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

Belgrade, 12 - 13 January 1984

## REPORT

1. The Bureau met on 12 and 13 January 1984 as decided at their previous meeting (document UNEP/BUR/19, paragraph 17). At the invitation of the President the meeting was held in Belgrade. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Zivorad Kovacevic (Yugoslavia) and H.E. Mr. Mamdouh Abdel Razeq (Egypt); Mr. Joaquin Ros (Spain), Vice-Presidents, and Mrs. Hedia Baccar (Tunisia), Rapporteur were also present.

The secretariat was represented at this meeting by Mr. A. Manos, the Co-ordinator. The meeting was opened at 10 o'clock on 12 January 1984 and ended on 13 January 1984.

1. The Co-ordinator's report on activities from November 1983 to January 1984.

2. Mr. Manos provided the Bureau with a written and oral report on the activities from the previous Bureau meeting to-date.

3. The Bureau took note of the Co-ordinator's report which is contained in Annex I.

4. In the course of its review of the various MAP components the Bureau stressed the importance of the meeting of National Focal Points for the Blue Plan (Sophia Antipolis, 24-27 January 1984) for reviewing the conclusions of the first phase and for defining the work and modalities of the second phase in line with the wishes of the Contracting Parties. The need to ensure a clear co-ordination with PAP activities and the need to secure the participation of national institutions in the work of the second phase were stressed during the discussion.

5. The President informed the Bureau that a new Director of the PAP Centre would be appointed soon. The recent approval of the PAP unified project should allow for an early start of activities. The Bureau was informed about the misgivings of certain United Nations specialized agencies at the new project format, but reiterated the invitation to the agencies to co-operate with the Centre and the Mediterranean Co-ordinating Unit. All such co-operation will be given full recognition through future revisions to the project document, publications, etc.

6. The Bureau was informed of the action taken by IMO concerning the recruitment in consultation with UNEP of the new Director for the Regional Oil Combating Centre.

7. Mr. Ros informed the secretariat of Spain's interest to host the regional seminar on Mediterranean port reception facilities in 1984. A formal offer will be addressed to the Unit, which will then contact IMO.

8. The President informed the Bureau that Yugoslavia had completed the internal procedures for the payment of its contribution to the Mediterranean Trust Fund; that the Parliament of Croatia had voted a budget for that Republic's participation in MED POL; and that the International Water Association would hold its next meeting in October 1985 in Yugoslavia on topics related to marine pollution. The Bureau took note with satisfaction of these positive developments.

9. The Bureau heard a brief presentation by Professor Miloradov, member of the Organizing Committee of the Conference. In view of the clear connection between the objectives of the Conference and those of the land-based sources protocol and of the PAP Centre, the Co-ordinator envisages to co-sponsor the Conference, provide a member on the Organizing Committee and facilitate travel of a certain number of Participants from Mediterranean Coastal States.

10. The Bureau was informed about a note addressed by Israel to the Government of Spain and a communication addressed to the secretariat, concerning the reservation in the ratification by Tunisia of the Protocol on specially protected areas. The Co-ordinator had notified the members of the Bureau and had solicited UNEP's views on the legal aspects of this matter. The Bureau stressed the fact that there was no formal connection between the Protocol and the Centre on Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas; that the establishment of such a national Centre in Tunisia, having a regional role, had been approved by the Contracting Parties at Cannes and that the meeting in Dubrovnik had further approved a budgetary contribution to the Centre. These decisions could only be reversed by the Contracting Parties themselves.

11. The Bureau took note of the status of contributions which showed \$ 1,050,000 unpaid at the end of 1983, as compared with the estimated 700,000.

12. The Co-ordinator informed that the payment of the Greek outstanding contribution to the Mediterranean Trust Fund and of the Special Host Country Contribution for 1983, had received final approval and was expected in January 1984. The Bureau expressed satisfaction for this development. However, the Bureau expressed concern over the fact that the Agreement on the Headquarters of the Mediterranean Co-ordinating Unit in Athens, signed in February 1982 had not yet been ratified by the Host Country and expressed the hope that the procedure of ratification would be completed soon, and in any case before the Extraordinary Meeting in April 1984 in Athens.

