

Preface

This document was prepared by the Secretariat in conformity with the decision of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (Syracuse, Italy, 6-7 March 1996).

The document contains the following sections:

- 1) *Statements of the heads of delegations of the Contracting Parties and declarations of Turkey, Cyprus and Greece (in original language)*
- 2) *List of participants of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (in English/French)*

Préface

Ce document a été préparé par le Secrétariat conformément à la décision de la Conférence de plénipotentiaires sur le Protocole relatif à la protection de la mer Méditerranée contre la pollution d'origine tellurique (Syracuse, Italie, 6-7 mars 1996).

Ce document contient les chapitres suivants:

- 1) *Discours des chefs de délégations des Parties contractantes et déclarations de la Turquie, de Chypre et de la Grèce (en langue originale)*
- 2) *Liste des participants de la Conférence de plénipotentiaires (en anglais/français)*

Prefacio

El presente documento lo ha preparado la secretaría de conformidad con la decisión de la Conferencia de Plenipotenciarios sobre el protocolo para la protección del mar Mediterráneo contra la contaminación de origen terrestre (Siracusa, 6-7 de marzo de 1996).

El documento contiene los capítulos siguientes:

- 1) *Discursos de los jefes de delegación de las Partes Contratantes y declaraciones de Turquía, Chipre y Grecia (en su idioma original)*
- 2) *Lista de participantes en la Conferencia de Plenipotenciarios (en francés/inglés)*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE DES MATIERES

INDICE

	Page
I STATEMENTS OF THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES AND DECLARATIONS OF TURKEY, CYPRUS AND GREECE (in original language)	1
I DISCOURS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS DES PARTIES CONTRACTANTES ET DECLARATIONS DE LA TURQUIE, DE CHYPRE ET DE LA GRECE (en langue originale)	1
I DISCURSOS DE LOS JEFES DE DELEGACION DE LAS PARTES CONTRATANTES Y DECLARACIONES DE TURQUIA, CHIPRE Y GRECIA (en su idioma original)	1
II LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES (in English/French)	23
II LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS DE LA CONFERENCE DE PLENIPOTENTIAIRES (en anglais/français)	23
II LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES EN LA CONFERENCIA DE PLENIPOTENCIARIOS (en francés/inglés)	23

**STATEMENTS OF THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS
OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES
AND DECLARATIONS OF TURKEY, CYPRUS AND GREECE
(in original language)**

**DISCOURS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS
DES PARTIES CONTRACTANTES
ET DECLARATIONS DE LA TURQUIE, DE CHYPRE ET DE LA GRECE
(en langue originale)**

**DISCURSOS DE LOS JEFES DE DELEGACION
DE LAS PARTES CONTRATANTES
Y DECLARACIONES DE TURQUIA, CHIPRE Y GRECIA
(en su idioma original)**

Statement by Mr Nenad Mikulic
Acting Director
State Directorate for Environment
Croatia

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to express on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Croatia, sincere thanks and gratitude to the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Government of Italy and the Province of Syracuse, for the well organized and fruitful meeting.

The Republic of Croatia strongly supports here adopted amendments to the Land-Based Sources Protocol, aimed at improving the implementation of the protocol in accordance with the recently adopted changes in the Barcelona Convention, together with the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities adopted in Washington D.C. in November 1995.

In Croatia, these just adopted amendments will not require the undertaking of new measures for their implementation.

The Republic of Croatia is already carrying out a number of activities regarding the protection of the coastal sea, such as monitoring or coastal water drainage area, and establishment of national inspectorates. The preparation of national environmental strategy is also under way.

The Law on Waters, adopted in 1995, takes into account the basic goals and principles of the Barcelona Convention, the Land-Based Sources Protocol and even some of the just adopted amendments.

Mr Chairman,

The delegation of Croatia considers our work here to be an important step in further protection of the Mediterranean Sea and in improvement of the quality of life in this region.

Thank you.

Statement by H.E. Mr Elias Eliades
Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to Spain

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates,

It is a great pleasure for me and a privilege to address this important Meeting.

Perhaps there is no other sea like the Mediterranean, which combines such lavish resources and natural beauty, together with a tremendous historical and cultural heritage.

Regrettably, in recent years the Mediterranean coastal states dispose most of their different types of wastes, due to industrial production and tourism activities into this beautiful sea.

It was however fortunate that these states have become aware of this problem and developed the Mediterranean Action Plan in 1975, as a result of which the Barcelona Convention came into force in 1978.

It is a great pleasure for my Government, the Government of Cyprus, to take part in the improvement of this important legal instrument, the Land-Based Sources Protocol, which became possible through the amendments. This, I believe, is a real step towards the protection of the Mediterranean.

Mr Chairman,

I believe that the protection of the environment is not an easy undertaking. It requires a glass of knowledge, a bottle of legal instrument and an ocean of goodwill by the Governments.

I would like to express our thanks to the Government of Italy, the Province of Syracuse, and the Secretariat for their warm hospitality and for their excellent organization of this Conference.

