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Introduction

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols was held in Genoa, Italy, on 16 June 2004, at the Hotel Sheraton.

Participation

2. The meeting was chaired by Mr Corrado Clini, Director General, Department for Environmental Research and Development, Ministry for the Environment and Territory (Italy). The following members of the Bureau attended the meeting: Ms Etleva Canaj, Deputy Minister of Environment of Albania, Mr Bajram Mejdiaj, Chief of Legislation Section, Ministry of Environment, Albania, Mr Mohamed Si Youcef, Director General, Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, et de l'Environnement, Algeria, Mr Mohamed Borhan, Director General of Coastal Zone Management Division, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, Egypt, Ms Anne Burrill, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Environment - Unit E-3, European Commission, and Mr Philippe Lacoste, Sous-Directeur de l'environnement, Direction des Affaires économiques et financières, Ministère des Affaires étrangères, France.

3. Mr Paul Mifsud, Coordinator, Mr Arab Hoballah, Deputy Coordinator, and Ms Tatjana Hema, MEDU Programme Officer, represented the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

4. The full list of participants is attached as **Annex I** to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

5. Mr Corrado Clini, President of the Bureau, welcomed the participants and introduced Mr Roberto Tortoli, Deputy Minister of the Environment and Territory of Italy.

6. Mr Tortoli welcomed the members of the Bureau to the city of Genoa, which had played an important role at the centre of Mediterranean history, and congratulated Mr Mifsud on his appointment as the new Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). Recalling the 30-year history of MAP, and the process of renewal of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as well as the establishment in 1995 of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, he emphasized that the quality of the environment in the Mediterranean was still at risk due to the unsustainable use of natural resources and energy. Although indispensable, multinational environmental treaties, if not backed up by practical measures, would not suffice to ensure the sustainable development of Mediterranean countries. The Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania had served as an occasion to raise the awareness of the Contracting Parties of the need to develop new actions and strategies for sustainable development in the region and it was therefore the responsibility of all those involved, based on a strengthening and consolidation of cooperation between countries, with the participation of enterprises, multilateral financial institutions and civil society organizations, and in effective synergy and collaboration with the European Commission, to draw the conclusions from the Catania Meeting and to develop a new phase of MAP action. The new expectations would be focussed on: the elaboration of a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD); the development of the programme of work of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD); the reorientation of the Environmental Remote Sensing Regional Activity Centre (ERS/RAC); the launching of the process of the evaluation of MAP and its components; the strengthening of cooperation and synergies with other programmes active in the Mediterranean region; and the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan to reduce land-based pollution.

7. Mr Tortoli added that the support provided by his country to MAP and the MCSD bore witness to the importance that it accorded to sustainable development in the Mediterranean and the implementation of the commitments entered into in Johannesburg. He hoped that the meeting of the MCSD, to be held immediately after the Bureau, would be instrumental in identifying the means through which sustainable development would be achieved and that the MSSD would become the motor for strengthening technological innovation and international environmental cooperation, particularly through partnership initiatives. The International Forum on Partnership Initiatives for Sustainable Development, held in Rome in March 2004, had highlighted the role of partnerships in mobilizing private capital at the national and international levels for the transfer of environmentally-friendly technologies and in facilitating the creation of entrepreneurial capacity and technological knowledge at the local level. In this context, he placed emphasis on the importance of renewable sources of energy for sustainable development and the protection of the environment, as called for at the G8 held in Genoa in 2001. In the European context, the European Directive on electricity production from renewable energy sources, as well as the introduction of incentives, such as the green certificates applied in Italy, would play an important role in this respect. At the Mediterranean level, he drew attention to the MEDREP programme supported by Italy for the promotion and dissemination in the region of renewable sources of local production of energy, rural electrification, water desalination and the conservation of agricultural products and fish. His country was also supporting projects with partner countries, including the treatment of waste water in desert areas of Algeria using solar energy, the supply of drinking and irrigation water in Egypt and the treatment and reuse of water in Israel. He therefore hoped that the work of the MAP would focus on pragmatism and concrete action, rather than political and ideological issues.

8. The members of the Bureau congratulated Mr Mifsud on his appointment as Coordinator of MAP and wished him the best in his important work of promoting sustainable development in the region. They also thanked the Government of Italy for hosting the meeting.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

9. The meeting adopted the agenda drawn up by the Secretariat (UNEP/BUR/61/1) and the annotated agenda (UNEP/BUR/61/2). The agenda is attached as **Annex II** to the present report.

Agenda item 3: Progress report by the Secretariat on activities carried out since the last Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (November 2003 – May 2004)

A. COORDINATION

(a) Legal matters

– *Status of ratification of the Convention and Protocols*

10. Mr Mifsud indicated that the situation as to the ratification of the amended Convention and its Protocols had changed little over the past two years and that it was necessary to take action to ensure that the new instruments came into force soon. As noted in the progress report (UNEP/BUR/61/3), the Secretariat would be sending out a joint letter from the President of the Bureau, the Depositary country and the MAP Coordinator to encourage countries which had not yet done so to sign, accept or ratify the new and revised legal instruments. He added that it was the intention of the Secretariat to take the initiative by contacting countries which had not yet signed or ratified the respective instruments in an attempt to identify and address any obstacles that they might be facing in this respect. In

response to a proposal by the representative of France, he indicated that copies of the letters would be sent to the MAP National Focal Points and could also be sent to Ministries of Foreign Affairs in view of the need for inter-ministerial coordination.

11. The representative of Algeria informed the Bureau that, although the procedure had been delayed when a number of discrepancies had been noted in the Arabic version of the amended Barcelona Convention, he hoped that the ratification of the amended Convention would be approved by his country at the next session of the legislature.

12. The updated table of ratifications as submitted by the Depositary country Spain is attached as **Annex III** to the present report.]

