPA, a review will be made of all the existing regional and national financing practices in the region related to the water sector and land-based pollution with a special focus on the private sector which will include the formulation of a viable financial action plan/mechanism to support sustainable financing for the implementation of the SAP MED and the NAPs. In addition, although the Mediterranean countries had initially agreed on pollution reductions to be equally implemented by all countries (in terms of deadlines and quantities) an analysis of the feasibility as well as the implications of the application of the differentiated approach for pollution reduction will be performed to ensure that the pollution reductions proposed by the SAP/NAPs are feasible, enforceable and ensure fairness between all the countries. The possible application of the differentiated approach would substantially change the terms of the pollution reduction process as part of the implementation of the NAPs.

In parallel, close contacts were kept with the EC during the process of formulation and launch of the "Horizon 2020" initiative for the depollution of the Mediterranean. In view of the very similar objectives of the EC initiative and the SAP/NAPs, and also considering the large amount of data and information collated during the first years of implementation of the SAP as well as the formal endorsement of the NAPs by the Contracting Parties, every effort should be made to create an effective synergy between the two programmes and increase the prospects of entering into a concrete phase of pollution reduction.

Blue Plan

For the year 2006 the Blue Plan has been requested to initiate the documentation of 34 priority indicators and to embark on follow up activities concerning the themes of "Water" and "Energy and climate change". The assessment of the progress in other thematic areas will start in the following years with the view to obtain a first progress report in 2010-2011 to serve as the Mediterranean contribution to the third Global Summit on Sustainable Development.

Sustainable Development Indicators

A Regional workshop has been organized in May 2005, with the EEA, and the ERS/RAC on the indicators for sustainable development strategies and policies. 58 participants from 19 Mediterranean countries and international and regional institutions attended the workshop.

The Workshop made an assessment of the implementation of the recommendations adopted in 1999, allowed discussion on Indicators and made proposals for the follow up of the MSSD. 34 Indicators were identified and proposed to the MCSD for the monitoring of the Strategy.

This activity was followed with the preparation of "sheets" for each of the agreed indicators. These sheets indicate the rationale for choosing the indicator, clarify the definitions and the available sources of information. The Blue Plan will resort to the different data bases to assemble the latest information and make them available for the MCSD meeting in 2007. With these indicators it will be possible to show how the Mediterranean evolved between 1990 and 2005 and assess whether it is getting closer to the objectives established by the Strategy.

However, several indicators are not available at the international level. It is therefore important that riparian countries be involved in gathering the information, on a voluntary basis.

Monitoring progress in priority themes of the MSSD

Monitoring the activities in each of the priority themes of the Strategy is an opportunity to involve qualified networks and institutions at a regional level as well as experts, authorities and actors directly concerned in the voluntary countries. This is indispensable in order to ensure broad strategy ownership and to foster the implementation of policies that the Strategy advocates in the priority fields of action.

Water

Now that the MSSD has been adopted by the CPs with the objectives to stabilize the water demand and manage it while taking into account environmental issues, the follow up activities focuses on measuring progress during the last years in important sectors (rural, industrial and urban water), as well as in national and cooperation policies. An expert meeting took place from 15 to 16 September 2005 that helped the BP to clarify the objectives, the content, the organization and the workplan for 2006-2007.

During the preparatory phase the BP/RAC was supported by four voluntary countries (Turkey, France, Tunisia, Morocco) and established contact with the main qualified expert networks in the Mediterranean (the Secretariat of Global Water Partnership GWP/MED, the Mediterranean Water Institute/MWI, the CIHEAM). Other qualified networks will be involved as well as other MAP/Regional Activity Centres.

The partners proposed to organize a workshop in 2007 to assess the progress in the following areas: water for the ecosystems, rural water, industrial water and domestic water. The result of the workshop will be presented and discussed during the meeting of the MCSD in 2007.

Energy

The main objectives are to develop policies for energy efficiency (rational use of energy) and to increase the share of renewable energy. The Report on Environment and Development underlined the importance of such an alternative scenario from an economic and environmental perspective. This is the fundamental condition to control the green house gas emissions

In order to prepare the activity, contacts have been established in 2005, with the main competent networks in the region namely the OME, MEDENER, the regional project MEDREP and the summer Mediterranean University. The FEMISE has also been involved taking into account the economic challenges and the need to analyze the market instruments that could speed up the transition towards the objectives set by the MSSD. CP/RAC was also associated.

A workshop is foreseen in 2007 to discuss the results.

As in the case of the exercise on water demand, the MCSD meeting in 2007 will be invited to discuss the results and make proposals, if need be, to speed up the implementation of policies in the countries and develop cooperation at the regional level.

CP/RAC

Follow up on relevant Objectives, orientations and actions of Priority Fields of action

In the Priority Field of action 2.7, CP/RAC is mainly concerned with the promotion of environmentally sound production processes, products and services in relation to the segment on Preventing and reducing land-based pollution (3). Current and future activities include knowledge management, information and capacity building activities such as:

- preparing studies on pollution prevention opportunities in industrial sectors (cement sector, auxiliary operations in the chemical sector, ceramics sector);
- disseminating information on successful experiences linking the environmentally sound management of industrial processes with economic and corporate;
- promoting knowledge and technologies transfer, mainly through training activities and updating of experts and technologies databases;
- assessing the status and trends of the industrial sector concerning sustainable development

While the primary target audiences are the industrialists, CP/RAC also provides technical information and training to support the countries in promoting sound techniques in their national industrial sector.

It is important to note that CP/RAC contribution to the MSSD implementation goes beyond the Priority 2.7. Indeed the CP/RAC mandate "to promote cleaner production as mechanism for decoupling industrial development from environmental depletion and to foster sustainable production patterns in the economic sector of the Region" calls for a substantive contribution with regard to other MSSD priorities such as Energy, Water demand management, Tourism, Agriculture, Urban development. As such, CP/RAC participates to the related Working Groups steered by the Blue Plan.

Cross-cutting issues

All CP/RAC activities will develop further linkages with regional, national institutions and NGOs, including specific stakeholders such as academics.

SPA/RAC

Follow up on relevant objectives, orientations and actions of Priority Field of Action 2.7

In line with its mandate, SPA/RAC is particularly concerned with the MSSD objectives, orientations and actions pertaining to the protection of marine and coastal biodiversity and marine resources. Current and future activities include knowledge management, information and capacity building activities such as:

- Supporting the countries to launch the SAP BIO Programme;
- Implementing the SAP BIO programme within the regional component of the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem. (1)
- Assisting Mediterranean countries in elaborating and managing their national clearing-house mechanisms on biological diversity; Establishing a Mediterranean clearing-house mechanism on biological diversity, in close cooperation with EEA, in coordination with national Clearing House Mechanisms (CHMs) and the Convention on Biological Diversity's CHM. (3).
- Undertaking inventory and mapping campaigns of sea grass meadows and marine vegetal formations that could be considered "natural monuments"; Promoting new marine protected areas for cetacean, by using the criteria for the establishment of SPAs defined by ACCOBAMS. Assisting countries in preparing their national action plans for the conservation of threatened species; Encouraging countries to set up networks for monitoring vegetal formations and adopt conservation measures based on objective criteria. (4)
- Assisting Eastern Mediterranean countries in proposing marine and coastal protected areas for inclusion in the SPAMI List. (5)
- Assisting Mediterranean countries in improving their capacities in the field of conservation and management of sites of natural interest and endangered species. (9)
- Organizing, in close collaboration with Bern and Bonn Conventions, INFO/RAC and IFAW, a Conference on Monk Seal for the activation of the implementation of the Action Plan; Carrying out conservation actions for cetaceans in close cooperation with ACCOBAMS; Collaborating with IUCN on the finalization and testing of a procedure for the evaluation of sites included on the SPAMI List. Collaborating with FAO/GFCM on the issues related to the interactions between fisheries and marine endangered species in the Mediterranean. (10).

Cross-cutting issues

With regard to cross-cutting issues, SPA/RAC will continue:

- Building up partnerships with appropriate international and national institutions and NGO's and in particular with BirdLife and MedWet for the conservation of marine and coastal bird species.
- Cooperating with REMPEC, to assess SPAMIs that could be proposed for designation as PSSAs by IMO.
- Collaborating with PAP/RAC in the implementation of CAMP Projects (e.g. Slovenia, Cyprus, Spain.)
- Finalising a Mediterranean Strategy on Fouling, Ballast Waters and Sediment Monitoring and Management in close consultation with REMPEC and the GEF/UNDP/IMO GloBallast Partnerships.
- Collaborating with INFO/RAC in information and communication activities

- Collaborating with the Total Corporate Foundation (private sector) in the implementation of a project for the mapping and monitoring of *Poseidonia* meadows in four Mediterranean countries.

Establishing a programme of work for the development of protected areas, with the aim of helping countries of the region to develop before 2012 a representative network of marine protected areas, in accordance with the recommendations of the SAP BIO and in close cooperation with WWF.

Collaborating with various Mediterranean national universities and research institutes (University of Alicante, University of Catania, Istituto centrale per la ricerca scientifica e tecnologica applicata al mare (ICRAM), Institut National des sciences et Technologies de la mer (INSTM), Marine Biology Research Centre (MBRC) MBRC, National Center for Marine Research (NCMR).

INFO/RAC

Following the adoption by the Contracting Parties of the MSSD, the Secretariat will embark on an exercise to promote the strategy at the international, regional and local levels through an information and communication strategy. The overall goal of the exercise is to make the MSSD better understood, more widely disseminated and increase its political and public support for its effective implementation. This challenge is being entrusted to INFO/RAC.