Thank you.

Discours de M. Jean-Michel Dumond
Ministre-Conseiller
Ambassade de France à Rome, Italie

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués,

Je voudrais remercier les autorités italiennes pour l'organisation de cette réunion. Tout d'abord le Ministère italien des Affaires Etrangères, qui malgré la lourde tâche de la présidence de l'Union européenne, a su contribuer avec succès à l'organisation de cette manifestation, le Président de la province de Syracuse, dont le nom restera associé à cette entreprise, la Faculté des arts et des sciences.

La délégation française a été très sensible à l'accueil chaleureux qui lui a été réservé et a pu apprécier la grande qualité de l'organisation qui a facilité le travail accompli pendant ces négociations.

La délégation française tient également à remercier et à féliciter le Secrétariat de l'Unité de coordination du Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée (PAM) pour l'excellence de son travail dans le processus de révision du protocole tellurique de la Convention de Barcelone pour la protection de la mer Méditerranée contre la pollution.

Cette réunion d'experts techniques et juridiques qui s'est tenue une nouvelle fois à Syracuse a ainsi pu élaborer un texte et permettre aux plénipotentiaires d'adopter, après le résultat heureux des discussions, l'acte final. Nous nous en félicitons.

La France est en effet très attachée à la coopération méditerranéenne dont elle est un fidèle et solide partenaire. Comme vous le savez, elle avait fait de la Méditerranée un des axes prioritaires de sa présidence de l'Union européenne et elle est heureuse que la conférence euro-méditerranéenne qui s'est tenue à Barcelone ait permis de renforcer le partenariat entre l'Union européenne et les pays méditerranéens. De nombreuses manifestations internationales démontrent le grand intérêt porté par la France au bassin méditerranéen et nous nous félicitons à cet égard que la présidence italienne de l'Union européenne ait aussi inscrit la Méditerranée parmi ses priorités et qu'elle ait organisé également de très nombreuses réunions.

La conférence qui se tient aujourd'hui constitue un événement marquant sur la voie de la promotion du développement durable dans la région de la Méditerranée. En effet, la lutte contre la pollution tellurique nécessitait une modernisation du protocole à la fois dans ses mécanismes et dans ses objectifs.

Le texte que nous allons signer constitue une avancée très significative qui non seulement prend en compte les principes de la conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement ainsi que certaines dispositions du Programme d'action mondial pour la protection du milieu marin contre la pollution due aux activités terrestres, mais encore étend le champ du protocole à l'ensemble du bassin hydrologique de la mer Méditerranée.

Grâce à la participation constructive et à l'esprit de compromis de toutes les parties, nous avons pu atteindre notre objectif. Nous en sommes très satisfaits et nous considérons que le texte auquel nous sommes parvenus est un bon résultat et que nous serons donc en mesure de signer ce texte.

Comme vous le savez, la protection de la mer Méditerranée contre la pollution est une priorité pour la France et le souci d'une application effective du Protocole que nous allons signer doit nous animer.

Dans ce cadre, la France attache une particulière importance à l'échange d'expériences et elle espère que la prochaine réunion des Parties contractantes que nous serons heureux d'accueillir à Montpellier au mois de juillet prochain permettra d'avancer dans ce sens et de renforcer ainsi l'entraide entre les partenaires.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, je vous remercie.

Statement by H.E. Mr George Konstas
Ambassador, Head of International Economic Organizations Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Greece

Mr Chairman, Mr Coordinator, Mr Deputy Coordinator, distinguished delegates,

The amendment of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities is already a fact.

The Greek delegation feels particularly happy because the protocol which was first created in Athens in 1980 is now harmonised to the new technological demands and to new prospects of the pollution management of the marine environment. The application of this new legal instrument in the framework of MAP is particularly important for our country which has a coastline 15000 kilometres long and a large number of urban and industrial activities along this coastline.

The extension of the protocol to the hydrological basin of the Mediterranean sea will certainly have positive results to the protection of the marine environment and the sustainable development of the coastal areas. In line with the great importance that our country gives to the integrated coastal management Greece will organise, in collaboration with UNEP, an important workshop in Santorini next month which we hope will set up a series of priorities in relation to coastal management and sustainable development.

The development of national action plans and programs containing measures and timetables for their implementation, the establishment of systems of inspection which take into account the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle, the establishment of waste water treatment plants in a great number of Greek cities and the application of the best available techniques and best environmental practice are programs which have already been designed and started to be implemented in Greece with the financial support of the EU.

Finally the development of a new masterplan for the integrated water management is going to be implemented soon.

All these actions and others that will result from the implementation of this amended protocol will significant contribute to the elimination to the fullest possible extent of pollution from land based sources and activities in the Greek marine environment. We also firmly believe that this new protocol will be a forum of collaboration of all MAP Contracting Parties to preserve our common heritage.

