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Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties
to the Convention for the protection of the
Mediterranean Sea against pollution

Geneva, 10 - 11 June 1982

REPORT

1. The Bureau met in Geneva on the 10th and 11th June 1982, at the invitation of the secretariat, as had been decided at the meeting of 27th March 1982. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Giovanni Falchi (Italy). Mr. S. Antoine (France) was present. Mr. M. Ladjouzi (Algeria) asked to be excused for reasons of work. The Bureau took note of his inability to attend, commenting that the Vice-President's absence hindered the smooth functioning of the Bureau. Mr. J. Naggear (Lebanon) the Rapporteur, telephoned to say that as a result of events in Lebanon, Beirut airport was closed.

2. Accepting this as a case of 'force majeure', the Bureau decided to proceed with the examination of the agenda with the Co-ordinator, Mr. Manos. It was decided that written proposals and deliberations should be sent to absent colleagues for their eventual comments and approval.

3. The Bureau adopted the agenda attached in Annex I.

4. Agenda Item I: Session of Special Character and 10th Ordinary Session of UNEP's Governing Council.

Mr. A. Manos presented a brief report of UNEP's Special Session and of the Council's 10th Ordinary Session held in Nairobi from the 10th May - 2nd June 1982. The Bureau took note of the declarations concerning the Mediterranean Action Plan, collected in document UNEP/BUR/13. It requested that the document, together with the record of this meeting be distributed to all Contracting Parties.

5. The Bureau regretfully took note of the fact that the approved budget for the Regional Seas Programme does not appear to allow for a financial contribution in excess of 100.000 dollars per annum for the MAP in 1982 and 1983.

6. The Bureau took note of the Nairobi declaration adopted by the Special Session, as well as of the recommendation to re-inforce work in the field and to develop the law of the environment. On the latter point, the Co-ordinator announced his intention of presenting programme proposals at the next meeting of Contracting Parties.

7. Mr. Manos said that he had made contact with the delegations of a number of the Contracting Parties, (Algeria, Italy, Libya, Morocco, EEC), with a view to the visits due to take place in September/October 1982. The Bureau expressed its satisfaction and suggested the possibility of holding one of its future meetings in the capital of one of the Contracting Parties.

8. Agenda Item 2: Progress of the Programme

The Bureau noted the state of contributions on the 31st May 1982. It was informed that the EEC had announced the payment of its contribution for 1982 since then, and of the adoption of the Bill authorising Italy to pay its contributions for 1981/1982/1983 which it would do shortly. The Bureau recalled the recommendation of the Extraordinary Meeting held in Geneva, in March/April 1982, that all contributions for 1982 should be settled by the 1st July (UNEP/IG.36/8 paragraph 79) and urged all Contracting Parties to fulfil their obligations within the scheduled time.

9. Mr. Manos informed the Bureau of his contacts with the Yugoslav authorities with the purpose of strengthening the PAP Centre's activities in Split. The expert nominated by UICN submitted his recommendation that a full-time expert be recruited by the Tunis Centre. The Bureau considered that the possibility of an International Organisation assuming responsibility for the expert should be explored by the Contracting Parties after an initial period of one year.

10. A number of exchanges and visits took place in order to define the agreements between each coastal state and the Co-ordination Unit, for the purposes of monitoring and research. The Bureau invited all Contracting Parties to speed up the conclusion of the agreement and to facilitate the task of the national laboratories concerned.

11. The Bureau took note of the Secretariat's contacts with the Italian authorities, regarding the launching of a training programme in Urbino.

12. Agenda Item 3: Personnel

Taking note of the Executive Director's intention of promoting Mr. Manos to the rank of Director, the Bureau considers that as a result of the installation of the Co-ordinating Unit in Athens, it is in fact opportune to recognise the increased responsibilities of the Co-ordinator, and therefore supports the Executive Director's intention. It was noted also that this would not make a substantial difference to the budget provisions.