The promotion of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) requires the sustained involvement of political leaders, the private and business sectors, as well as NGOs and the general public. At the same time, information and communication activities aimed at the wider audience are needed to achieve the targets set out by the MSSD. One of the challenges for INFO/RAC during 2006-2007 is to draft an innovative vision to promote the Strategy and its goals, strengthen various communication capacities, involve key actors and so better mobilize resources towards promoting a high profile and significance of the MSSD.

During their 14th Meeting in Slovenia, the Contracting Parties approved a recommendation entrusting INFO/RAC with the development of a specific Information and Communication strategy to be submitted to the Parties in November 2007. A strategic information and communication plan, along with the "MSSD IC Strategic Vision", will be submitted for discussion during the 11th MCSD Meeting in Cyprus. Following the endorsement of the Strategic Vision, a wider consultation process will be held among all stakeholders (institutions, firms, NGOs, journalists and opinion leaders) using an IC on-line Forum, the on-line magazine Campus Ecomedia and several MSSD IC Forum Meetings. A draft paper on the MSSD IC Strategy will be prepared during 2007.

100 Historic Sites

The 100 Historical Sites Programme is supporting the implementation of the MSSD at the regional and national levels. The 100 Mediterranean Historical Sites Programme is in a phase of transformation as its field of activities is no longer limited to the listed historical sites but encompasses the cultural environment in Mediterranean countries.

With regard to the MSSD, the Centre provides support in the seven priority fields of action, particularly under point 2.7 "Promoting sustainable management of the sea and coastal zones and taking urgent action to put an end to the degradation of coastal zones".

The Programme's activities strive to establish the technical aspects and the cultural dimension of environmental themes. For example:

- methods for waste management in particularly fragile historical centres;
- physical and legal protection of the vicinity of archaeological sites and monuments;

- protection, restoration and development of urban heritage for purposes of tourism;
- training operators (tourism enterprises, local communities) on heritage protection;
- socio-economic integration of local population in protection programme;
- protection and development of cultural identity and cultural landscapes.

The 100 Historical Sites Programme operates in close collaboration with other sustainable development actors in the region. For example, on the occasion of the evaluation of the Euromed Heritage I, covering all Mediterranean countries, the Programme contributes to a network, composed of 200 administrative and technical services, scientific institutions, local authorities, civil society and NGOs. Moreover, the 100 Historical Sites Programme belongs to the Euro Mena Network that includes experts and competent public figures, such as from UNESCO, ICOMOS, IUCN, the Council of Europe, the European Commission and inter-city partnerships between Marseilles and the cities of the Mediterranean Basin.

At the field level, the 100 Historical Sites Programme collaborates with PAP/RAC on CAMPs, for example in relation to the Island of Rhodes (Greece), the coastal zones of Sfax (Tunisia), Fuka Matrouh (Egypt) and the Algérois (Algeria).

At the request of the World Bank, the Programme is participating in the training of elected local and district officials from the Maghreb and Mashreq countries. Training seminars have been held in Marrakech, Algiers, Damas, Amman and Alexandria on the strategy for the development of cities, major natural risks, waste management and public spaces. In partnership with the World Bank, the Programme has undertaken studies on the cultural environment and the economic resources that cities can generate through their cultural assets and heritage. Activities currently expand on to tourism to cover implementation of the development of strategy, the establishment or reinforcement of tourism services and the proposal of tourist circuits/routes in close collaboration with local and national authorities (e.g. in cities of Tartous, Shahba, Dera in Syria).

VII. Programme of Work of the MCSD

The programme of work of the MCSD was approved by the members of the Commission at their last meeting in Athens in June, 2005 and adopted by the Contracting Parties during their 14th Meeting in Portoroz, Slovenia, in November, 2005. It is intended to address the objectives and the proposals related to the seven priority fields of action identified in the MSSD with the involvement of all MAP components. The MCSD Programme of Work is in **Annex V**.

Monitoring of MSSD implementation

Progress on achieving the objectives of sustainable development will be followed through regular monitoring of progress made on MSSD implementation. This monitoring will make it possible:

- To evaluate the region's evolution in relation to the MSSD objectives;
- To identify the obstacles for policies to evolve and for the Strategy to be implemented;
- To identify the tools and leverages that facilitate progress or that could accelerate policy implementation;
- To make proposals for fostering the implementation of policies on a Mediterranean-wide scale and in the countries.

On the one hand this means documenting the 34 priority monitoring indicators on a regular basis, and on the other, systematically going into greater depth in analysing complementary indicators, good practices, obstacles and policy tools for each of the 7 priority topics (water, energy/climate, tourism, agriculture and rural development, urban development, transport, and sea and coastal management).

Monitoring offers an opportunity for sharing experience on a regional basis. To this end, regional workshops are envisaged to be held on the seven priority action fields. The outcomes of these workshops would be submitted to the MCSD to induce debate on the priority fields and to generate ideas for accelerating the implementation of policies in countries and on the regional level.

Associating other qualified regional institutions and networks with these activities will make it possible to promote MCSD concerns and proposals at meetings other than those of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

At the Portoroz meeting, the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat (BP/RAC) to carry out monitoring under the Secretariat's leadership and with support from other MAP components and partners. The Contracting Parties have also requested that during the 2006-2007 work should start on documenting the 34 MSSD priority indicators. The selection process of coastal and marine indicators as well as on water and energy/climate topics will be carried out in 2006, and on tourism and rural development topics in 2007. Monitoring of progress on other MSSD topics will be done over the coming years so as to draw up a first detailed progress report in 2010-2011.

Activities on indicators

Starting in March 2006, countries will be invited to designate experts in charge of indicator activities. BP/RAC will prepare detailed files for each indicator and will compile available data. Selecting indicators for national sustainable development strategies will be discussed during support missions in countries that are planned to take place in 2006/2007.

Complementary thematic indicators will be selected and documented for each priority topic. In this regard, a set of basic coastal and marine indicators need to be identified. This activity will be carried out by all MAP components under the direction of the Secretariat and with the methodological support from BP/RAC.

Thematic activities

Expert meetings have already been organised by BP/RAC on the issues of water and energy in order to initiate the activities in the coming months. Meetings are planned very soon on tourism and on rural development. Concerning tourism, the main objective will be to assess the implementation of the recommendations adopted in 1999. In addition, it would be opportune to consider the setting up of a proper mechanism for regional cooperation in this field, which would justify deeper discussion within MCSD.

So far, the main regional partners affiliated with these activities are the following:

- IME, GWP-Med, CIHEAM, MIO-ECSDE and Medwet for water;
- OME, MEDENER, Medrep programme, PAP/RAC and UMET for energy;
- CIHEAM and SilvaMediterranea for rural development.

Regional workshops on energy and water are planned by BP/RAC for January and March 2007, and for tourism and rural development in early 2008. Those partners and experts that would have contributed to the activities in the countries would be invited to participate together with other actors (MCSD members, local authorities, NGOs and donors) and MAP centres. The countries/cities to host the water and energy workshops in 2007 have still to be determined.

Working/Expert Groups

At the 10th meeting of the MCSD in Athens in June, 2005, consideration was given to the setting up of working groups, on an "ad hoc" basis, for the thematic activities. MCSD members have already been requested to inform the Secretariat about the thematic issues they would like to be involved with once it is decided to set up the relative working groups. On the basis of the replies

received, a schedule showing the interest shown by the members has been compiled and can be found in the **Annex VI**.

It should be noted that half of the countries have indicated their interest to be involved in at least one thematic issue. Other MCSD members (e.g. NGOs, networks and local authorities) have also indicated their interest. Some countries have raised their concern that setting up new groups should not duplicate those that the Contracting Parties have requested to organise.

The setting up of working groups was initially intended to harmonize visions, define orientations for action and prepare the Strategy. Now that the MSSD has been approved, the stakes are different. With the shift from MSSD formulation to implementation, the role and composition of the working groups may need reconsideration. In this respect, the last Steering Committee meeting concluded that thematic issues would be addressed by expert groups, which would also be open to all categories of the MCSD membership.

The MCSD should retain its role as a regional forum for discussion and to formulate proposals. Between Commission meetings, the members can play an important role by mobilizing and involving the various authorities concerned, in identifying the experts/leaders to be involved in the topics, in supporting the implementation of tasks given to the Secretariat (MEDU and RACs) and in informing and encouraging debate on the results of the activities carried out.

MCSD New Members

MCSD members representing the Civil Society (non-CP members) are renewed every two years. A questionnaire was sent to all MAP Partners and to potential interested candidates with the view of joining the MCSD. The following are the members and alternate members of the MCSD representing civil society as approved by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz:

MCSD members representing the Civil Society:

- a) *Local Authorities*: the Network of Medcities, the Region of Sicily (Italy) and the Association of Italian Local Agenda 21 (Italy);
- b) *Socio-economic Actors*: UMCE – Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises; Chamber of Commerce of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton;
- c) *NGOs/IGOs*: Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM), Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), Environnement Développement et Action au Maghreb (ENDA/Maghreb), Friends of the Earth - Europe/Mediterranean (FoE/Mednet), GREENPEACE, League for the environment (LEGAMBIENTE), Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program (METAP), Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), Sustainable Business Associates (SBA)

Alternate Members: L'Association Internationale Forêts Méditerranéennes (AIFM), Association pour la Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement de Kairouan (APNEK), Euro Arab Management School (EAMS), Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMPEA), International Marine Centre (IMC), Institut Méditerranée de l'eau (IME), International Ocean Institute (IOI), Le Mouvement Ecologique Algérien (MEA), Research and conservation of island & coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean (MEDMARAVIS), Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME), Tour de Valat, Sustainability Challenge Foundation (SCF), Union of Northern Association for Development, Environment, Patrimony (UNADEP) and the University of the Aegean (UoA).