Mr President, on behalf of myself and the Greek delegation I would like to thank you for your successful and creative accomplishment of this meeting. I also want to thank the Government of Italy, the Province of Syracuse for their great hospitality and the Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan for the excellent organization of the meeting.

Thank you.

Statement by Mr Elik Adler
Head
Marine and Coastal Environment Division
Ministry of the Environment
Israel

Mr President, distinguished delegates,

Although I am a professional environmental expert, generally not involved in politics and not used to deliver political and official statements, I feel that last weeks events in Israel cannot stay unmentioned, especially in a meeting like ours, where the quality of life counts so much.

In the last ten days, Israeli civil population was a witness and a victim to a cruel wave of terrorist attacks. In these attacks, Israel has lost 62 children, men and women, hundreds were wounded, some of them very severely.

We are in the midst of an attack of terror which wishes to destroy us and to destroy the peace process. We cannot stand aside without response. We are committed to execute our right for self defense. We shall fight the Hamas and other extreme and fanatic Islamic terrorist organizations in all times and by all means.

We demand and require the Palestinian authorities and Chairman Arafat to take firm and immediate actions in order to prevent further terrorist attacks and to destroy the infrastructure of the Hamas.

The radical terror hurts Israel but it contains and means danger to the region and the whole world. This is why we expect countries of the world, and in particular the countries of the region to take measures against the Hamas and to support us in our firm battle against its terrorist infrastructure.

Israel is committed to the peace process, and will continue to work hard to achieve peace, but more than anything else we are committed to the personal security and safety of our citizens. Last week's events caused very serious obstacles to the peace process. We shall not give up our wish and efforts to bring peace, but at the same time we shall continue our war with terror without fatigue.

Statement by H.E. Mr Emilio Gerelli
Deputy Minister for the Environment
Ministry of the Environment
Italy

Dear Colleagues,
Distinguished Authorities and Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to seize the opportunity to warmly thank the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Administration of the Province of Syracuse and La Facoltà dell'Arte e della Scienza for their cooperation and support that enabled both the Technical and Legal Expert to meet again in Syracuse, in order to finalize the text of the LBS Protocol and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the adoption of the amended Protocol and the signature of the Final Act.

Furthermore, let me underline the role played by the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan on the promotion of initiatives and appropriated measures in order to face the environmental emergencies of the Mediterranean Sea.

As you know, Italy attaches great importance to the amended LBS Protocol, as it represents a significant step forward to foster the Mediterranean region and its resources and to contribute to eliminate the impending threats against its economy present and future development.

The Italian delegation is particularly satisfied with the results arisen from the Technical and Legal Experts Meeting because some significant innovative aspects have been included in the new text of the Protocol.

In this respect, I would like to remind three of them.

First, it is generally considered very important to have stated that, in order to protect the Mediterranean Sea, it is necessary to look at the whole of the activities installed on the hydrologic Mediterranean Basin, because it is where land-based pollution originates.

Another qualifying aspect is that the future action plans must be structured taking into account the clean production approach by saving resources and by applying the best available techniques and the best environmental practices.

The third is that the action plans, containing measures and timetables for every specific target, will be obligatory for the Parties. In this respect the Italian Delegation feels very important that the Group of Technical Experts gave priority to phase out the inputs of toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative substances and in particular to the twelve substances defined by the UNEP Governing Council, as well as to wastewater treatment and management.

Distinguished Colleagues, Authorities and Delegates,

With the adoption of the amended LBS Protocol, we ended a relevant stage in the reviewing process of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, but now we have to commit ourselves to undertake all effort for implementing the amended Protocol of Syracuse with the aim of preventing the environment from being polluted rather than recovering it from pollution.

The road we have in front of us for reaching an appreciable reduction of discharges and emissions of the above-mentioned substances is still long. The Italian Delegation feels that the already scheduled consultation procedure among the Contracting Parties, scientists, industrial and environmental NGOs should agree on the widest possible number of substances that could be gradually eliminated within the year 2005 and possibly before it, as recommended by the Italian Minister for the Environment during the last Contracting Parties Meeting held in Barcelona in June 1995.

Another important issue for the implementation of the amended LBS Protocol is the financial aspect. As you know, the application of the best available techniques and of the best environmental practices and their transfer to developing countries need relevant investments. On this subject we hope that the Phase III of MED POL Programme, that should be approved in the near future, can draw a new financing approach with the aim of optimizing the resort to financial instruments existing by different international programmes and funds and of integrating those instruments with national public and private resources.

Finally, Distinguished Colleagues, Authorities and Delegates,

I want to add that our activity is a small but important part in the atmosphere of peace and cooperation in the Mediterranean that we all must safeguard: it is our future which is in question and we must strive with all our forces and good to work together for those who will be our successors.

My final words will simply express, once again, how much my country is satisfied with the outcome of this meeting.

Statement by Mr Vincent Cassar
Director General
Ministry of the Environment
Malta

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates,

It a great pleasure for my country and myself to have participated in this Conference and feel honoured to have contributed towards a major step forward in defending our environment. Indeed, as the Chairman said yesterday, this is a major and significant step forward.

