

ANNEX XI

BARCELONA RESOLUTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN



The Ministers in charge of the Environment in the Mediterranean countries representing the Governments and the member of the European Commission in charge of the Environment, having met in Barcelona, Spain, on 10 June 1995, within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan:

Recalling that the Mediterranean Action Plan was approved at Barcelona in 1975 by the Governments of the Mediterranean States and the European Community to monitor and protect the Mediterranean marine environment and ensure the integrated planning of the development and management of the resources of the basin on the basis of multilateral cooperation under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling the adoption of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols in 1976 and subsequent years,

Recognizing the important contribution of the Mediterranean Action Plan, MED POL, and Regional Activity Centres, as well as the cooperating international organizations, to protection of the marine environment and promotion and establishment of an environmental legal system and environmental institutional structure at the regional and national levels in the Mediterranean basin,

Taking into account the results of the successive meetings in Genoa (1985), Nicosia (1990), Cairo (1992), Casablanca (1993) and recognizing the results of the Tunis Ministerial Conference (1994), the importance of its declaration and resolutions for the promotion of sustainable development in the Mediterranean taking into account the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21,

Conscious of the differences in socio-economic development still existing among the Mediterranean coastal States,

Concerned by the continued pressures on the marine and coastal areas and their ecosystems, due to the process of urbanization, population growth and economic development which has resulted in degradation of human and natural resources in the Mediterranean, as clearly indicated by the Blue Plan scenarios,

Recognizing the progress achieved since the adoption of the Genoa Declaration on the Second Mediterranean Decade (1985), while noting that the state of the environmental quality of the Mediterranean Sea requires greatly intensified action,

Expressing their satisfaction at being able to adopt the amendments to the Barcelona Convention, which substantially extend its field of application and provide principles with which to meet the challenge of sustainable development,

Stressing the importance of the adoption of the amendments to the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft in accordance with relevant international conventions which will ensure improved protection of the Mediterranean Sea,

Stressing also the importance of the adoption of the new Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean with a view to ensuring the conservation and better management of biological diversity, especially endangered species and valuable natural sites,

Recalling the importance of the resolution adopted at the Tunis Conference on the use of land use tools with a view to ensuring the conservation of nature and natural sites of the Mediterranean coastal areas,

Reconfirming their commitment to the protection of the Mediterranean environment, individually and collectively, through understanding, dialogue, cooperation and solidarity among the peoples of the region,

Confirming their commitment to promote sustainable development when formulating and implementing national and regional environment and development policies, bearing in mind the Rio and Tunis Declarations,

Aware that the European Union has decided to convene a Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference to be held in Barcelona on 27 and 28 November 1995 with a view to strengthening Euro-Mediterranean partnership between the countries of the European Union and other Mediterranean countries,

1. **Adopt the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II as contained in Annex I to this Resolution, which should aim to achieve the following objectives;**
 - integrate the environment in economic, social, cultural and other development, as well as land use policies;
 - ensure sustainable management of natural marine and coastal resources, bearing in mind Agenda MED 21;
 - conserve nature and protect species as well as sites and landscapes of ecological or cultural value;
 - prevent pollution of the Mediterranean Sea and of its coastal areas;
 - establish national enforcement and control mechanisms which would follow up the implementation of Convention, its related protocols and the adopted protection measures;
 - strengthen cooperation with relevant international governmental organizations, and the United Nations specialized agencies at all stages of development and implementation of the specific activities;
 - enhance the support and involvement of international, regional and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the public;
2. **Commit themselves to the full implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and to this end adopt the Priority Fields of Activities for the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Basin (1996-2005) contained in Annex II to this Resolution;**
3. **Decide that within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan a Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) should be set up, and start work during the first half of 1996;**
4. **Entrust the Coordinating Unit with the task of concluding the process of preparing the Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean resulting from the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the amendments to the Land-Based Sources Protocol, and request that the Executive Director of UNEP convene a Conference of Plenipotentiaries to adopt these protocols by March 1996;**
5. **Commit themselves to undertake all necessary measures to incorporate and integrate the conservation of biological diversity as an objective in economic development, land, and natural resource planning policies, and to reinforce as a matter of urgency all field action pursuant to the conservation of threatened species, habitats, and sites of ecological value;**
6. **Agree to the reduction by the year 2005 of discharges and emissions which could reach the marine environment, of substances which are toxic, persistent and liable to bioaccumulate, in particular the organohalogenes, to levels that are not harmful to man or nature, with a view to their gradual elimination; to this end, to implement substantial reductions of such discharges and**

emissions, and if necessary, to supplement the reduction measures with programmes aiming at banning the use of such substances; and instruct the Contracting Parties to review regularly the relevant timetables;

With the aim of eliminating by the year 2005 the greatest possible number of these substances, and in order to facilitate and speed up the definition of methods, programmes and timetables, by categories of substance and by industrial branches, and of the best available techniques, they entrust UNEP with organizing consultation with the Contracting Parties, scientific experts, industrialists and NGOs.

A first meeting will be held as soon as possible and by 1 July 1996 at the latest.