13. The Bureau took note with satisfaction of the advancement of Mr. Manos to the D-2 level.

II. Preparations for the Extraordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties, Athens, 10-13 April 1984

14. Mr. Manos informed the Bureau of the preparations for the above meeting. In conformity with Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure, he submitted to the Bureau UNEP's proposed Agenda for the meeting. After examining it and amending it slightly, the Bureau gave its agreement to the Agenda which will be attached to the Executive Director's letters of invitation to the Contracting Parties. The letters will be despatched on 16 - 17 January 1984.

15. With regard to the budget proposals to be submitted to the Extraordinary Meeting, the Bureau was of the opinion that the secretariat's proposals should be contained within the approved budget levels. This would also ensure that substantive and policy matters would be the object of debate and avoid that minor financial aspects monopolize the meeting's attention.

16. The President informed the Bureau that at the end of the meeting he was due to leave for an official visit to Kenya and Uganda. During his stay in Nairobi he would meet with Dr. Tolba. The Bureau welcomed this opportunity for the President to play an active role in support of the Mediterranean Action Plan and was of the view that similar high level contacts with Government officials of other coastal States would be highly beneficial in ensuring policy-level awareness of and support for the programme.

During his meeting with the Executive Director the President would raise the matter of delays in approval of Mediterranean projects, and that of the Programme support costs.

III. Date and place of next meeting

17. The Bureau decided to meet in Athens on 9 April 1984 to prepare for the Extraordinary Meeting starting on the 10th.

## ANNEX

### Mediterranean Action Plan Progress Report covering the period November - December 1983

#### Introduction

The present report is being submitted to the Bureau as a Working Document (English only) to facilitate its review of past activities. It complements the report covering the period January - October 1983 contained in document UNEP/BUR/19/Annex I.

#### 1. Integrated planning and environmental management of the Mediterranean Basin

##### 1.1 Blue Plan (ME/0503-80-01)

The Co-ordinator of the Blue Plan has further revised the Synthesis Report on Phase I and proposals for Phase II. The documentation has been despatched to the National Focal Points in preparation for their meeting (Sophia Antipolis, 24 - 27 January 1984). The list of documents appears in document UNEP/WG.100/INF.1.

##### 1.2 P.A.P (ME/0503-82-01; 83-05; 83-06)

The combined ("umbrella") project regrouping on-going and new activities has been finalized and approved by the Fund of UNEP.

##### 1.3 ROCC (ME/0503-76-06)

The decisions of the Bureau (BUR 19. para 4) have been conveyed to IMO.

##### 1.4 No developments to report concerning the Seminar on Port Reception facilities in the Mediterranean.

##### 1.5 The representative of Israel sent to the secretariat a Note concerning the reservation entered by Tunisia in its ratification of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas in the Mediterranean. The note was transmitted to UNEP Headquarters for legal advice and to the members of the Bureau.

The Fund of UNEP has agreed to adopt a new, simplified, procedure for the approval of projects financed by the Mediterranean Trust Fund. Approval in principle will be given to the entire project even though there are no sufficient funds. Funds will be released when available for specific components identified by the Co-ordinating Unit. The project for support to the Centre on Specially Protected Areas has been returned to the Unit to be resubmitted in the new format.

1.6 Preparations for the meeting on Co-operation to be held in Brussels in 1984 have been delayed. Only one Contracting Party has returned the completed Questionnaire by the 15 November 1983 deadline. No further replies have been received by 15 December. In consultation with EEC the tentative dates for the Meeting have been postponed to the third quarter of 1984. The Bureau may wish to stress the importance of this exercise in its Report.