The amendments and the additions to the Protocol put new and taxing responsibilities on the Contracting Parties and we are sure and augur that all these Parties will honour their obligations and responsibilities.

Malta placed as it is at the very center of the Mediterranean cannot not be concerned with the environment of the sea. Being an island it is entirely surrounded by sea and this puts great responsibilities on us - both to see that we as a country do not pollute the sea for our own well being as well as to see that others do not pollute the sea which is a means of livelihood for most of our inhabitants and the enjoyment for the many tourists that visit us.

The sea is also our major source of water for daily consumption as we generate almost 60% of our fresh water resources from the sea.

We feel that monitoring is one of the most important factors in this programme and one of our major initiatives has lately been the monitoring of the condition of the sea surrounding us through the use of remote sensing techniques using satellite transmission and reception. This has been done in conjunction with Professor Geraci of the University of Catania, and this has been a great success and gave us very useful data.

We are open to further initiatives and cooperation with all countries and we hope to be able to participate further in the defense of the environment.

May I finally join the other speakers before me and thank the Government of Italy and the Province of Syracuse for making this Conference possible.

Discours de Mme Marie-Christine Van Klaveren
Chef de Division
Service de l'Environnement
Principauté de Monaco

Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs,

Depuis de nombreuses décennies, la Principauté s'est particulièrement attachée à la connaissance, à la sauvegarde et à la gestion durable de l'environnement méditerranéen.

Le renouveau de notre Plan d'action et de la Convention de Barcelone est l'aboutissement de vingt années d'un long chemin. Il en résulte un cadre de coopération exemplaire pour d'autres mers régionales et nous devons en être fiers. Cette exemplarité, nous l'avons particulièrement ressentie lors de la Conférence de Washington où l'avance acquise par les pays méditerranéens sur de nombreuses régions était particulièrement sensible. Cette exemplarité, néanmoins, nous en sommes bien conscients, est lourde de responsabilités. Nous en avons aujourd'hui relevé un des défis.

Défis que Son Altesse Sérénissime le Prince Rainier III avait déjà lancé lors du sommet des Chefs d'Etats à Rio. Il y soulignait notamment:

- la nécessité de considérer la Méditerranée, ainsi que la mer Noire, comme régions d'action prioritaire;
- l'importance des actions en zones littorales pour la protection de la mer;
- l'inutilité des textes non appliqués, parfois par manque de capacités techniques, et l'urgence de la mise en oeuvre de transfert opérationnel de technologies appropriées.

C'est donc avec une certaine satisfaction que nous constatons, au vu du texte qui nous est présenté et que nous allons signer, que la coopération, dans ce qu'il est convenu d'appeler l'esprit de Barcelone, a atteint un stade de maturité qui nous permet d'envisager en commun des mesures contractuelles efficaces. C'est ce nouveau virage qui nous permettra de continuer à être exemplaires.

Il faut se féliciter de voir la Convention intégrer les grands principes confirmés à Rio; se féliciter de voir la Convention se préoccuper des zones côtières à la fois origine et victime de la pression démographique mais réel lieu de vie de la population méditerranéenne. Voir cet esprit nous permettre de renforcer l'action du Protocole tellurique par le biais de plans d'actions contraignants et d'obligations librement consenties, signe de notre capacité de coopération.

En terminant, je voudrais remercier les autorités italiennes pour la qualité de leur accueil et l'Unité de coordination pour son excellent travail de préparation qui a permis d'intégrer les diverses propositions des délégations ainsi que les grandes lignes du Programme d'action global de Washington.

Discours de M. Ahmed Bouhaoui
Secrétaire Général du Ministère de l'environnement
Maroc

Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs,

La délégation marocaine est particulièrement honorée de participer à cette Conférence tenue en cette cité historique de Syracuse et de prendre part à la réunion des plénipotentiaires après avoir participé à la réunion des Experts à qui je voudrais rendre ici un vibrant hommage ainsi qu'au Secrétariat de la Conférence et aux membres du Bureau de l'Unité de Coordination pour les efforts acharnés qu'ils ont déployés, travaillant chaque jour jusqu'à des heures tardives de la nuit.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Ni pendant la réunion des experts, ni au cours de la séance d'adoption des amendements d'hier, les représentants du Maroc n'ont voulu pour ce qui est des tournures, des concepts et des terminologies, polémiquer ou palabrer, bien que la palabre soit souvent du côté de la rive africaine de la Méditerranée une forme de communication constructive et parfois l'exutoire à beaucoup de tensions; car il restait encore beaucoup à dire au niveau du préambule, des articles 1, 5, 6 et 10 et de l'Annexe IV dans sa globalité. Mais, nous considérons que les textes ne valent que par le sérieux et l'engagement des Parties qui les ont conçus, qui auront à les appliquer et qui seront jugées aux résultats obtenus.