7. **Commit themselves to promote actively the transfer of clean technologies, in particular to developing countries, to encourage the establishment of clean production centres where required, to research, promote, collect and disseminate information on clean production processes;**
8. **Commit themselves to demonstrating solidarity with populations in the Mediterranean basin suffering from the consequences of aggression and terrorism, by developing and implementing programmes to rehabilitate areas, environments and resources affected by destructive actions;**
9. **Entrust the Coordinating Unit with the task of mobilizing additional funds and resources to carry out the activities envisaged by the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II and the Priority Field of Activities for the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Basin (1996-2005);**
10. **Request evaluation of the results of implementation of the envisaged activities in view of the objectives defined within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II and tasks accorded by the Priority Fields of Activities for the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Basin (1996-2005) which is subject to a mechanism for monitoring its implementation;**
11. **Agree to transmit to the Euro-Mediterranean Conference the documents adopted at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Barcelona Convention held on 9 and 10 June 1995 as a contribution to the efforts of the Conference *inter alia* to ensure the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of the region and to strengthen regional cooperation within the framework of MAP;**
12. **Request the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, in which NGOs will be duly represented, to examine the feasibility of creating a special fund for the promotion of projects related to nature conservation and integrated coastal management, complementary to the Mediterranean Trust Fund and aimed at mobilizing and ensuring additional, necessary financial resources;**
13. **Invite all social and economic actors concerned, especially local communities, the scientific and educative community, companies and non-governmental organizations to associate themselves with the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II;**
14. **Invite international organizations and other financial and development programmes to associate themselves with the implementation of the new phase of the Mediterranean Action Plan, and to coordinate and harmonize their programmes relevant to the Mediterranean region with Mediterranean Action Plan.**
15. **[Decide to meet again at the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties].**



APPENDIX I**MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
(Report of the Informal Working Group)**

1. The Barcelona Resolution prepared at the Joint Meeting (Athens, 3-8 April 1995) includes the following reference to the Commission:

"Decide that within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan a Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) should be set up and start work during the first quarter of 1996".

2. The informal group chaired by Mr. Ennabli, which met pursuant to a request by the plenary, noted first of all that exchanges of views on the Commission, and particularly on its terms of reference, composition, relationship with the global Commission and with national commissions where they exist, have been very limited.
3. The Contracting Parties have at their disposal the following documents:
 - Agenda 21 of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (Chapter 38), which established the global Commission;
 - texts of the Tunis Conference of November 1994 which was decisive for the initial formulation of the idea of establishing a Mediterranean Commission (Chapter 38, paragraphs 1 to 14);
 - document UNEP/BUR/46/2 prepared by the Coordinating Unit for the Bureau in January 1995. At its meeting held on 31 January 1995, the Bureau did not discuss this document but requested that it should be circulated at the Joint Meeting. This was done, although the Joint Meeting was unable to study the text and exchange views;
 - other unofficial documents such as those prepared by the EEB for the NGO Forum in Barcelona in June 1995.

The Secretariat is requested to circulate existing documents to the Contracting Parties, together with any other documents concerning the global Commission or the functioning of national commissions of which it is aware.

If the timetable fixed in the Resolution is to be respected strictly or with only minimal delay, it is urgently necessary to discuss the matter. However, in view of the situation, the words "first quarter of 1996" could be replaced by "first half of 1996".

4. The working group chaired by Mr. Ennabli was composed of representatives of Contracting Parties and some NGOs; representatives of Algeria, France, Croatia, Greece, Israel, Malta, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey were present.
5. The group identified a number of issues that were pending or required further clarification; it also proposed a procedure to enable the terms of reference and the composition of the Commission to be defined as soon as possible.

6. With regard to these issues:

6.1 Although it is virtually agreed that the Commission should be within the framework of MAP and that the Coordinating Unit should act as its Secretariat, its status requires further study. According to preliminary statements, it would appear that its status should be that of a consultative body. It should not undertake tasks such as preparing the annual programmes in which the budget is fixed nor the administrative or technical follow-up to MAP programmes. The abolition of the committees in their original form is another issue.

6.2 At this stage, it is necessary to fix the outline of the Commission's terms of reference before it meets, even though it is accepted that it must be given some latitude in respect of its priorities and working methods. It could be responsible for identifying the major economic, ecological and social problems for the various chapters of Agenda 21. It will propose orientations at a high ministerial level in MAP and to the Contracting Parties. The Commission's functions could also include monitoring the situation and sustainable development activities in the region.

6.3 The composition of the Commission was mentioned: it would appear that at the present stage it should not be too broad; it might include

- representatives appointed by States who are not only competent in environmental matters but also in other areas of Agenda 21;
- persons belonging to:
 - local authorities;
 - Mediterranean associations and their networks
- independent persons.

6.4 The periodicity of the Commission's plenary meetings will be determined in the light of high-level MAP meetings; they could be held annually or biennially after the first implementation phase, which will require more frequent meetings. If the Commission deems it appropriate, it could hold meetings with limited participation.

6.5 The Commission's resources will be derived from the MAP budget and from outside contributions. It could stimulate the work of the Coordinating Unit and its Centres, especially the Blue Plan and its observatory function.

6.6 The Commission will have working relations with the global Commission as needed, basing itself on the latter's stage-by-stage work programme. It may prepare for the global Commission any elements that may be of interest to the latter regarding sustainable development in the Mediterranean and will communicate with the global Commission through MAP authorities.

6.7 It will facilitate exchanges among national sustainable development commissions in the region, where these exist.

7. Regarding the procedure and the stages to be followed when setting up the Commission, taking into account the tight schedule the following is proposed:

- 7.1 An exchange of views in the plenary meeting during the Barcelona Conference or continuation of work in a formal committee;
- 7.2 A request to the Coordinating Unit to prepare a document taking into account the discussion.
- 7.3 The Secretariat is entrusted with the task of preparing a document summarising the proposals and transmitting it to the Bureau and the Contracting Parties, allowing a period of two months for making comments and proposing additions if necessary.
- 7.4 The Bureau, at its next meeting (in October 1995), will consider the replies and draw up a revised text.
- 7.5 It will transmit this text to the Contracting Parties for further consideration with a request to reply before 1 January 1996.
- 7.6 The next meeting of the Contracting Parties, to be held in 1996, will prepare a text that will allow the Commission to be convened as soon as possible towards the end of the first half of the year.