VIII. HORIZON 2020 Initiative

As stated earlier in this report, the MSSD was endorsed by the Euro-Mediterranean Summit in Barcelona, in November 2005. At the summit to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean process, the partners committed themselves to “endorse a feasible time-table to de-pollute the Mediterranean Sea by 2020, while providing appropriate financial resources and technical support to implement it, using the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and exploring possible areas for co-operation in this regard with UNEP”.

Following-up on this declaration, the European Commission organized a Technical and Ministerial Meeting on 19 December, 2005 to support the launch of the initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean by 2020 entitled Horizon 2020. Subsequently, the European Commission produced a first draft of the Horizon 2020 “Roadmap” which has been circulated for consultation with the various stakeholders and partners before issuing it as a proposal as part of a Communication from the Commission in July 2006. The MAP Secretariat submitted to the EC both general comments and specific proposals on the initiative in response to this consultation process.

During the Technical and Ministerial meeting, the MAP Secretariat stressed the importance of synergies with existing programmes in the Mediterranean region and emphasized the point that land-based pollution assessment and control has been a core activity of MAP for many years. A number of recommendations on how to improve synergy between MAP and the EC on the Horizon 2020 were also made.

In view of the consultation process launched by the EC on the Horizon 2020 initiative and in view of the direct relationship between the implementation of the Horizon 2020 initiative and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) as confirmed by the Euro-Mediterranean Summit, considering also that the Cyprus meeting of the MCSD comes on the eve of the publication by the EC of the Communication on an environmental strategy for the Mediterranean in Summer 2006, the MAP Secretariat feels that it is appropriate to include this topic on the Agenda of the MCSD meeting in Cyprus.

It is worth pointing out that at its meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia last April, the Bureau of the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to write to the European Commission pointing out that, as a Contracting Party it should give due consideration to the proposals made by MAP during the Environmental High Level Meeting in Barcelona in November, 2005 for a better synergy between MAP and the EC and the implementation of the Horizon 2020 initiative. Moreover, the President of the Bureau was invited to meet the EU Commissioner for the Environment in order to discuss MAP’s full participation in the implementation of the Horizon 2020 initiative.

The Horizon 2020 paper is available on the internet at
http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/enlarg/med/horizon2020_en.htm

IX. Miscellaneous

Study on the Euro-Med Free Trade Area

The MCSD’s agenda includes a discussion on the European Initiative for a Free Trade Area between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean countries because of its importance for the future of the Mediterranean.

The Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (EMFTA) aims to engage members of civil society in the EU and its Mediterranean partner countries in evaluating the potential impacts of the planned free trade area on the sustainable development of the region. As well as providing information for the ongoing trade negotiations, the results of the

SIA are expected to have a significant influence on the design of the EU's technical assistance and related support programmes in the areas of trade and sustainable development.

The possible environmental impacts of the Free Trade Area were dealt with by the MCSD in 2000-2001. The results were published in the series of MAP Technical Reports. Moreover, Phase 2 of the independent Sustainability Impact Assessment Study of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area commissioned by the European Commission is nearly completed. The report of Phase 2 prepared by the SIA-EMFTA consortium led by the Institute for Development Policy and Management of Manchester University, is now available for consultation.

The assessment gives indications of the potential impacts of the proposed free trade area, if no mitigating actions or parallel enhancing measures are taken. The SIA report and its Executive Summary also include recommendations for policy measures to mitigate the potential adverse impacts and enhance the beneficial ones.

The two-page summary is available in the **Annex VII**. The full Executive Summary is available separately in Arabic, French and English. The full Phase 2 report of the SIA may be downloaded from <http://www.sia-trade.org>

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has roots going back to the first UN Conference on the Human Environment (1972). Since then, ESD has remained a central concern to UN and other stakeholders. Regionally this has translated into a WSSD Type II Initiative to promote ESD in the Mediterranean Region, entitled Mediterranean Educational Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MEdIES). More recently, during the UNECE "Environment for Europe" Conference in Kiev (2003), the Ministers of Education and Environment, recognized that education is a fundamental tool for environmental protection and sustainable development and that it plays an essential role in addressing a wide range of issues of Agenda 21. It became crucially important to develop a comprehensive ESD Strategy. The Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries at Vilnius (2005) adopted the Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development, as a practical instrument to promote sustainable development through education. The objective is to incorporate key themes of sustainable development in all education systems. These themes include: poverty alleviation, peace, ethics, democracy, justice, security, human rights, health, social equity, cultural diversity, economy, environmental protection and natural resource management.

Twenty six countries in total -Mediterranean and several non Mediterranean EU Countries, attended the launching of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region, organized by the Government of Greece, in collaboration with UNESCO, UNEP/MAP, UNECE and MIO-ECSDE, as well as the Italian Ministry of Environment and Territory. The participants adopted a Resolution according to which a Mediterranean Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development should be prepared to be submitted to the contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention for adoption as a supplement to the Mediterranean Strategy of Sustainable Development (MSSD). The rationale for a specific strategy is that the Mediterranean "eco-Region" does not correspond to a single UN-region and that the only operational UN body existing is UNEP-MAP (UN Environment Programme-Mediterranean Action Plan) operating as the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention. The Government of Greece has been mandated to facilitate the establishment and operation of a Task Force to prepare the draft Mediterranean Strategy for ESD. It is noted that the UNECE Strategy for ESD has already been adopted by 15 Mediterranean UNECE countries and it is therefore expected that such background will greatly facilitate the drafting.

The two page summary is available in the **Annex VIII**.

ANNEX I

PORTOROZ DECLARATION

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), meeting in Portoroz, Slovenia, from 8 to 11 November 2005, in the framework of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP),

Recalling that the Mediterranean Action Plan was approved in 1975 by the Governments of the Mediterranean States and the European Community to assist Mediterranean Governments to assess and control marine pollution, to formulate their national environment policies, to improve the ability of governments to identify better options for alternative patterns of development and to make better and rational use of resources;

Recognizing the valuable contribution that the Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols have made to improving the quality of the marine environment and promoting sustainable development in the Mediterranean;

Recognizing that over the last three decades MAP has been a significant instrument for change and progress concerning environmental matters in the Mediterranean;

Recalling the entry into force in 2004 of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the amended Barcelona Convention) and the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (the Prevention and Emergency Protocol);

Recalling that there should be a synergy between the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and other MAP components, on the one hand, and the forthcoming European Strategy for the Conservation and Protection of the Marine Environment and the European Union Maritime Policy, on the other hand;

Moreover, recognizing the valuable work undertaken by the MAP Secretariat, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and the MAP components, in particular the Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC), and recognizing the contributions from NGOs and civil society throughout the preparatory process of the MSSD;

Taking note of the outcomes and proposals of the Tenth Meeting of the MCSD (Athens, June 2005), in particular the finalized text of the MSSD and the Athens Charter;

Reaffirming the necessity for achieving sustainable development at regional, national and local levels in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Mediterranean Declaration for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) and the Catania Declaration;

Noting with satisfaction the recognition by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, through the Second Conference of Ministers of the Environment (Athens, July 2002) and the Seventh Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Luxembourg, May 2005) of the importance of the MCSD and the MSSD for mainstreaming sustainable development throughout the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership;

Convinced that promoting sustainable development is a vital necessity to meet development challenges in the Mediterranean region;

Convinced also that the elaboration and implementation of sustainable development strategies are necessary steps for promoting equity, shared prosperity and stability by enhancing the value of Mediterranean assets, reducing disparities, changing unsustainable production and consumption patterns, ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and improving governance at all levels;

With regard to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), agree that,

1. The MSSD constitutes an opportunity for Mediterranean countries to achieve progress in environmental protection, as well as social, economic and cultural advancement in a sustainable manner, thus contributing to peace, stability and shared prosperity in the region, as well as to the fulfilment of the commitments made by the Contracting Parties at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002 and the MDGs,
2. The MSSD is a framework strategy which defines key challenges, principles, steps and actions to guide the promotion and implementation of sustainable development at the regional, subregional and national levels, as well as to rationalize regional and international cooperation and promote dynamic partnerships for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region,
3. The MSSD does not concern only MAP and the Contracting Parties, but also all other actors and stakeholders from the private sector, civil society and other major groups, as well as relevant regional and international institutions; it provides an excellent opportunity to undertake coordinated efforts and achieve joint progress,
4. The MSSD is a flexible framework allowing for adaptation to major developments and the integration of determinant emerging issues,
5. The implementation of sustainable development strategies requires serious policy and institutional reforms together with the promotion of a dynamic culture of change, in particular concerning unsustainable production and consumption patterns,
6. The MSSD constitutes an essential contribution to a proactive win-win-win scenario based on synergies, efficient management and cultural diversity for a codeveloped ecoregion and a shared destiny,

7. The implementation of sustainable development strategies requires the application of various principles, including the satisfaction of the basic needs of all citizens, in line with the commitments of the Contracting Parties for the implementation of the MDGs, the promotion of education for sustainable development, access to information, a multistakeholder participatory approach, the precautionary and polluter/user-pays principles, as well as common, shared but differentiated responsibility,

The Contracting Parties decide,

1. To adopt the MSSD and make the commitment to do their utmost to implement its objectives, orientations and proposed actions as appropriate,
2. To prepare and/or update the respective National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs), giving due consideration to the MSSD,
3. To integrate sustainable development principles in their development and other relevant policies and legislation, in particular through the adequate revision of legal frameworks and relevant policy reforms,
4. To mobilize and provide relevant adequate human, technical and financial means for the implementation of the MSSD and NSSDs,
5. To demonstrate their commitment to the implementation of the MSSD by promoting education for sustainable development in their education programmes.
6. To demonstrate clearly their commitment to implementing the MSSD through the identification and implementation of specific and relevant projects at the regional, subregional, national and local levels,
7. To renew their commitment to the implementation of the WSSD Mediterranean Type II Partnership Initiative and to propose or actively participate in the elaboration and implementation of partnership initiatives that correspond to the objectives, orientations and proposed actions of the MSSD and the respective NSSDs,
8. To promote consultation mechanisms and awareness-raising campaigns to ensure broader ownership and stronger support from the concerned actors, in particular the private sector and NGOs, in their implementation,
9. To evaluate progress in the implementation of the MSSD at the regional and national levels, using an adequate set of indicators, to revise the MSSD as appropriate, if necessary in two years, and to undertake an overall assessment and review of the MSSD after five years,
10. To request the partners, concerned actors and funding agencies at the regional, subregional and national levels to give due consideration to the MSSD's objectives, orientations and proposed actions in their cooperation programmes and to contribute actively to the implementation of the MSSD and NSSDs, and the elaboration of the latter, where necessary.