De plus, en tant que pays et peuples répartis autour de la Méditerranée, nous sommes seuls responsables de notre destinée; nous nous devons d'être solidaires et d'oublier les querelles partisans ou les calculs étroits et égoïstes.

Nous sommes sur le même radeau "Méditerranée", nous sommes attablés autour de la même table "Méditerranée" et à ce titre, nous avons les mêmes obligations envers cette Mare Nostra que personne ne sauvera des dangers de la pollution en dehors de nous-mêmes.

A ce titre, la coopération entre nos pays et avec les organismes internationaux et régionaux est primordiale; l'aide et l'assistance qui doivent être déployées ne doivent pas être laissées au gré des circonstances mais bien programmées et ciblées d'où l'importance de certaines dispositions dans la Convention de Barcelone qui devront être confortées par des actes.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Le Maroc en tant que partie prenante au système juridique de Barcelone, conscient de l'importance du PAM en tant que programme modèle de coopération fructueuse a largement contribué à sa mise en oeuvre en participant pleinement à ses différentes activités et plus particulièrement au Programme de Surveillance Continue de la pollution marine.

Pour ce faire, le Maroc s'est doté de structures adaptées telles que l'Observatoire National de l'Environnement, un Laboratoire d'Analyses, un Département de Surveillance Continue de la Pollution, un Département d'Etudes d'Impact. De plus, le Ministère de l'environnement vient d'être désigné coordinateur principal du Plan d'Urgence National (P.U.N.) adopté récemment pour le gouvernement pour ce qui est de la lutte contre la pollution marine. En effet, avec 3500 km de côtes dont un tiers environ en Méditerranée, le Maroc se devait d'adopter un tel plan d'urgence.

Le Maroc est disposé à coopérer à tous les niveaux et avec tous les pays méditerranéens. Bien que l'essentiel de ses activités économiques et industrielles soient concentrées sur la côte atlantique, notre pays s'intéresse d'autant plus à la préservation de la Méditerranée que ses côtes nord sont encore intactes et nous tenons à les développer de façon réfléchie, harmonieuse et durable. Ce doit être le cas de beaucoup d'autres régions de la Méditerranée.

D'où l'importance du Protocole discuté ici tout au long de cette semaine et qui aidera les Parties contractantes à mettre en oeuvre leurs programmes et actions à l'échelle nationale, bilatérale et multilatérale.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Le Maroc qui assure actuellement la présidence du Bureau Exécutif du Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée (PAM) accueille avec intérêt le texte que nous allons signer et qui sûrement aura une incidence positive sur l'ensemble des systèmes déjà mis en place pour lutter contre la pollution en Méditerranée. C'est là une oeuvre fort utile.

Je voudrais donc remercier toute les parties qui ont participé à l'élaboration de ce texte, ceux qui ont organisé cette rencontre, ceux qui ont veillé à son bon déroulement; enfin j'adresse mes remerciements aux autorités italiennes de la province et de cette belle ville de Syracuse qui ont bien voulu nous offrir leur hospitalité.

A tous, je dis merci et à une prochaine rencontre.

Statement by Ms Helena Senekovic-Marchisetti
Assistant to the Director
National Protection Authority of the Republic of Slovenia
Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
Slovenia

Mr President,
Distinguished Delegates,

In the name of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia I am honoured to express full commitment to the goals that are established in the amended Protocol, as well as to the efforts taken for its implementation.

Slovenia feels a great responsibility to the Mediterranean Sea, and will take its part in our common effort to improve the Mediterranean environment.

The adopted document presents an important milestone in our endeavour to reduce the pollution in the Mediterranean Sea area, and we hope we will attain our objectives in a peaceful cooperation.

We would like to express our thanks to the Government of Italy, the Province of Syracuse, and to the Secretariat for the excellent organization of this meeting and conference.

Thank you.

Discurso del Sr. Joaquín Ros
Asesor Ejecutivo
Secretaría de Estado de Medio Ambiente y Vivienda
Ministerio de Obras Públicas Transportes y Medio Ambiente
España

Señor Presidente, señoras y señores,

Permítame ante todo en nombre del Gobierno español y de la delegación española, agradecer al Gobierno italiano y a las Autoridades provinciales la hospitalidad que nos han ofrecido y que nos ha permitido reunirnos en esta bellísima ciudad de Siracusa.

Una pregunta muy común que los políticos, los periodistas y el público en general nos hace a los expertos que trabajamos en la protección del Mediterráneo es, ¿Cómo está el Mediterráneo?

Esta pregunta pertinente es de difícil respuesta. Pero, permítame, señor Presidente, que tenga el atrevimiento de intentar contestar en pocos minutos, con el conocimiento acumulado por cuarenta años de trabajo en este campo.

A principio de los años sesenta la contaminación del Mediterráneo, y de los mares y océanos en general, estaba dominada por la radiactividad procedente de las explosiones nucleares en la atmósfera. Esta contaminación alcanzó niveles preocupantes y las naciones responsables tomaron la decisión de prohibir las pruebas nucleares en la atmósfera, para lo que se firmó en 1963 en Moscú, el Tratado sobre Prohibición de Pruebas Nucleares en la Atmósfera, el Espacio ultraterrestre y bajo el Agua. La contaminación consiguientemente empezó a disminuir y hace años que solamente quedan rastros en los sedimentos y en algunas aguas muy profundas del Atlántico y del Pacífico.