1.7 Training Course at Urbino. Completed.

1.8 MED-POL research grants, Italy. Completed

2. Co-ordinated Programme for Pollution monitoring and Research in the Mediterranean Sea (MED-POL)

2.1 MED POL PHASE II (ME/0503-81-01)

- National Monitoring agreements have been signed to this date with Cyprus, Israel and Yugoslavia and actions taken to implement the assistance component.
- National Monitoring agreements have been cleared to this date with Lebanon, Malta and Turkey.
- Proposals for National Monitoring agreements have been received to this date from Greece, Morocco and Tunisia.
- National Monitoring programmes have also been received from France and Spain.
- Letters have been addressed (Sept. 1983) to the National Med-Pol Co-ordinators of Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey offering the secretariat's assistance for them to reach agreement on the monitoring of open sea reference areas in the Adriatic and Aegean Sea, respectively. Yugoslavia and Turkey have indicated their willingness to meet the Italian and Greek national coordinators respectively and the Secretariat on this matter. Italy informed that the matter will be considered at a meeting of their joint Commission for the Adriatic and inform the secretariat of the agreement reached. Greece has not yet replied.

- The Working Group on Scientific and Technical Co-operation has met in Athens from 21 to 25 November 1983. Its report has been distributed in English and French (document UNEP/WG.92/12) to the Participants and to all the Contracting Parties.

The Working Group reached consensus on recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties with regard to:

- i) monitoring activities for 1984 - 1985 and their financial implications
- ii) research activities for 1984 - 1985 and their financial implications
- iii) implementation of the Protocol on dumping
- iv) proposed Mediterranean jelly-fish programme
- v) preparations for the scientific/technical implementation of the Land-Based Sources Protocol.

The Working Group requested the National Med-Pol Co-ordinators to provide comments and suggestions to the secretariat, not later than 15 January 1984 on the following documents prepared by the secretariat.

- i) Assessment of the present state of pollution by mercury in the Mediterranean Sea and proposed control measures (UNEP/WG.91/5).
  - ii) Assessment of the present state of microbial pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and proposed control measures (UNEP/WG.91/6)
  - iii) Report on the implementation of the protocol concerning cooperation in combating pollution of the Mediterranean by oil and other harmful substances in case of emergency (UNEP/WG.91/7 and Add.1).
- The XVI session of the Inter-Agency Advisory Committee (IAAC) was held in Athens from 21 to 25 November 1983 concurrently with the WGSTC. Representatives of WHO, FAO, UNESCO/IOC, WMO and IAEA attended.
  - A WHO/UNEP Intercalibration exercise and consultation meeting on microbiological methods for monitoring coastal water quality was held in Barcelona from 7 to 11 November 1983. 28 participants from Spain (22), Algeria, France, Monaco, Tunisia, Senegal and Ivory Coast (the latter two sponsored by RS/PAC) attended. The report is in preparation.

- The sixth session of the Group of Experts (GESAMP) on the exchange of pollutants between the sea and the air was held at the seat of the Unit from 28 November to 2 December 1983. The Group outlined a pilot project on the transport of pollutants through the atmosphere into the Mediterranean Sea, which is included in the work-plan for 1985 of Med Pol-Phase II.
- Individual scientific reports of MED POL - PHASE I have been prepared in draft form, distributed at the WGSTC meeting. Originals have been sent to principal investigators for proof reading. Final printing is expected to take place by end of March 1984.
- Proceedings of the VI ICSEM/IOC/UNEP Workshop on pollution of the Mediterranean Sea have been prepared in draft form. Originals have been sent to contributors for proof-reading. Final printing is expected to take place by end of March 1984.
- Proceedings of the Workshop on Jelly-fish blooms in the Mediterranean (Athens, 31 Oct. - 4 November 1983) are in preparation. They are scheduled to be released in March 1984.

The report of the WHO/UNEP consultation meeting on methods for monitoring selected pollutants in sewage effluents and coastal recreational waters (Rome, 24-26 November 1982) was published by WHO in English and French (ref. ICP/RCE 211(2)). It has been distributed to National Coordinators and a number of Mediterranean Institutions.

### 3. Barcelona Convention and related Protocols

- 3.1 No new developments to report concerning ratification. An up-dated status of ratifications is attached.
- 3.2 The Governments of Greece and Italy have ratified the Hellenic-Italian Agreement for the protection of the Marine Environment of the Ionian Sea and its coastal areas. The instruments of ratification have been exchanged on 3 February 1983. The first meeting of the Greco-Italian Mixed Commission is scheduled to take place soon.