With regard to the National Action Plans (NAPs)

Concerned with the significant impact of land based pollution on the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment and its ecosystems;

Aware of the important contribution of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) adopted in 1997, the related National Action Plans (NAPs) and the process of the reduction of industrial pollution by Mediterranean countries to the implementation of the MSSD;

Reaffirming the compatibility and concurrence of the SAP's targets with those of the EU Marine Strategy, the related EU directives and international Conventions;

Recognizing the necessity to involve all concerned stakeholders, including civil society and NGOs, in the implementation of the SAP and the related NAPs;

Considering that the process of the implementation of the NAPs, which will require adequate financial resources, will enhance economic, technological and social development at the local level, and also that the proposed GEF Partnership for the Mediterranean large marine ecosystem will contribute to their implementation;

Keeping in mind that, with the entry into force of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (the LBS Protocol), a legally-binding regional plan containing measures and a timetable for the gradual reduction of pollution, based on the SAP and other relevant international developments, will have to be formulated and adopted;

Considering that SAP and the NAPs provide useful tools already in place to contribute to the achievement of the proposed strategic goal for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership to depollute the Mediterranean by 2020.

The Contracting Parties decide,

1. To endorse the NAPs and integrate them into their national development plans, national strategies and pollution control plans, including prevention and reduction measures, as appropriate,
2. To encourage the involvement of all stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring of the NAPs,
3. To mobilize all necessary resources for the full implementation of the NAPs through national regular budgets and innovative financial instruments, as well as from international institutions,
4. To contribute to the implementation of the proposed Euro-Mediterranean Partnership initiative, once it has been endorsed, to depollute the Mediterranean by 2020, based on MAP's ongoing and future work, in particular on the SAP and the NAPs.

With regard to the conservation of the Monk Seal

Considering that the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol) entered into force in 1999, and *aware* of the urgent need to implement the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP-BIO), adopted in 2003 as a response to safeguard Mediterranean biodiversity and achieve the WSSD's targets;

Concerned at the high risk of extinction of the Mediterranean Monk Seal, mostly due to human activities, deliberate killings and habitat losses;

Aware that the recovery of this species is a major challenge for the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity;

Noting with satisfaction the success stories of the integration of the conservation of this species into local development processes;

Recognizing the necessity of having an appropriate legal framework and participatory mechanisms for the protection and conservation of this species and its habitats;

Acknowledging the need to have adequate operational tools, together with appropriate human and financial resources for targeted conservation and efficient management;

The Contracting Parties decide,

1. To take as quickly as possible all necessary measures for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus Monachus*) and to strengthen their cooperation to reverse the decline of the species,
2. To seriously address the problem of deliberate Monk Seal killing, combined with habitat loss, through action tailored to local communities and involving fishermen and other stakeholders,
3. To promote information on relevant success stories regarding the protection of the Monk Seal and exchange experience with all concerned parties and partners,
4. To further develop, implement and enforce legislative measures relevant to the conservation of the Monk seal, including incentive and regulatory measures, together with adequate operational management plans for targeted human activities,
5. To contribute to the implementation of relevant activities by concerned countries, the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) and its partners through bilateral cooperation and voluntary contributions.

With regard to the future orientation of MAP

Acknowledging the need to review, after 10 years, the role and mandate of MAP, taking into account the developments that have taken place in social, economic and environmental fields at the international and regional level;

Convinced that a Strategic Vision for MAP can further contribute to sustainable development in the Mediterranean region;

Considering that the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the external evaluation of MAP may constitute a good basis for launching the process to introduce any necessary reforms to strengthen MAP's future role in the Mediterranean;

The Contracting Parties decide,

1. To request the MAP Secretariat to draft a vision statement for MAP, taking note of the MAP evaluation report,
2. To convene an extraordinary meeting of the MAP Focal Points as soon as possible to discuss the new vision for MAP and to submit recommendations for MAP's future orientation to the meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007.

ANNEX II**MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE MCSD**

<u>1ST MCSD (1996/1998)</u>	<u>4TH MCSD (1998/1999)</u>	<u>5TH MCSD (1999/2000)</u>
President: MOROCCO Vice President: ASCAME Vice President : CREE Vice President : CROATIA Vice President : EGYPT Vice President : EC Vice President : TUNISIA Rapporteur : ECOMEDITERRANEA	President : TUNISIA Vice President : EOAEN Vice President : CYPRUS Vice President : MIO-ECSDE Vice President : SILIFKE Vice President : SPAIN Rapporteur : MONACO	President : TUNISIA Vice President : EOAEN Vice President : ROME Vice President : MALTA Vice President : MONACO Vice President : TURKEY Rapporteur : WWF
<u>6th MCSD (2000/2002)</u>	<u>7th MCSD (2002/2003)</u>	<u>8th MCSD (2003/2004)</u>
President : MONACO Vice President : TUNISIA Vice President : MALTA Vice President : GREECE Vice President : EOAEN Vice President : ENDA Rapporteur: NAPLES	President: TURKEY Vice President: MONACO Vice President: ALGERIA Vice President: SPAIN Vice President: CALVIA Vice President: MEDENER Rapporteur: ENDA	President: CROATIA Vice President: LIBYA Vice President: FRANCE Vice President: MONACO/ITALY Vice President: OMISALJ Vice President: ICC/MED Rapporteur: RAED
<u>9th MCSD (2004/2005)</u>	<u>10th MCSD (2005/2006)</u>	
President: ITALY Vice President: GREECE Vice President: MOROCCO Vice President: FoE/MEDNET Vice President: MEDCITIES Vice President: ICC/MED Rapporteur: CYPRUS	President: GREECE Vice President: SLOVENIA Vice President: TUNISIA Vice President: BiH Vice President: MEDCITIES Vice President: MIO-ECSDE Rapporteur: FoE/MED	

ANNEX III

Conclusions of the 10th meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee, Athens, 16 March 2006

- The Steering Committee agreed that action at the national level was essential for the next phase of the implementation of the MSSD and called upon the MAP components to provide the necessary support to assist in the development and implementation of NSSDs. In this respect, the BP/RAC was encouraged to go ahead with its plans to provide technical support at the national level, particularly on indicators.
- In view of the strong support for the MSSD expressed by the Euro-Mediterranean Summit, held in Barcelona in November 2005, the Steering Committee emphasized that the road map being developed to follow up the Summit should specify concrete support measures for the implementation of the MSSD. The EC/MAP joint programme of work should also include concrete action and support for the implementation of the MSSD.
- The Steering Committee welcomed the initiative of the organization of a sub-regional conference for Adriatic Countries as a practical step towards the implementation of the MSSD.
- The Steering Committee emphasized the importance of the cross-cutting issues identified in the MCSD programme of work and encouraged all MAP components to continue to give these issues full attention throughout their thematic activities.
- Care should be taken to ensure the involvement of all sectors of the MCSD membership, including the representatives of NGOs, socio-economic actors and local authorities, in all activities for the implementation of the MSSD.
- The Steering Committee agreed that thematic issues would be addressed by expert groups, which would also be open to all categories of the MCSD membership.
- The Steering Committee welcomed the draft vision for an Information and Communication Strategy presented by Info/RAC and encouraged the further definition and refinement of the vision with the view to its submission to the 11th meeting of the MCSD. The importance of an effective Information and Communication Strategy was emphasized for the dissemination of knowledge and awareness of the MSSD. It noted that Info/RAC would set up an advisory group for the development of the Information and Communication Strategy.
- The Steering Committee emphasized the issue of MCSD membership, with particular regard to the representation local authorities and socio-economic actors. Potential members from these categories should be approached.
- The Steering Committee approved the agenda of the 11th meeting of the MCSD.