Durante todo este tiempo todas las ciudades e industrias del Mediterráneo continuaron descargando en mares y ríos sus aguas residuales sin depurar con daños y molestias evidentes para todos.

En los años setenta el petróleo tomó el relevo de la radiactividad y durante esos años fue el problema más preocupante y más extendido. También en este caso, en Londres en 1973 las naciones firmaron el Convenio sobre Prevención de la Contaminación originada por Buques y en 1978 su Protocolo, se tomaron medidas y las descargas de aguas sucias de los buques petroleros y de las terminales y refinerías fueron disminuyendo y hoy en día nadie discute que este tipo de contaminación se ha reducido sensiblemente.

En los años ochenta, la contaminación de las aguas de baño por microorganismos patógenos procedentes de las aguas urbanas, se convirtió en el tema principal. Nuestras playas estaban sucias, la industria turística estaba amenazada, se tomaron medidas y en estos quince años una parte muy importante de los vertidos urbanos

de los países más desarrollados han sido depurados o alejados de la costa y varios planes de saneamiento integral de la costa han sido aprobados. Las inversiones públicas realizadas son billonarias, y las inversiones proyectadas para los próximos cinco años son muy importantes. El objetivo para que en el año 2005 todas las aguas urbanas procedentes de los países desarrollados y la mayoría de los países en desarrollo estén depuradas está a nuestra alcance. La calidad sanitaria de nuestras aguas de baño ha ido mejorando. Hoy en día el 90 por ciento de las playas de los países desarrollados, son sanitariamente adecuadas para el baño y cumplen la normativa comunitaria y los criterios de calidad aprobada por las Partes Contratantes del Convenio de Barcelona.

En la década de los noventa los vertidos industriales toman el relevo. La industria, ya hacía tiempo que estaba preocupada y adaptándose a los nuevos vientos que, en favor del medio ambiente, soplan en todos los países. Sus inversiones han ido en aumento y también son billonarias. La crisis industrial obligó en los años ochenta a cerrar muchas industrias contaminantes por obsoletas pero no hay que olvidar que industrias importantes han sido obligadas a cerrar por no poderse adaptar a las nuevas normas de calidad ambiental. La modernización industrial producida por la crisis ha producido una reducción de los aportes contaminantes a la atmósfera y a las aguas. Reducción visible y cuantificable.

En conclusión, señor Presidente, y sin temor a equivocarme, me alegra poder decir que la tendencia hacia situaciones cada vez peores se ha invertido. De una situación en la que cada año los aportes iban incrementándose, hemos pasado a una situación en la que los aportes al mar y a la atmósfera de sustancias contaminantes va reduciéndose progresiva y rápidamente. Esta situación, señor Presidente, me permite ser optimista porque la forma más eficaz de proteger al Mediterráneo es disminuir los aportes, disminuir las entradas de contaminantes en el Mediterráneo, y como ésta es la situación creo que tenemos motivos para ser optimistas.

La Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo de 1992 y la revisión y adaptación del Convenio para la Protección del Mediterráneo, que se inició en Barcelona en junio de 1995 y se continúan con la firma hoy aquí de las enmiendas al Protocolo sobre fuentes y actividades terrestres, nos ayudarán a conservar y proteger nuestro Mediterráneo, espero y deseo que así sea.

Muchas gracias Señor Presidente.

Statement by H.E. Mr Murat Sungur Bursa
Deputy Undersecretary
Ministry of Environment
Turkey

Mr Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me associate myself with other previous speakers by thanking the Government of Italy and the authorities of the City of Syracuse for the very warm welcome and hospitality extended to all of us.

Mr Chairman,

The revision process that we have initiated in Antalya and further activated during Med-21 Conference in Tunis has given its first substantial results in Barcelona last year. This was an extremely important cornerstone for integrating a new dimension and a brighter concept to Mediterranean Action Plan in the light of the needs and perspectives of the 21st century.

The experience of the past 20 years in the implementation of MAP has clearly demonstrated that we have to intensify and focus our efforts towards the recognized role of sustainable development in the Mediterranean. The Protocol which we are about to sign today, is a vital legal instrument that identifies the framework of our efforts and constitutes a challenge to this end. Meeting this challenge will of course require a lot of attention and widespread cooperation for the years ahead.

Today, it is estimated that about 70 percent of all of the pollution of the oceans comes from land-based sources. This is also valid for our sea that is dramatically affected from these activities for a long time. In order to prevent or combat this pollution, it is necessary to plan and carry out these activities in accordance with those policies pursuing sustainable development.

