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88th Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Rome, Italy, 21-22 May 2019

Agenda Item 3: Progress Report for October 2018 – April 2019

Progress Report by the Secretariat on the Implementation of COP 20 Decisions

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2019

<p>Request the Specially Protected Area Regional Activity Centre to prepare on a trial basis, a meeting of the thematic focal points for Specially Protected Areas/Biological Diversity for the biennium 2018–2019, under the guidance of the Coordinating Unit, to achieve the greatest possible integration with the other themes of the Mid-Term Strategy;</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								
<p>Also request the Coordinating Unit to present the results of the assessment of that trial, together with any other relevant analysis, to the Contracting Parties prior to their twenty-first meeting;</p>	<p>ORANGE</p>								
<p>Urge the Coordinating Unit, in consultation with the Contracting Parties hosting Regional Activity Centres, to find and propose, under the guidance of the Bureau, ways and means to address a list of common reference provisions to be applied, taking into account the specificities of each Centre, with a view to have a discussion and a possible agreement by the Contracting Parties at their twenty-first meeting;</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								
<p>Reiterate the importance of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean (Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II) document and its relevance for the protection of the marine environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean, as well as its contribution to sustainable development; and decides to retain at this stage the original text of the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II as approved by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols (Barcelona, 9-10 June 1995);</p>	<p>GREEN</p>								
<p>Invite the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan Secretariat to continue its involvement and contribution to the global debate on issues related to its mandate including Sustainable Development Goal 14, Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction, follow-up to the Paris Agreement and Convention on Biological Diversity and to present to COP 21 any updates from global fora of relevance to the Mediterranean Action Plan system and its future;</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								
<p>Confirm the current composition of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development for the biennium 2018–2019 as set out in decision IG.22/17, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their nineteenth meeting, and call upon the members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Mediterranean Action Plan partners to mobilize</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								

	<p>Urge the Contracting Parties, with the support of the Secretariat and taking into consideration the need to fill existing data gaps as highlighted in the 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report, to regularly report quality-assured data deriving from the implementation of the updated integrated national monitoring and assessment programmes, as doing so will support the development of future regional assessment products, as well as the design, implementation and monitoring of coherent and consistent national and regional measures based on a sound science-policy interface and aimed at achieving Good Environmental Status;</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								
	<p>Request the Secretariat to make all possible efforts to overcome the knowledge gaps that are recognized in the 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report, contributing to the success of the initial phase of Integrated Monitoring Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria implementation (for the period 2016–2019) and enhancing the capacity of Contracting Parties to deliver the second Mediterranean Quality Status Report in 2023 to demonstrate the progress made towards Good Environmental Status and its related targets;</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								
	<p>Request the Secretariat to prepare in cooperation with the Contracting Parties through the Ecosystem Approach governance structure, in the first year of the biennium 2018-2019, a roadmap accompanied with a Needs Assessment on how to improve data collection to address knowledge gaps and strengthen the capacities of the system. To this aim, priority activities needed to successfully deliver the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report shall be identified for inclusion in the Programme of Work;</p>	<p>GREEN</p>								
	<p>Urge the Mediterranean Action Plan system and the Contracting Parties in the context of the work of the EcAp governance structure to undertake priority activities needed to ensure successful delivery of the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report;</p>	<p>GREEN</p>								
	<p>Request the Secretariat to develop synergies between the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria and related common indicators, and the ongoing work by the United Nations and Regional Seas Programmes and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations on indicators monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular Goal 14, and to share the Mediterranean experience at the global level;</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								
	<p>Take note of the proposed update of the pollution assessment criteria and thresholds as presented in Annex II to the present Decision and encourage the Contracting Parties and</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								