ANNEX IV

Table 1. SD related Strategic Initiatives and Frameworks (Updated March 2006)

	National SD Strategy	National Environmental Strategy for Sustainable Development	National Environment Action Strategies or/and Plans	Links to overall national planning framework	Examples of Other relevant Strategic Frameworks
Albania			NEAP (1994-2002) NES (2006, on-going)		PRSP/NSEED (2001), MDGs (2006)
Algeria		National Action Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development (2002)		Strategy for Economic Revival (2001-2004)	Regional plans for coastal management PRS (2004-2007))
Bosnia and Herzegovina			NEAP (2002)		
Croatia			NEAP (2002)		
Cyprus			EAP (1996) Action Plan for the Protection of the Environment	Strategic Development Plan (2004-2006)	
Egypt	NSSD started in 2005		NEAP (2002-2017) National Agenda 21 (?)	Development and Reconstruction Map of Egypt up to 2017	
France	NSSD (2003)				
Greece	NSSD (2002)				
Israel	Strategic Plans for Sustainable Development in each Ministry (2003)			National Master Plan for Development and Conservation; Coastal Area Management Programme (1996)	Sector Master Plans for Infrastructures and Protection of Natural Resources
Italy	NSSD (2002)	Environmental Strategy for Sustainable development (2002)		National Document for Economic and Financial Planning 2001-2004	
Lebanon					PRS
Lybian Arab Jamahirrya					
Malta	NSSD being finalised			National Development Plan 2004-6	Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands 1990
Monaco					
Morocco	NSSD started in 2005	National Strategy for Environment and Sustainable Development (1995). National Action Plan for Environment (1998)		National Plan for Economic and Social development (1999-2003)	National Charter for Land Management and Sustainable Development (2004) PRSP
Montenegro	Sustainable Strategy of the Ecological State of Montenegro (1996), NSSD under preparation (2005)				
Slovenia			NEAP (1999)	Strategy for Economic development (2001-2006)	
Spain	Draft NSSD (2002)				
Syria	NSSD under preparation (2006)		NEAP (2001)		
Tunisia	National Agenda 21 (1995)			10 th Social and Economic Development Plan (2002-2006)	
Turkey			NEAP (1998)	FYP 1991-1996 and successors	

Table 4. Examples of Mechanisms for vertical and horizontal integration (Updated March 2006)

	Coordination between sectors	Local level initiatives	Promotion of integrating tools and instruments
Albania	Various decision-making and implementation inter-ministerial structures (committees, board, council), committee for NEAP implementation.	Local Environmental Action Plans	SEA and EIA (drafted), Environment Taxes Environmental permits Law on environmental protection (2002)
Algeria			EIA (1990), Environment Taxes, polluter pays Framework legislation on environmental protection in a SD context, specific legislation (waste, energy, air quality), Legislation and Funds on Land use planning and SD
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Environmental Steering Committee	Local Environmental Action Plans and Local Agendas 21	EIA Environment Taxes, (water, waste), economic instruments*
Croatia		Local Agendas 21	EIA (1984) Environment Taxes*
Cyprus	Environmental Committee		EIA (1991) Fiscal tools
Egypt	Environment units in sector ministries and in local governments	Governorate Environmental Action Plans	EIA Polluter pays
France	Inter-ministerial committee, SD focal points in concerned ministries	"Contrats-pays" Local Agendas 21	EIA (1977), Environment taxes
Greece	Inter-ministerial coordination committee	Local Agendas 21	SIA and EIA, various economic instruments*
Israel	Inter-ministerial committee, SD focal points from concerned ministries	Local Agendas 21	EIA Polluter pays principle, eco labeling, voluntary initiatives
Italy	Commission of the Inter-ministerial committee for economic planning	Regional SDS and Local Agenda 21	SEA and EIA, Framework Act on environmental Accounting, ecotaxes and eco labeling, quality certification, etc.*
Lebanon		Local Agendas 21	
Lybia			
Malta	NCSO in liaison with the Council for Economic and Social Development Green Leaders Scheme	Eco-schools	SEA and EIA , various instruments*
Monaco			
Morocco			EIA (drafted)
Montenegro		Local Environmental Action Plans	EIA (1997), environmental taxes and users fees, polluter pays
Slovenia		Local Agendas 21	EIA and SIA, Polluter pays
Spain	Inter-ministerial commission for coordination	Municipal and regional Agendas 21	EIA and SEA, various instruments*
Syria	Steering Committee liaises with Higher Council for Environmental protection		EIA
Tunisia		Local Agendas 21	EIA (1997)
Turkey		Local Agendas 21	EIA

* see details in main text

Table 5. Examples of Mechanisms of stakeholder involvement: coordination, participation, consultation (Updated March 2006)

	Lead Organisation	Multi stakeholder Steering Body	Sector involvement and coordination	Substantive Inputs during preparation	Stakeholder Consultation events during preparation
Albania	Ministry of the Environment, Forest and Water Administration	National/local Councils of Territory Regulation	Various decision-making and implementation inter-ministerial structures (committees, board), intersector committee for NEAP implementation	Expert consultations	Workshops and National meeting with stakeholders. National conference on environment and sustainable development (2002)
Algeria	Ministry of Land Management and Environment	High council of Environment and Sustainable Development (1994)			
Bosnia and Herzegovina	NEAP Directorate	National Steering Committee for Environment and Sustainable Development (2002)	Environmental Steering Committee	NEAP Steering Committees	Workshops with stakeholders
Croatia	Strategic Planning Office				Workshop with stakeholders. Public hearings on EIA
Cyprus	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	Council for the Environment	Environmental Committee		
Egypt	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency	Steering Committee	EEAA Board of Directorates; Environment units in sector ministries and in local governments	EEAA Board of directorates include representatives from the line ministries headed by the minister of state for environmental affairs .	consultation and participatory process with all relevant stakeholders, including the NGOs, local community
France	Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development	French Commission of Sustainable Development (CFDD)	Inter ministerial Committee of Environment (CIEN) Inter ministerial Committee of land planning and management (CIADT), SD focal points in concerned ministries	National Council	Meetings with stakeholders, Parliament, Economic & Social Council. Meetings to discuss the Environmental Charter
Greece	Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works	Coordination Group for Sustainable Development	Coordination Group for SD	Inter-ministerial Committee	Workshop
Israel	Ministry of the Environment	Expanded Inter ministerial Committee		Expert consultation	Expanded Inter ministerial Committee

	Lead Organisation	Multi stakeholder Steering Body	Sector involvement and coordination	Substantive Inputs during preparation	Stakeholder Consultation events during preparation
Italy	Ministry Environment and Land Protection, Dept of Env. Research and Development	Committee for Agenda 21 implementation			Workshop with stakeholders
Lebanon					
Lybia					
Malta	Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Environment, Environmental protection authority.	National Commission for Sustainable Development (2001)	NCSD Secretariat	National Commission for Sustainable Development (2001)	Conference, sectoral, stakeholder and regional seminars, focus groups
Monaco					
Morocco	Ministry of Land Management, Water and Environment, State Secretariat for the Environment	National Council of Environment (1995), Steering Committee			
Montenegro	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning	National Council for Sustainable Development (2002), Steering Committee		Expert consultation National Council of Environment	Regional consultations
Slovenia	Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy	Slovenian Council for Sustainable Development		Slovenian Council for Sustainable Development (1997)	
Spain	Ministry of Environment	National Council for Climate Environmental sector conference Council for Environmental evaluation	Inter-ministerial commission for coordination Network of environmental authorities (1997)	Inter Ministerial Commission	Territorial Administrations, Economic & Social Council
Syria	General Commission for Environmental Affairs	Steering Committee			Workshops with stakeholders
Tunisia	Ministry of Environment and Land Planning	National Commission of Sustainable Development (1993)			Workshop with stakeholders
Turkey	National Committee	Higher Council for Environment, Environment National Council			Workshop with stakeholders

ANNEX V

MCS D programme of work

as adopted by the Contracting Parties (8-11 November 2005, Portoroz, Slovenia)

During the last 10 years, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCS D) covered the following priority issues built on activities corresponding to some of the priority needs of the Mediterranean region:

- Sustainable management of coastal zones
- Management of water demand
- Sustainable development indicators
- Sustainable tourism
- Information, public awareness, environmental education and public participation
- Free trade and the environment in the Euro-Mediterranean Context
- Industry and sustainable development
- Management of urban development

For each one of these priorities issues, Working Groups were established with mostly the support of MAP Components, respective sets of recommendations and proposals for action were prepared and submitted to the Contracting Parties meetings that generally adopted them with minor amendments in some cases.

Then, considering the importance of the issue, it was agreed to work on "Financing and cooperation for sustainable development" for which a Working Group was established, resulting in an in-depth analysis with a series of proposals.

Moreover, while following the implementation of some of the recommendations by concerned MAP components, such as "water", "coastal management", "industry" and "indicators", the MCS D members agreed that, until a new programme of work is defined, the following issues could be considered without necessarily establishing at this stage specific Working Groups; These concern:

- Local management and governance
- Agriculture and rural development
- Waste management
- Management and prevention of natural risks

Actually, some progress was made with regard to the first two issues, respectively by PAP/RAC and BP/RAC. These would need to be considered in the framework of the new MCS D programme of work.

Following the proposals of the MCS D and in conformity with the decision of the Contracting Parties, a Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) has been prepared. The strategy outlines the main needs and challenges in the region and identifies four major objectives and sets of actions to be carried out in seven priority fields of action as follows:

- Better management of water resources and demand
- Better management of energy demand and the mitigation of the effects of climate change
- Sustainable mobility through appropriate transport management
- Sustainable tourism as a leading economic sector
- High quality agriculture and sustainable rural development
- Sustainable urban development
- Sustainable management of the sea, coastal areas and marine resources.

The multi-year programme of work for the MCSD gives due consideration to the objectives/orientations and actions for the seven interdependent priority areas of action of the MSSD, the Millennium Development Goals, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the UNCSD Programme of work, and their adaptation to the Mediterranean context.

The UNCSD's multi-year programme of work is as follows:

<i>Cycle</i>	<i>Thematic cluster</i>
2004/2005	Water; Sanitation; Human Settlements
2006/2007	Energy; Industrial Development; Climate change
2008/2009	Agriculture; Rural Development; Desertification
2010/2011	Transport; Waste Management; Consumption and Production
2012/2013	Biodiversity; Biotechnology; Tourism; Mountains
2014/2015	Marine Resources
2016/2017	Overall appraisal of implementation

The new thematic programme of work for the MCSD will cover the next 6 years, organized on the basis of two-year cycles, with each cycle focusing on selected thematic clusters of issues from the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, as set out in the table below.