Mr Chairman,

It is obvious that our governments do not possess immediate and miraculous instruments that will lead us to sustainable development with the shortest possible way. Furthermore, land-based activities have a direct relationship with national development plans and programmes. Under these delicate circumstances, the modification of land-based activities towards a more environmentally sound way will definitely bring an important load to the national budgets that we have to consider in advance.

On the other hand, it requires additional financial resources for many countries of the region to access environmentally sound technologies and to complete environmental infrastructure and treatment plants. Furthermore, with the implementation of the new LBS Protocol, we will pursue further opportunities to mobilise new and additional financial resources in our region and to ensure the technical and technological cooperation to the extent possible.

At this point, I would like to underline the efficient role that the European Union can play and I wish that the decisions of the Euro-Mediterranean Conference held in November 1995 in Barcelona will yield tangible results in our region within the framework of MAP.

Mr Chairman,

I also hope that METAP Phase III that is expected to officially start in the near future will act as a major instrument in making sustainable development a reality at the regional level.

The other point that merits attention is that there is a clear necessity to foster our efforts for enhancing partnership with GEF so as to put into effect our objectives within MAP. I have no doubt that the success of the Black Sea Action Plan in benefiting from GEF resources can be extended to MAP as well. Turkey is ready to share its experience with other Mediterranean partners. Taking this opportunity, I am pleased to inform you that the Secretariat of the Commission of Bucharest Convention has become operational since January 1996 in its premises in Dolmabahçe Palace, and the Programme Coordinating Unit of GEF/Black Sea has also relocated to the same premises in order to ensure close cooperation and coordination. Let me also announce that the first meeting of the Contracting Parties to Bucharest Convention will take place next month in Istanbul.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to reiterate that, being the only country that participates in both action plans for the Mediterranean and for the Black Sea, Turkey is firmly committed to continue its pivotal efforts for strengthening cooperation between the two regions.

Distinguished Delegates,

As I pointed out earlier, we have completed today one of the most important stages of our work that was initiated for making MAP more responsive to new challenges of the next century.

Needless to say, the last phase of this process will be the finalization and adoption of the Hazardous Waste Protocol. At this point, I would like to reiterate that Turkey will take a great pride to host the expert meeting followed by a Diplomatic Conference at Izmir, as we agreed in Barcelona last year. Let me inform you that upon the consultations with the Bureau, the Secretariat proposed to change the dates of these meetings and Turkey gave its approval. In that case, we are pleased to invite you to Izmir for the Expert Meeting from 28-30 September and for the Diplomatic Conference on 1-2 October.

Mr Chairman,

It seems that 1996 will have a heavy load of schedule in view of the planned activities of MAP. We hope that this process will be accomplished with the extraordinary meeting in July and finally the Diplomatic Conference in October, as fully equipped with all legal instruments and necessary budget allocations. This success will, of course, give us a new verve and courage in our way leading to the 30th anniversary of MAP.

Lastly Mr Chairman, let me draw your attention to the last global summit of this decade, habitat-II, City Summit which will be held in Istanbul between 3 and 14 June 1996. This Summit has a particular meaning for us since the World Environment Day will be celebrated in Istanbul during this historical conference.

As you know, UNEP celebrates the World Environment Day in different continents each year. This year, the celebration will take place in a fabulous city that bridges the two continents. So, we are particularly pleased to invite you to Istanbul not only for Habitat-II, but also for the UN Environment Day celebrations and UNEP-Global 500 prize ceremony.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to conclude by thanking the Government of Italy and the Coordinating Unit of MAP as well as all delegations who contributed to the amendment and finalization of this Protocol.

Let me stress once more that Turkey is determined to continue its long-standing partnership and fruitful cooperation with other countries of the region while pursuing the common objectives set out in the Protocol.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

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Declarations of Turkey, Cyprus and Greece

During the course of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources, the representatives of Turkey, Cyprus and Greece made declarations which are presented below in the order of their presentation at the Conference.

Declaration of the representative of Turkey

On the occasion of the opening to signature of Amendments to the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources, the Delegation of the Republic of Turkey makes the following declaration to be registered in the minutes of the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries being held in Syracuse on 6-7 March 1996.

The signature, acceptance or ratification of the above mentioned amendments by the Republic of Turkey should in no way be construed as the recognition of the "Republic of Cyprus" by Turkey. Nor should it imply any change in Turkey's well known position that the Greek Cypriot side does not possess the right or authority to become party to international instruments on behalf of Cyprus as a whole. Turkey's signing of the Amendments to the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources, therefore, should not signify any obligation on the part of Turkey to enter into any dealings with "Republic of Cyprus" as are regulated by the Convention and its Protocols.

Declaration of the representative of Cyprus

Cyprus formally registers its rejection of Turkey's "reservation" with regard to the participation of Cyprus in the Plenipotentiary Conference of the Mediterranean Action Plan, because such "reservation" is legally null and void with no consequences whatsoever.