13. The Bureau expressed satisfaction that the economist's post in the Co-ordinating Unit has been opened to recruitment from those coastal states not yet represented in the Unit.

14. Mr. Manos pointed out, that the use of legal consultants could not replace the services of a full-time lawyer and that this was justified by the four protocols already signed, and by the development of new legal instruments.

15. The Co-ordinator reminded the meeting that the Unit will be in a position to accept two trainees, for a period of a few months. He asked those Contracting Parties who are not represented in the Unit to put forward young scientists or civil servants who might benefit from a training period in the Unit. The Bureau invites the Contracting Parties to use this opportunity of giving concrete support to the MAP.

16. Agenda Item 4: Transfer of the Unit to Athens

The Co-ordinator informed the Bureau of the great progress made for the transfer of the Unit to Athens. A local architect is now in charge of the work, and all necessary purchases have been authorised by UNEP's committee on contracts in Nairobi. The Unit's staff will begin work in Athens on the 1st July 1982. All relevant information, (address, telephone number, telex, postbox number) will be sent directly to the Contracting Parties. Locally engaged staff have been interviewed and will be chosen by UNEP from a list of candidates drawn up by the Co-ordinator.

17. Two questions remain to be settled. The first concerns the signature of an additional agreement which is to identify the Unit's headquarters according to the headquarters agreement signed by the Hellenic Republic and the United Nations on the 11th February 1982. The Bureau is anxious to see the conclusion of this additional agreement, considering it to be a pre-condition for the transfer.

18. The second question concerns the lease which is to be signed by the Co-ordinating Unit, the National Research Foundation and the Government. The effective date of the lease as well as the exact amount of the charges is still to be decided.

19. The Bureau has been informed that an official ceremony is to mark the transfer of the Unit to its permanent headquarters in Athens. The Bureau should like this transfer to provide an occasion for demonstrating Mediterranean co-operation and support, and if circumstances allow, would like ministers interested in the Mediterranean programme to come to Athens for the occasion. The Bureau suggests that the ceremony should take place in the week of the 13th September.

20. A press file should be prepared to demonstrate the MAP's activities so far, especially the activities in the first half of 1982.

21. Agenda Item 5: Any other Business

The Co-ordinator informed the Bureau of a meeting he had had in Geneva with the head of the Albanian Delegation to the Governing Council of UNDP. This meeting took place on the initiative of UNDP's regional Bureau for Europe. The Bureau took note of the interest expressed by the Representative of Albania, the only Mediterranean coastal state which is not a Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention. If the Co-ordinator was to be invited to inform the Albanian authorities on the Mediterranean Action Plan, he should accept to do so.

22. On the subject of voluntary support for Mediterranean co-operation, the Bureau has been informed of the Greek Shipowners Association's initiative to create its own association for the protection of the marine environment. Mr. Keckes and Mr. Manos were present at the ceremony marking the signature of a voluntary declaration on the 4th June 1982. The declaration had been countersigned by several non-governmental organisations. The Bureau is delighted with this initiative taken by an important economic sector of the Contracting Parties and wishes to draw attention to the text of the declaration in Annex II.

23. Agenda Item 6: Date of the Bureau's next meeting

It was decided to fix the next meeting of the Bureau a day before the inauguration ceremony in Athens, next September.

24. Agenda Item 7: Adoption of the report

The report of the meeting was approved by the Bureau and it was decided to send it to Mr. Ladjouzi and Mr. Naggear for approval (and any comments). The final text will be distributed to the Contracting Parties.

25. The meeting was adjourned at 12.00 on the 11th June 1982.



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Bureau Meeting of the Contracting
Parties to the Convention for the Protection
of the Mediterranean Sea, against pollution

Geneva, 10 - 11 June 1982

AGENDA

1. Special Session, and 10th Ordinary Session of UNEP's governing council.
2. Progress of the programme (contributions, commitments).
3. Personnel
4. Transfer of the Unit to Athens.
5. Any other business
6. Date of the Bureau's next Meeting.
7. Adoption of the Report.