In each cycle, the thematic clusters of issues will be addressed in an integrated manner, taking into account multiple challenges, including those related to environment and culture, but also demographic, economic and social concerns and finally globalization, regional cooperation and governance.

As for the UNCSD programme of work, the MCSD will function on the basis of two-year "Implementation Cycles", including Review and Policy Years. The "Review" year of the cycle will evaluate progress made in implementing sustainable development goals and identifying constraints, obstacles and barriers. The second year, the "Policy" one, will define policy measures to speed up implementation and mobilize necessary means for action to overcome these constraints, obstacles and barriers.

However, for issues for which MAP and its partners have already cumulated enough analytical knowledge, such as for water, marine pollution and coastal management, the first year of the cycle could be devoted immediately to Policy issues and the second year would concentrate on pilot actions.

The purpose is to consider each issue in the overall framework of the MSSD and in an integrated manner, fully addressing cross-cutting issues as well. These cross-cutting issues, as presented in the last column of the tables, concern mainly governance, implementation mechanisms and means, as well as information, communications, education and participatory processes.

It is proposed to have about 4 thematic issues per biennium (up to 6 in 2006/2007 so as to allow for the preparation of the overall review in 2010/11) that could be dealt with in the following manner. Concerned MAP Components would be leading centres, with interested members of the MCSD partner groups (national governments, local authorities, NGOs and socio-economic actors) and other regional programmes/centres. Ad hoc working groups could be set up, where necessary, with clear mandates and limited time frames, upon consultation with the MCSD Steering Committee. ERS/RAC will be fully involved in the cross-cutting issues related to information and communication, in line with the new tasks to be approved by the Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Finally, it is important to note that the work of the MCSD does not only consist in its thematic programme. Actually, besides coordinating and providing support to the activities of the thematic

working groups and respective Support Centers, the Secretariat has induced the countries and NGOs to prepare brochures in various languages on sustainable development policies and institutions, through a participatory approach, providing to that end guidance, technical and financial support.

A strategic Review for sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region was undertaken in 1999-2000, ending up with the Mediterranean Declaration for the WSSD. Soon after the World Summit, the Secretariat has launched the preparatory process for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development; this process has included several working sessions and workshops that resulted in the preparation of the "Vision", the "Framework Orientations", the Strategic Thematic Notes for sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region and finally the report of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. Throughout this process, the Secretariat has been encouraging and, as appropriate, providing support for multi-stakeholders national consultations as well as for the NGOs. Moreover, a regional Review of National Strategies was undertaken and technical and financial assistance were extended to several countries for the preparation of National Strategies for Sustainable Development.

Therefore, the Secretariat will keep on undertaking a series of specific tasks besides those of the Secretariat and the coordination of the thematic programme of work. These would encompass:

- ✓ Organizing and servicing the meetings of the MCSD and its Steering Committee, as well as major regional workshops;
- ✓ Communicating about MCSD activities and outputs, at global, regional and national levels;
- ✓ Informing about Partnership initiatives relevant to MSSD and the Mediterranean;
- ✓ Undertaking regional reviews and assessments on sustainable development progress and achievements;
- ✓ Following the implementation of MCSD recommendations and proposals for action;
- ✓ Inducing and providing technical and financial support to countries and major groups for, as appropriate, awareness raising, consultations between stakeholders, publications and preparation of NSSDs;
- ✓ Mobilization of additional funds for MCSD activities.

MCS D PROGRAMME OF WORK – GENERAL/COORDINATION					
Cycle	Secretariat Activities	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Components & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2005/ 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Information and Communication • Regional reviews and assessments • Support to Countries and partners • Follow-up of MCS D recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and service MCS D meetings and workshops • Regional reviews and assessments of NSSDs • Induce and provide support to countries and partners • Follow support to and implementation of MSSD • Improve visibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and service 11th MCS D meeting and meeting of Steering Committee • Finalize and publish Regional Review • Provide technical and financial assistance for preparation of NSSDs to at least 2 countries • Organize regional workshop on NSSDs • Follow and induce consultation process for MSSD support and commitments by Parties and Partners • Undertake cost/benefit analysis of selected policies • Publish MSSD report and off-prints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat (MEDU) • Concerned MAP Components • Metap • Other Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach and Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector • Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building • Implementation and Follow-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
2006/ 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Information and Communication • Support to Countries and partners • Follow-up of MCS D recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and service MCS D meetings and workshops • Induce and provide support to countries and partners • Follow support to and implementation of MSSD • Improve visibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and service 12th MCS D meeting and meeting of Steering Committee • Provide technical and financial assistance for preparation of NSSDs to at least 2 countries • Follow implementation of MSSD at regional and national levels • Undertake cost/benefit analysis of selected policies • Organize information and awareness-raising campaigns on MCS D activities in general and implementation/follow-up of MSSD in particular 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat (MEDU) • Concerned MAP Components • Metap • Other Partners 	

MCS D PROGRAMME OF WORK- THEMATIC ISSUES					
Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Components & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2005/ 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilize water demand management • Integrated water resources management • Access to water and sanitation • Promote water management governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review implementation of previous MCS D recommendations • Implement water saving techniques in irrigation and involving industry & tourism • Establish appropriate fiscal/pricing systems • Reduce unnecessary losses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDU • MEDPOL • IME • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach and Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector • Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building • Implementation and Follow-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy & Climate Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote energy-saving policies and renewable energies • Access to electricity • Support Kyoto Protocol implementation • Adapt to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish overall and sectoral objectives for the promotion of rational energy use and the development of renewable energies in NSSD • Mainstream the concept of adaptation to climate change in national policies • Develop plans to anticipate risks and adapt the Mediterranean areas to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDU • MEDREP • OME • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Pollution from ships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and combat marine pollution from ships • Eliminate operational pollution from ships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the relevant specific objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from ships, according to the related agreed timetable. • Increase of EU aid and support for its implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REMPEC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Coastal Area Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the balanced and integrated management & development of coastal zones • Guarantee unhindered access to the coast for everyone • Preserve, enhance or restore the coastal heritage • Avoid linear and continuous urbanization • Reduce the vulnerability of sensitive areas to natural risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review implementation of previous MCS D recommendations • Strengthen systems and capacities for their implementation • Promote laws, mechanisms and tools for ICZM in countries which do not yet have them • Assess the vulnerability of coastal zones to natural and technological risks, prohibit construction in high-risk areas and integrate risk prevention into urban development plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAP/RAC • ERS/RAC • MEDU • Other Partners to be identified 	

MCS D PROGRAMME OF WORK- THEMATIC ISSUES					
Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Components & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2006/ 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilize water demand management • Integrated water resources management • Access to water and sanitation • Promote water management governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review implementation of previous MCS D recommendations • Implement water saving techniques in irrigation and involving industry & tourism • Establish appropriate fiscal/pricing systems • Reduce unnecessary losses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • IME • MEDPOL • MEDU • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC Other Partners to be identified?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach and Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector • Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building • Implementation and Follow-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy & Climate Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote energy-saving policies and renewable energies • Access to electricity • Support Kyoto Protocol implementation • Adapt to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish overall and sectoral objectives for the promotion of rational energy use and the development of renewable energies in NSSD • Mainstream the concept of adaptation to climate change in national policies • Develop plans to anticipate risks and adapt the Mediterranean areas to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDREP • MEDU • OME • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Pollution from ships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and combat marine pollution from ships • Eliminate operational pollution from ships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the relevant specific objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from ships, according to the related agreed timetable. • Request an increase of EU aid and support for its implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REMPEC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Coastal Area Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the balanced and integrated management & development of coastal zones • Guarantee unhindered access to the coast for everyone • Preserve, enhance or restore the coastal heritage • Avoid linear and continuous urbanization • Reduce the vulnerability of sensitive areas to natural risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review implementation of previous MCS D recommendations • Strengthen systems and capacities for their implementation • Promote laws, mechanisms and tools for ICZM in countries which do not yet have them • Assess the vulnerability of coastal zones to natural and technological risks, prohibit construction in high-risk areas and integrate risk prevention into urban development plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAP/RAC • ERS/RAC • MEDU • Other Partners to be identified 	

2006/ 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Agriculture & Sustainable Rural Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled liberalization and the promotion of high quality Mediterranean products • Promote productive and rational agriculture • Improve rural development and local governance • Promote sustainable management of rural areas & the Mediterranean natural environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a regional policy to enhance recognition of the quality of traditional Mediterranean agricultural products • Implement agricultural policies in developing countries aimed at rationalizing agricultural structures • Strengthen the negotiation and governance capacities of local communities and local actors • Reduce the impacts of desertification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • CIHEAM • FAO • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the adverse territorial and environmental effects of tourism • Promote the supply of sustainable tourist facilities and increase the added value of tourism for local communities • Improve governance for sustainable tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review implementation of previous MCSD recommendations • Promote a more balanced distribution of tourists between destinations and throughout the year • Develop "tourism pay-back" formula • Explore the possibility of implementing taxation systems based on transport (sea and air) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDU • PAP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	