### 4. Institutional and financial implications

- 4.1 The secretariat has prepared the draft Agenda, draft Annotated Agenda and List of Documents for the Extraordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties (Athens, 10 - 13 April 1984) for review and approval by the Bureau.

Unpaid pledges at 15 December 1983 amounted to \$ 558,822 out of \$ 2,789,827 (of which 343,817 due for 1982, and \$ 2,446,010 due for 1983 after deduction of contributions paid in advance in 1982). The status of contributions as at 30 November 1983 is attached. Reminders were sent on 9 December 1983 to the Governments of Algeria, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

4.2 Relationship with host country - Greece.

- Ratification of the host country agreement and payment of \$ 450,000 as the special contribution in drachmas for 1983 have not yet been completed. Meanwhile, between March and December 1983 the secretariat has transferred \$ 323,931.43 into its drachma account.

4.3 The Co-ordinating Unit

- The Executive Director, with the approval of the Secretary-General, has advanced the Co-ordinator to the D-2 level, as endorsed by the Contracting Parties and by the Bureau.
- Ms M. Harper, internationally recruited secretary (WHO) has completed her assignment with the Unit and has returned to WHO/EURO Copenhagen. She has been replaced by Ms. O. Kavouras (Greece) locally recruited who has joined the Unit on 1 December 1983.
- Ms C. O'Reilly's contract has been extended with the same status until UNEP Headquarters will be in a position to clarify the modalities of her transfer to Field Service status.

4.4 Attendance at meetings and travel of staff.

A. Manos

- Opened and attended the Working Group on Scientific and Technical Cooperation (Athens, 21 - 25 November 1983).
- Attended the meeting on "The Sea and the Territory" (Agrigento, Italy 9 - 10 December 1983).
- Attended the UNEP programme review on Oceans and the Programme Co-ordination Committee (Nairobi, 12 - 16 December 1983)

A. Cruzado

- Visited Algeria 18 - 20 November and 28 - 30 November as the team leader of a four expert mission organized by UNEP at the request of the Algerian Government to assist in the assessment of environmental pollution and definition of a monitoring network.
- Attended the International Mussel Watch II conference in Honolulu (USA), 7 - 11 November 1983. A global pollution monitoring programme was outlined in which UNEP is called to play a major role.
- Attended and acted as Secretary of the Second Meeting of the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Cooperation, Athens 21 - 25 November 1983.



L.J. Saliba

- Attended ECE Seminar on Groundwater protection policies and strategies (Athens, 10 - 14 October 1983)
- Visited Copenhagen for official programme review meeting on Mediterranean Action Plan and discussions with WHO/EURO staff on MED POL matters (18-21 October 1983)
- Attended 10th meeting of Baltic Commission's Scientific and Technological Committee (Mariehamn, Finland, 24 - 28 October 1983)
- Attended WHO/UNEP Intercalibration exercise on microbiological methods for coastal water quality monitoring (Barcelona, 7 - 11 November 1983).

G.P. Gabrielides

- Attended the International Conference on "Environmental Hazards of Agrochemicals in Developing Countries" in Alexandria (7 - 12 November 1983) and have discussions with principal investigators at Alexandria University for MED POL activities.

F.S. Civili

- Attended the WHO/UNEP intercalibration exercise and consultation meeting on microbiological methods for monitoring coastal water quality, Barcelona 7 - 11 November 1983.
- Attended the Second Meeting of the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Cooperation, Athens, 21 - 25 November 1983.

4.5 Public information

- Publications of the Mediterranean Action Plan were on display in the show of U.N. Publications organized by the UN Information Centre in collaboration with the Municipality of Athens in November 1983.
- Time magazine (21 November 1983 issue) published a story on the Mediterranean Programme presenting it in very positive terms under the title: "Environment - Making Water as safe as Wine - Cooperation slows the tide of pollution".
- Season's greetings were addressed to Government officials and experts dealing with the Action Plan. The design for the card was contributed by a Greek artist, Mr. Aristotle Solounias.