



(16 February 2006).

## **Conclusions of the Meeting of the MED Unit and Regional Activity Centres**

**Athens 23 January 2006**

### **Ratification**

1. By the end of February 2006 the Secretariat will approach the Spanish authorities to agree on a course of action to address the issue of the lack of ratification of certain MAP legal instruments and also to discuss the organization of the next COP
2. In view of the momentum of the entry into force of the amended protocols, the Secretariat should identify those countries that are most likely to accept the amendments to the LBS and Dumping Protocols in order to approach them to hasten the process of acceptance preferably by COP 15. MED POL Coordinator to participate in this exercise.

### **Reporting and Compliance**

3. A brainstorming meeting among MEDU, MED POL and RACs, which are responsible for following the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and the Protocols along with the Blue Plan should be held in early Spring 2006. The main objectives of the meeting are to discuss and decide on the process to be followed in view of developing a list of indicators on the implementation of the Convention (process and outputs).

### **New protocol on ICAM**

4. MEDU should sent out the letter requesting the Contracting Parties to nominate their legal/technical experts to sit on the Working Group to develop the ICAM Protocol once the place and the venue of the first meeting are fixed. The letter should be disseminated through diplomatic channels.

### **Institutional issues**

5. INFO/RAC and CP/RAC should elaborate further their mission statements in close cooperation with the competent national authorities and MEDU in accordance with the decision of COP 14.
6. The host country agreements in respect of INFO/RAC and CP/RAC between the related national authorities( Italy and Spain) and MEDU should be signed by the end of 2006 at the latest.
7. Communications between INFO/RAC and the Parties should be done through MEDU until the Parties decide on the issue of INFO RAC focal points.

## Information and awareness

8. The MAP website in Arabic language should be updated and accessible by the end of May 2006 at the latest. At the forthcoming INFO MAP workshop to be held end of March 2006, a plan of actions will be drawn up with respect to the management and update of the UNEP/MAP Web site.

9. Information and Awareness campaigns should become part and parcel of the activities of all MAP components., To this end financial resources should be budgeted at the project development stage.

10. CAMP Algeria, Regional Conference on Marine Turtles, Regional Conference on Monk Seals, 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of the Convention, PAP/RAC and Blue Plan anniversaries are major events that deserve to be promoted and given publicity in the media.

11. Apart from other tasks and objectives, an important target for INFO/RAC should be the development of a process for the establishment of a common information management infrastructure in full cooperation and partnership with all MAP components. The following deadline will apply to the development of MAP Information system design:

a.	Conceptual design	By February 2006
b.	System design	By autumn 2006
c.	Implementation of the system	Early 2007

12. Concerning the Info MAP system design and its implementation, a task force with representatives of all MAP components will be set up and a specific work plan will be proposed at the Info/MAP workshop to be held end of March 2006.

## MED POL

13. The process of the introduction of the ecosystem approach in MAP, led by MED POL and financially supported by an EC/MED POL Project, should involve all MAP components.

14. MED POL will organize two small workshops and a large meeting during 2006 that are expected to draft and agree on a roadmap for the future application of the ecosystem approach in the MAP system. In parallel to the recruitment of a consultant to assist MED POL in the coordination of the activities, all competent RACs and other stakeholders will be involved from the beginning and throughout the implementation of the activities.

## MAP Evaluation

15. The calendar of consultation on the evaluation of MAP was agreed as follows.

First comments in writing on the MAP evaluation recommendations to be submitted to MEDU	3-4 February 2006
Comments on the first drafts to be submitted to MEDU	30 March 2006

Meeting in Cyprus on the second drafts	23 May 2006
Comments on the final draft to be submitted to MEDU	20 July 2006

16. In parallel the Secretariat will undertake two related studies:

- Comparative analysis of the status, roles and functions of other UNEP administered Conventions;
- Inventory of key actors in the Mediterranean that could contribute to the work of the Convention.

### **Joint Program of Work MAP/EC**

17. In view of the time required to plan the necessary actions for the implementation of the Joint Program of Work MAP/EC, MEDU should send a letter to the EC by end of January or early February 2006 regarding the organization of the first institutional meeting between the MAP and the EC which should be considered as a priority issue.

18. All MEDU Programs and RACs should plan a range of activities to support the implementation of the joint program of Work.

19. The meeting pointed out that it is very important for MAP to know how the Commission will take on board the MSSD priorities, targets and objectives while planning and programming their cooperation with the south of the Mediterranean and if they will provide important financial resources. In parallel, close contacts should be kept with the EC to ensure synergy in the implementation of the 2020 Depollution Initiative.

20. The Secretariat should re-initiate the process of signing a joint program of work with EEA that should include all MAP components. The first draft of the plan should be sent to the EEA for comments in early February 2006 at the latest, following comments by the RACs.

### **MCSD**

21. It was acknowledged by the meeting that the effective implementation of the MSSD needs concrete actions at the national level. In this process, the countries are the main actors supported by MEDU, MED POL and the RACs.

22. The preparation for the meeting of the MCSD, the first one to be organized after the adoption of the MSSD by the parties in Portoroz, should start immediately, based on the proposals of BP/RAC.

23. The agenda will include information on work progress on indicators, water, energy, pollution reduction as well as a presentation of the initial results of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area Sustainability Impact Assessment. It was agreed that a communication and information plan for MSSD should be prepared by INFO/RAC. A draft agenda for this meeting should be prepared soon.

24. Since it is to the benefit of MAP and the parties, it was suggested that other potential partners that could contribute with their technical expertise and financial resources could be invited to participate at the meeting of the MCSD. It was therefore agreed that as per usual practice, the main agenda items, the documents of the MCSD meeting and partners to be invited will be left to be

decided by the steering committee of the MCSD as per rules and procedures. Other MAP components will be advised on a number of issues on the agenda.

25. The Coordinator requested the different RACs and MED POL to submit to MEDU their work plans to support MSSD implementation, including activities and timeframes.

#### **Calendar of events**

26. It was agreed that each component will submit exact dates for the calendar of events by 5 February at the latest.

#### **Other Issues**

27. To ensure better coordination and synergy among all MAP components on major issues especially of a regional and international nature, it was agreed that all RACs will circulate via e-mail mission reports that could be of common interest to all RAC Directors and programmes.

28. With respect to the preparation of the Belgrade Assessment report in the framework of the "Environment for Europe" process it was agreed in principle, to make the necessary efforts so that this important publication recognizes MAP and its contribution to the region. It was also agreed to contribute to the work of the EEA team, which has been set up for the preparation of this report. Blue Plan has already been contacted by the EEA for this purpose. It was agreed to address this issue in the joint work program MAP/EEA to be launched during this year.

29. The Coordinator drew the attention of the Directors to the manner in which the formulation of the recommendations for the meetings of focal points and Contracting Parties were being drafted. He emphasized that recommendations, should be brief, to the point and address policy issues and be very clear of what decision is expected from the parties. He added that a balance has to be maintained among all components with respect to the recommendations submitted for consideration by the COP. As an example, he referred to the recommendations by SPA/RAC on the various action plans adding that as far as possible they should be addressed together and not separately.

30. At the beginning of the session the Coordinator welcomed the new Directors of SPA/RAC, REMPEC and CP/RAC who were participating for the first time in the coordination meeting between MEDU and RAC Directors.