MCS D PROGRAMME OF WORK- THEMATIC ISSUES					
Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Components & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2007/ 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Agriculture & Sustainable Rural Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled liberalization and the promotion of high quality Mediterranean products • Promote productive and rational agriculture • Improve rural development and local governance • Promote sustainable management of rural areas & the Mediterranean natural environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a regional policy to enhance recognition of the quality of traditional Mediterranean agricultural products • Implement agricultural policies in developing countries aimed at rationalizing agricultural structures • Strengthen the negotiation and governance capacities of local communities and local actors • Reduce the impacts of desertification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • CIHEAM • FAO • Other Partners to be identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach and Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector • Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building • Implementation and Follow-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the adverse territorial and environmental effects of tourism • Promote the supply of sustainable tourist facilities and increase the added value of tourism for local communities • Improve governance for sustainable tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review implementation of previous MCS D recommendations • Promote a more balanced distribution of tourists between destinations and throughout the year • Develop "tourism pay-back" formula • Explore the possibility of implementing taxation systems based on transport (sea and air) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDU • PAP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marine Pollution : LBS Protocol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and reduce land-based pollution by achieving the goals set out in the Strategic Action Programme to address Land-based Sources of Pollution, adopted in 1997 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the National Action Plans for combating pollution from land-based sources • Reduce pollutants from industrial sources • Equip all coastal cities with systems for the environmental management of solid waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEDPOL • MEDU • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean region • Bring Mediterranean fisheries under a comprehensive ecosystem-based management system • Restore depleted Mediterranean fish stocks • Regulate the development of aquaculture so as to minimize its impacts on the environment and marine and coastal biological diversity and conflicts with other uses of coastal areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and complete the network of protected maritime and coastal areas • Promote the creation of new generations of protected areas • Establish at least 30 SPAMI at the end of 2012 • Ensure the coordination and synergy of activities carried out by international organizations and networks • Encourage fishery and aquaculture good practices respectful of conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA/RAC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • IUCN • Other Partners to be identified 	

MCS D PROGRAMME OF WORK- THEMATIC ISSUES

Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Compon-ents & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2008/ 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Urban Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipate and plan expected urban growth • Enhance the value of the heritage of Mediterranean cities • Improve the quality of life and reduce inequalities • Improve urban governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review implementation of previous MCS D recommendations • Promote urban spatial planning which articulates transport planning policies • Promote the identity of Mediterranean cities internationally • Promote sustainable urban transport • Strengthen opportunities for political action at the urban level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAP/RAC • MEDU • MEDCITIES • BP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach and Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector • Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building • Implementation and Follow-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Transports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Euro-Mediterranean transport systems • Improve the integration of road, rail and sea transport • Decoupling transport growth & GDP growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a sustainable Euro-Mediterranean transport framework • Support investment and incentive policies to stabilize or reduce the share of road transport and promote alternative transport systems • Reduce urban traffic congestion and pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • REMPEC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marine Pollution : LBS Protocol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and reduce land-based pollution by achieving the goals set out in the Strategic Action Programme to address Land-based Sources of Pollution, adopted in 1997 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the National Action Plans for combating pollution from land-based sources • Reduce pollutants from industrial sources • Equip all coastal cities with systems for the environmental management of solid waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEDPOL • MEDU • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean region • Bring Mediterranean fisheries under a comprehensive ecosystem-based management system • Restore depleted Mediterranean fish stocks • Regulate the development of aquaculture so as to minimize its impacts on the environment and marine and coastal biological diversity and conflicts with other uses of coastal areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and complete the network of protected maritime and coastal areas • Promote the creation of new generations of protected areas • Establish at least 30 SPAMI at the end of 2012 • Ensure the coordination and synergy of activities carried out by international organizations and networks • Encourage fishery and aquaculture good practices respectful of conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA/RAC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • IUCN • Other Partners to be identified 	

MCS D PROGRAMME OF WORK- THEMATIC ISSUES

Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Compon-ents & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2009/ 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Urban Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipate and plan expected urban growth • Enhance the value of the heritage of Mediterranean cities • Improve the quality of life and reduce inequalities • Improve urban governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review implementation of previous MCS D recommendations • Promote urban spatial planning which articulates transport planning policies • Promote the identity of Mediterranean cities internationally • Promote sustainable urban transport • Strengthen opportunities for political action at the urban level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAP/RAC • MEDU • MEDCITIES • BP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach and Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector • Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building • Implementation and Follow-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Transports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Euro-Mediterranean transport systems • Improve the integration of road, rail and sea transport • Decoupling transport growth & GDP growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a sustainable Euro-Mediterranean transport framework • Support investment and incentive policies to stabilize or reduce the share of road transport and promote alternative transport systems • Reduce urban traffic congestion and pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDU • REMPEC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy & Climate Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote energy-saving policies and renewable energies • Access to electricity • Support Kyoto Protocol implementation • Adapt to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage economic actors and domestic consumers to adopt sustainable energy-saving habits and approaches • Encourage economic mechanisms/regulations designed to promote renewable energies • Support investment to improve access to electricity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEDREP • MEDU • OME • BP/RAC • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Coastal Area Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the balanced and integrated management & development of coastal zones • Guarantee unhindered access to the coast for everyone • Preserve, enhance or restore the coastal heritage • Avoid linear and continuous urbanization • Reduce the vulnerability of sensitive areas to natural risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote integrated management approaches & projects for coastal zones & catchments areas • Implement specific plans for the sustainable management and development of islands • Prevent continuous and linear urbanization of coastal areas • Enhance the heritage of coastal areas, including traditional productive activities which form part of its identity, maintain agricultural and wooded green belts and establish ecological corridors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAP/RAC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	

MCS D PROGRAMME OF WORK- THEMATIC ISSUES					
Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Components & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2010/2011					

OVERALL REVIEW OF MSSD

**ANNEX VI
WORKING/ EXPERT GROUPS**

	Water Resources	Energy & Climate Change	Marine Pollution from ships	Integrated Coastal Area Management	Quality Agric. & Sust. Rural Dev.	Sustainable Tourism
Task Managers						
Support Centres	BP/RAC	BP/RAC	REMPEC	PAP/RAC	BP/RAC	BP/RAC
Group Members						
	CEDARE	ITALY/MEDREP	MEDMARAVIS	MEDMARAVIS	MONTENEGRO	MEDMARAVIS
	HELMEPA	CEDARE	LEGAMBIENTE	CEDARE	ALGERIA	ALGERIA
	ALGERIA	OME	MONTENEGRO	HELMEPA	AIFM	
	LEGAMBIENTE	AIFM	MEA	ALGERIA	LEGAMBIENTE	LEGAMBIENTE
	EC	LEGAMBIENTE	<i>MIO-ECSE</i>	LEGAMBIENTE	B i H	MIO-ECSDE
	METAP	CROATIA	CROATIA	CROATIA	MOROCCO	CROATIA
	UNADEP	UNADEP	IOI	UNADEP	FoE/Mednet	MOROCCO
	B i H	B i H	Turkey	B i H	Italian Local Ag21	B i H
	MONTENEGRO	MONTENEGRO		MONTENEGRO	ENDA	MONTENEGRO
	MEDCITIES	METAP		IMC	Turkey	Italian Local Ag21
	MIO-ECSDE	MOROCCO		MEA		IOI
	MOROCCO	Italian Local Ag21		METAP		EAMS
	FoE/Mednet	CYPRUS		MEDCITIES		ISRAEL
	Italian Local Ag21	ENDA		MIO-ECSE		Turkey
	CYPRUS	UMCE		Italian Local Ag21		
	EAMS	MALTA		CYPRUS		
	Turkey	ISRAEL		ENDA		
		Turkey		IOI		
				EAMS		
				ISRAEL		
				Turkey		

12 April 2006

ANNEX VII

Sustainability Impact Assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area: summary of the main results of the Final Report on Phase 2 of the SIA-EMFTA Project

The assessment gives indications of the potential impacts of the proposed free trade area, if no mitigating actions or parallel enhancing measures are taken. The SIA report and its Executive Summary also include recommendations for policy measures to mitigate the potential adverse impacts and enhance the beneficial ones.

Impacts in the EU

The economic impacts for the EU are expected to be beneficial overall but fairly small in terms of direct economic efficiency. The results suggest a net gain in consumer welfare of the order of 0.2% of GDP. Larger economic gains may occur in the longer term for services liberalisation, and to some extent for industrial products, associated with investment effects. These cannot be forecast with certainty, as they will be strongly dependent on individual investment decisions and other aspects of economic and development policy in both the EU and Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs).

Significant potential adverse social impacts arise in the EU for agricultural liberalisation. These are mainly restricted to local rural areas of southern European countries, where the types of crops grown are similar to those produced in MPCs. In some areas, the affected workers will include temporary migrants from MPCs, with a knock-on effect on social issues in MPCs. Both positive and negative environmental impacts are expected. Impacts on water resources, agricultural pollution and biodiversity are generally beneficial, while those on the agricultural value and amenity value of rural environments may be adverse.

Impacts in MPCs

In terms of direct effects on consumer welfare, the economic impacts in MPCs are generally positive, although a small short term negative effect is possible in some countries. For industrial products, welfare is expected to rise by an average of about 0.8% of GDP, ranging from slightly less than zero in some countries, up to about 2% of GDP in others. For agriculture and services the additional welfare gain averages about 0.5% for each, with a small additional impact from south-south liberalisation.

Greater increases in welfare may occur in the long term, but these are strongly dependent on domestic reforms and investment decisions. In particular, there are large potential economic benefits from fuller regional integration, but to achieve them, other policy measures are needed in addition to south-south trade liberalisation.

The study identifies some social impacts that are beneficial in the short term as well as the long term, and others that may be significantly adverse unless effective mitigating action is taken. The potential impacts of greatest concern are:

- a significant rise in unemployment, particularly for liberalisation of EU-MPC trade in industrial products and agriculture, and to a lesser extent for services and south-south liberalisation;
- a fall in wage rates associated with increased unemployment;
- a significant loss in government revenues, with consequent social impacts through reduced expenditure on health, education and social support programmes;

- greater vulnerability of poor households to fluctuations in world market prices for basic foods;
- adverse effects on the status, living standards and health of rural women, associated with accelerated conversion from traditional to commercial agriculture.