	<p>Request Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre to continue supporting the use of the online evaluation system of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance for evaluating coastal national Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance and test the online evaluation system for transboundary high-sea Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance;</p>	YELLOW								
	<p>Also request Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre to work with the relevant authorities in France, Italy, Lebanon, Monaco, Spain and Tunisia to carry out the ordinary periodic review for the nineteen Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance listed below, in accordance with the procedure established in decision IG.17/12, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their fifteenth meeting (COP 15) (Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008), and bring the outcome of that review process to the attention of the Contracting Parties at their twenty-first meeting.</p>	YELLOW								
<p>Decision IG.23/10</p> <p>Amendments to Annex II to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean</p>	<p>Adopt the amendments to Annex II to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean as set out in Annex I to the present decision;</p>	GREEN								
	<p>Request the Depositary to communicate without delay to all Contracting Parties the adopted amendments, pursuant to article 23 (2) (iii) of the Barcelona Convention.</p>	GREEN								
<p>Decision IG.23/11</p> <p>Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to</p>	<p>Adopt the Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents, contained in the Annex to the present decision and hereinafter referred to as the “<i>Guide</i>”;</p>	GREEN								
	<p>Urge the Contracting Parties to take the necessary measures to incorporate the procedures defined in the Guide into their national, bilateral and multilateral systems of preparedness and response to marine pollution;</p>	GREEN								
	<p>Recommend to the Contracting Parties to regularly test those procedures during communication and full-scale exercises;</p>	GREEN								

<p>Further approve the assessed 2018–2019 ordinary contributions from Contracting Parties shown in table 2 “<i>Expected Ordinary Income</i>” of the Annex to the present decision, which reflects the 2016–2018 scale of assessment adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its seventieth session on 23 December 2015 by resolution 70/245 and confirms the importance of keeping the scale used for ordinary contributions up to date;</p>	<p>GREEN</p>								
<p>Request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, to extend the Mediterranean Trust Fund until 31 December 2019;</p>	<p>GREEN</p>								
<p>Approve the staffing of the Coordinating Unit, including the Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean for the biennium 2018–2019, as indicated in table 4a “<i>Details of Salaries and Administrative Costs of the Secretariat</i>” in the Annex to the present decision;</p>	<p>GREEN</p>								
<p>Welcome the offer of Italy to provide support for a post of Information and Communications Officer in the Coordinating Unit during the biennium 2018–2019 from the Italian bilateral agreement which will allow the Contracting Parties to further consider the long-term need for that post;</p>	<p>GREEN</p>								
<p>Take note of the staffing of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea for the biennium 2018–2019 as indicated in table 4c “<i>Details of salaries and administrative costs (REMPEC)</i>”, set out in the Annex to the present decision;</p>	<p>GREEN</p>								
<p>Authorize the Coordinating Unit to charge the one-time cost of the move to the new premises during the biennium 2018–2019 to the savings achieved during the biennium 2016–2017, keeping the Bureau of the Barcelona Convention fully informed;</p>	<p>GREEN</p>								
<p>Urge the Contracting Parties to pay their contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund in accordance with procedure 4.2 of the Financial Rules and Procedures to allow for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Work;</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								
<p>Request the Secretariat to keep up-to-date information on the status of contributions of the Contracting Parties to the Mediterranean Trust Fund and to continue to post it in a publicly available place on the Mediterranean Action Plan website;</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								

<p>Urge the Contracting Parties to adhere to nomination deadlines of their representatives in meetings of the Mediterranean Action Plan system and to avoid late cancellation of their travel in order to minimize the financial implications and losses arising from the increase in airfare and cancellation fees;</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								
<p>Urge the Contracting Parties to consider increasing their voluntary contributions in cash or in kind in support of the implementation of the Programme of Work for 2018–2019;</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								
<p>Invite other partners, including industry, to contribute adequate human and financial resources to meet the external funding requirements for priorities still unfunded under the Programme of Work and Budget for 2018–2019 and to support the resource mobilization activities of the Secretariat;</p>	<p>GREEN</p>								
<p>Request the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, to prepare for consideration and approval by the Contracting Parties at their twenty-first meeting two alternatives for a simplified and more strategic results-based Programme of Work and Budget for 2020–2021. These proposals should be in line with the relevant provisions of the “<i>Governance Paper</i>” and Decision IG.19/5 of COP 16, in full alignment with the Mid-term Strategy, and take into account the progress achieved during the implementation of the Programme of Work for 2018–2019, explaining the key principles and assumptions on which it is based, draw attention to significant changes between 2018-2019 and the 2020-2021 Programme of Work and provide a summary analysis and narrative explanations of the budget tables showing the share of the core Mediterranean Trust Fund going to each theme of the Mid-Term Strategy, as well as of the external secured and non-secured funding.</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								
<p>The alternatives should take into account the continued existence of a surplus in the Mediterranean Trust Fund which should be used to ensure that contributions remain level. The alternatives should: a. make an assessment of the required rate of growth for the core expenditure budget which should not exceed a 4% increase from the 2018-2019 biennium; b. maintain the core expenditure budget at the 2018-2019 level in nominal terms.</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								