The Republic of Cyprus and its Government enjoy universal recognition. Cyprus is a member State of the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Commonwealth, the Council of Europe and other International Organisations and its Government is fully recognised by all members of these Organisations, with the sole exception of Turkey, i.e. the power occupying 37% of the territory of Cyprus in grave breach of International Law.

The independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus as well as the legality of the Government of Cyprus have been recognised also in a series of the UN Security Council Resolutions, notably the Resolution 186 of 4 March 1964 and all ensuing relevant Resolutions, in particular Resolutions 541 (1983), 550 (1984) and the most recent one 939 of 29 July 1994.

The fact that Turkey, in violation of the UN Charter and in defiance of all principles governing international relations, invaded the Republic of Cyprus in 1974 with the aim to destroy its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, does not affect the sovereignty of the Republic over its entire territory nor it affects the single international personality of the Republic of Cyprus or the representative capacity of its legal Government. The fact that Turkey has the audacity to mention that she is the only country that has unlawfully recognised the pseudostate is not only proof of her persistence in contemptuously ignoring mandatory UN Security Council Resolutions but also that the international legal order means nothing to the state that committed aggression against Cyprus.

Declaration of the representative of Greece

Greece strongly supports and endorses the declaration of Cyprus. The Turkish declaration can in no way affect the legal status of the Republic of Cyprus, recognised by all members of the international community. On the contrary, such a declaration puts under question the credibility of Turkey concerning the implementation of the commitments undertaken within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan, including the possibility to convene MAP meetings in Turkey.

Declaration of the representative of Turkey

Mr Chairman,

I have asked the floor in the exercise of my delegation's right of reply. As you would recognize in my statement I showed maximum restraint for not initiating a political debate on Cyprus issue. But the statements made following my intervention call for comment and further clarification.

The Republic of Cyprus was founded in 1960 in accordance with the international Cyprus treaties by the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot peoples as a partnership state composed of the two politically equal partners.

Following the Greek Cypriot armed onslaught against the Turkish Cypriot people in December 1963, the Turkish Cypriot members of the government and the public service were forcibly ousted from their offices and never allowed to return.

Their positions were subsequently filled in by the Greek Cypriots and the machinery of government of the Republic of Cyprus was then illegally usurped by the Greek Cypriot elements of the bi-national state.

In consequence, since December 1963, there has not been a joint administration in the island and the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus has no legal or moral right to claim to represent anyone except the Greek Cypriot people. In this context let me remind you that our approval of the report of the credential committee does not in any way imply the recognition of the credential of the delegation of the so-called Republic of Cyprus.

Since 1963, the Greek Cypriots not only have they been in violation of the Constitution of that country but also of the international treaties associated with the creation of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960. They have also grossly violated the human rights of the Turkish Cypriots by uprooting thousands of them, destroying their livelihood, restricting their movement and, yes, often massacring them indiscriminately. This ordeal at the hands of the Greek Cypriots lasted eleven long years and not even the presence of UN Peace Keeping Force which was stationed in that country in 1964 to protect the embattled Turkish Cypriots was able to prevent the Greek Cypriots from systematically carrying out their plans for driving out or exterminating this community. If there is a Turkish military presence in the island today, it is to protect the lives and the existence of the Turkish Cypriots and their small state from the dare fate that the Greek Cypriots have in store for them and which they have never bothered to disguise. Furthermore Turkey was compelled to intervene in Cyprus, as everyone knows to prevent the island from being annexed to Greece following the blood bath that was unleashed in the island in July 1974 by Greece and their Greek Cypriot collaborators.

Turkey's intervention was undertaken in accordance with her rights and obligations under the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960 and was fully legal and legitimate.

I would appreciate it if this statement is reflected in the minutes of this meeting.

Declaration of the representative of Cyprus

I refute the unfounded allegations just made by the Representative of Turkey in the stronger possible terms. In furtherance of her aims, Turkey and her official organs have been causing to the people of Cyprus immense suffering. Turkey, illegally expelled almost the 30% of the population of the territory it occupied, i.e. turned about 200.000 people - one third of the population of Cyprus - into refugees and have committed unprecedented atrocities against the Greek Cypriot population - who form the 80% of the total population of Cyprus. For all these actions Turkey was found responsible of grossly violating the European Convention of Human Rights during the examination of the applications submitted by the Government of Cyprus against the Government of Turkey before the European Commission of Human Rights. The latter had declared admissible all these applications lodged by Cyprus against Turkey under Article 24 of the European Convention on Human Rights and rejected Turkey's argument that the applicant Government were not entitled to represent the Republic of Cyprus.

The attempted secession of part of the Republic of Cyprus was condemned by the Security Council Res. 541 (1983) which also considered it legally invalid and called for its withdrawal. It also called upon all states not to recognise any Cypriot state other than the Republic of Cyprus and not to facilitate or in any way assist secessionist entity. On the other hand, Security Council Res. 550 (1984), condemned all secessionist actions, including the purported exchange of ambassadors between Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership, declared them illegal and invalid and called for their immediate withdrawal.

II

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OF THE CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES
(in English/French)**

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