Similarly, both positive and negative environmental impacts are expected. The main potential adverse impacts that have been identified are:

- significant local impacts on water resources, soil fertility and biodiversity in areas of high existing stress;
- higher environmental stress in cities, resulting from declining rural employment and accelerated rural-urban migration;
- higher air pollution and coastal water pollution from greater international transport;
- higher waste generation from greater use of packaging materials.

Many of these potential impacts would occur primarily in the short or medium term, although this may be as long as ten to fifteen years over the full period of adjustment. Unless effective action is taken in the short term, some impacts may continue into the long term.

Global environmental effects

The assessment indicates an overall adverse impact on climate change and global biodiversity, arising primarily through increased transport and greenhouse gas emissions, and pressures for increased agricultural production in biologically sensitive areas in MPCs. Both of these scale effects, which arise from increased trade and increased production, can in principle be countered by technology or regulatory effects. In itself, the EMFTA scenario that has been assessed does not include measures which will strengthen these positive effects sufficiently to counter the adverse ones. The study does however indicate an overall economic gain, part of which could be directed towards parallel actions to mitigate the expected impacts.

Impacts on the Millennium Development Goals

The SIA has implicitly evaluated the impacts of the postulated EMFTA scenario on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), through the core indicators that frame the SIA methodology. It shows that unless effective mitigating action is taken, there will be a small but significant adverse effect on Goals 1 (poverty), 2 (education) and 4 and 5 (health). Both positive and negative effects occur for Goal 7 (environment), while the impact on Goal 8 (global partnership) is positive. The potential adverse impacts arise primarily from a short term rise in unemployment and loss in tariff revenues, occurring mainly for liberalisation of industrial products, but with additional effects from the other components of the EMFTA scenario. Without effective mitigation, some of the short term effects may continue into the long term.

The full Phase 2 report of the SIA may be downloaded from <http://www.sia-trade.org>.

The full Executive Summary is available separately in Arabic, French and English.

ANNEX VIII

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has roots back to the first UN Conference on the Human Environment (1972). It is known that Chapter 36 of the Rio Declaration (1992) recognized Education as the prerequisite for Sustainable Development and described the needed provisions for such education.

In 1995 a major UNESCO International Workshop was held in Athens on “Reorienting of Environmental Education (EE) to Sustainable Development” which recommended the organization of an International Conference to examine the issue and. Indeed the Conference “Environment and Society: Education and Public Awareness for Sustainability” took place in Thessaloniki in 1997, 5 years after Rio Earth Summit (1992), on the occasion of the 20 years of Tbilisi (1977) where EE was formally introduced. The Thessaloniki Conference, attended by 1 400 participants from 84 countries, the Director General of UNESCO and many ministers, resulted to the “**Thessaloniki Declaration**”, a frequently cited document which to a large extent constitutes the basis of the recent developments. In view of the Johannesburg Summit (2002) several initiatives among which the Campaign ERA 21 (Education Re-affirmation for the 21st Century) led by MIO-ECSDE requested a new effort for appropriate education in order to promote sustainable development and reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD, 2002) stressed the need to integrate sustainable development into education systems at all levels.

In December 2002, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution 57/254 on the **UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)** and UNESCO was designated as lead agency for the promotion of the Decade.

Already since the WSSD a major Type II Initiative was launched to promote ESD in the Mediterranean Region, entitled Mediterranean Educational Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MEDIES), led by Greece, UNESCO, UNEP/MAP, GWP-MED and MIO-ECSDE. Since then Italy has joined also as Leading Partner, while most other Mediterranean countries and stakeholders participate in its Task Group.

During the UNECE “Environment for Europe” Conference in Kiev (May 2003) Ministers of Education and Environment, recognizing that education is a fundamental tool for environmental protection and sustainable development and its role in addressing addressed a wide range of issues of Agenda 21, the UNECE Ministers endorsed **the Statement on ESD** and invited UNECE to set a Task Group to develop a Strategy for ESD in close cooperation with UNESCO, the Council of Europe and other relevant actors.

As both education and sustainable development are complex issues, it was crucially important to develop the Strategy through a participatory process involving governments, UNESCO, NGOs and other stakeholders. Noting the political, economic and social diversity in the region, the text of the Strategy should be flexible enough, so that its implementation could be adapted to each country’s priorities, specific needs and circumstances. Indeed the document was prepared by the UNECE Task Group and the **Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development** was adopted by acclamation, during the High-Level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries at Vilnius (2005), as a practical instrument to promote sustainable development through education. The objective of the Strategy is to incorporate key themes of sustainable development in all education systems. These themes include a wide range of issues: poverty alleviation, peace, ethics, democracy, justice, security, human rights, health, social equity, cultural diversity, economy, environmental protection, natural

resource management. Obviously, the next milestone in the process is the implementation of the Strategy. UNECE Countries agreed to develop indicators to assess the implementation, organise thematic and sub-regional workshops and compile good practices in ESD.

Several regional launchings of the Decade on ESD took place, among which the **Official Launching of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region**, Athens, 26-27 November 2005, organized by the Government of Greece (Hellenic Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs), in collaboration with UNESCO, UNEP/MAP, UNECE and MIO-ECSDE, as well as the Italian Ministry of Environment and Territory. The conference was attended by 240 participants from 26 countries in total -Mediterranean and several non Mediterranean European, both EU and non-EU- among them representatives of Ministries of Education and Environment, International Organizations, Universities as well as the educational community, NGOs and the private sector, at large

The participants recognizing the crucial importance of ESD for the promotion of sustainable development in the Region unanimously adopted the **Resolution** of the Conference, according to which, a **Mediterranean Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development** should be prepared to be submitted to the contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention for adoption as a supplement to the **Mediterranean Strategy of Sustainable Development (MSSD)**, baring in mind that the Mediterranean "eco-Region" does not correspond to a single UN-region and that the only operational UN body existing is UNEP-MAP (UN Environment Programme-Mediterranean Action Plan) operating as the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention.

The Resolution of the Official Launching of the UN DESD in the Mediterranean has been translated in several languages and communicated to the Ministries of Environment and Education of the Mediterranean countries and those of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

The Government of Greece was mandated to facilitate the establishment and operation of a small open ended Task Force to prepare the draft Mediterranean Strategy for ESD, using the UNECE Strategy for ESD as a prototype, considering also other relevant inputs. It is noted that the UNECE Strategy for ESD has been already adopted by 15 Mediterranean UNECE countries and it is therefore expected that such background will greatly facilitate the drafting. The Task Force is expected to hold its first meeting, after its formation, within the next few months. MIO-ECSDE could facilitate the technical secretariat of this process in collaboration with other involved actors.

ANNEX IX

Recommendations of the Contracting Parties regarding the MCSD

14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Portoroz, Slovenia, 8-11 November 2005

UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.16/13 (ANNEX III)

Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties:

1. To adopt the MSSD as finalized at the June 2005 meeting of the MCSD held in Athens, on the basis of the Declaration of the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties .
2. To provide the necessary support for the implementation and follow-up of the MSSD at the regional, subregional and national levels.
3. To integrate, as appropriate, the objectives, orientations and actions set out in the MSSD in National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD) that are being prepared or have been prepared.
4. To identify specific commitments and projects as a contribution to the implementation of the MSSD.
5. To define and launch partnership initiatives for the implementation of the MSSD and strengthen existing Mediterranean Type II Initiatives.
6. To carry out information and communication campaigns on the MSSD and specific NSSDs.
7. To adopt the MCSD programme of work and provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the MCSD's activities at the regional and national levels.
8. To approve the following representatives of civil society as members of the MCSD:
 - a) Local Authorities: the Network of Medcities, the Region of Sicily (Italy) and the Association of Italian Local Agenda 21 (Italy);
 - b) Socio-economic Actors: UMCE – Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises; Chamber of Commerce of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton;
 - c) NGOs/IGOs: Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM), Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), Environnement Développement et Action au Maghreb (ENDA/Maghreb), Friends of the Earth - Europe/Mediterranean (FoE/Mednet), GREENPEACE, League for the environment (LEGAMBIENTE), Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program (METAP), Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), Sustainable Business Associates (SBA)

- d) Alternate Members: L'Association Internationale Forêts Méditerranéennes (AIFM), Association pour la Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement de Kairouan (APNEK), Euro Arab Management School (EAMS), Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA), International Marine Centre (IMC), Institut Méditerranée de l'eau (IME), International Ocean Institute (IOI), Le Mouvement Ecologique Algérien (MEA), Research and conservation of island & coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean (MEDMARAVIS), Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME), Tour de Valat, Sustainability Challenge Foundation (SCF), Union of Northern Association for Development, Environment, Patrimony (UNADEP) and the University of the Aegean (UoA).

Request the Secretariat:

1. To monitor the implementation of the MSSD at the regional and national levels.
 2. To define, launch and strengthen pilot actions as a contribution to the implementation of the MSSD.
 3. To promote and, as appropriate, provide support for the preparation of NSSDs.
 4. To encourage Contracting Parties and Partners to carry out and, as appropriate, provide support for information and communication campaigns on the MSSD and NSSDs.
 5. To launch and coordinate the implementation of the programme of work and activities of the MCSD, in close coordination with other MAP activities.
 6. To issue information regularly, through the web and direct communications, on progress in the implementation of the MSSD and NSSDs, MCSD activities and Mediterranean Partnership Initiatives; to improve the visibility of the MCSD at the national, regional and international levels.
-