– ***Reporting system: Implementation of Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention on reporting***

13. Ms Hema, MEDU Programme Officer, recalled that the Meeting of the Contracting Parties had decided to commence the implementation of Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention, beginning from the 2002-03 biennium, on the basis of the updated reporting format. Assistance had been provided for this purpose to several countries and a meeting had been convened in Tunis in May 2004 to assess the work carried out, identify national needs and review and discuss legal, administrative and technical aspects of the reporting process. She said that the meeting had been successful in clarifying many of the issues raised and she expressed optimism that a full report on the situation with regard to implementation of the Convention would be submitted to the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

14. The representative of the European Commission said that it was important that the reporting process under the Barcelona Convention took into account the other reporting obligations of countries. For example, the Secretariat should contact the Mediterranean Member States of the European Union to obtain feedback on their reporting obligations in the context of the European Union. In view of the fairly long list of countries which had been provided with financial and/or technical assistance in relation to reporting, including a few Member States of the European Union, she requested information on the criteria used by the Secretariat in deciding upon the provision of such assistance.

15. In reply, Ms Hema indicated that such technical and financial support was normally only provided to developing countries. The reference in the progress report to such countries as Greece and Israel in this connection was related to activities relating to the harmonization of reporting obligations, rather than assistance in the preparation of national reports under the Barcelona Convention.

DECISION

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to follow up carefully the process of reporting under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols with a view to ensuring full ownership by the Contracting Parties of that process and its sustainability. The Bureau encouraged the Contracting Parties to provide their inputs on the development of the reporting process under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, including other reporting obligations.

– ***Implementation and compliance under the Barcelona Convention***

16. Ms Hema recalled the decision of the Contracting Parties in Catania to establish a Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts responsible for the elaboration of a platform to promote the implementation of, and compliance with the Barcelona Convention, for

consideration at the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005. It had been decided that the composition of the Working Group should consist of six government-designated experts, nominated on the basis of their legal or technical expertise and skills, and one member representing NGOs/MAP partners. Five of the six country representatives had been decided upon in Catania, namely Croatia, Greece, Israel, Spain and the Syrian Arab Republic. It therefore remained for the Bureau to determine one further country representative and the NGO/MAP partner representative for the Working Group.

17. The Secretariat introducing the addendum containing the list of the experts nominated by the Contracting Parties, explaining that five Contracting Parties had nominated their experts. Of those, four had been decided upon in Catania and France had expressed its interest in joining the Working Group afterwards. The Bureau agreed with the composition of the Working Group and in addition gave full support to the proposal of the Secretariat to encourage the nomination of an expert from the Maghreb countries in view of the present geographical balance of the membership of the Working Group. The representative of Algeria agreed to undertake consultations with a view to the nomination of an expert from a Maghreb country very shortly. After reviewing four candidates for the civil society member of the working group, on the basis of professional background, relevance to the Mediterranean region and a better geographical balance, in view of the overall composition of the Working Group, the Bureau agreed to recommend the candidate from WWF. After noting that, in accordance with the decision of the Contracting Parties, the progress made by the Working Group should be shared regularly with the Contracting Parties, the members of the Bureau also agreed that the meetings of the Working Group should be held immediately prior to those of the Bureau, if appropriate.

DECISION

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to:

- **organize the meeting of the Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts, if appropriate, back to back with the meetings of the Bureau;**
- **ensure the full sharing of information with the Contracting Parties on the progress achieved throughout the process of developing the compliance mechanism under the Barcelona Convention;**

The Bureau recommended the selection of the candidate from WWF as the representative of civil society in the Working Group.

– Legal instrument on integrated coastal area management (ICAM)

18. Mr Trumbic, Director of the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), speaking at the invitation of the President, recalled that the proposal to develop a Protocol on ICAM had initially met with a cool reaction. Support had gradually increased, leading to the recommendation by the Contracting Parties in Catania that a draft text of a Protocol be prepared for consideration by the Contracting Parties. A very widely attended Regional Forum on ICAM had been held in May 2004 in Cagliari, Italy, with the support of the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory. The Forum had provided guidance on the contents and process for the development of the text of the proposed Protocol. Its recommendations had included the need to avoid duplication and overlapping with other instruments and that the proposed Protocol should include a minimum of legally binding provisions. It had been pointed out in this respect that many laws were being adopted at the national level which were related to ICAM, including special coastal laws and the European Commission's Communication on Integrated Coastal Zone Management. It had also been

recommended that the necessary financial instruments should be integrated into the Protocol from the beginning and that all the stakeholders, including businesses, should be involved in the process. It had also been recommended that a drafting group be constituted to prepare and submit a first draft of the Protocol to a small group of technical and legal experts by October 2004. The latter group would engage in a consultation process between November 2004 and February 2005 and the draft text of the Protocol, as refined as a result of this process, would then be submitted to a meeting of government-designated experts in April 2005. The aim of this tight schedule was to have a draft text ready for examination by the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in September 2005 and for submission to the Contracting Parties in November 2005.

19. Several members of the Bureau emphasized that the proposed time schedule was extremely tight and that the substance of the Protocol was of greater importance than compliance with a rigid time schedule. The representative of France emphasized the need to involve the respective stakeholders, with particular reference to local communities. It was necessary to have enough time to develop a text which commanded widespread support. Otherwise it would not be ratified or applied. The President emphasized the need to identify the areas of consensus before entering into the drafting process. The representatives of Algeria and Egypt referred to the importance of the definition of coastal areas, on both the land and sea sides, and emphasized the importance of coastal area management for sustainable development in the region. Mr Mifsud added that if the text was not ready by the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005, a report could be submitted on the progress made.

DECISION

The Bureau agreed with the proposed programme of activities for the preparation of the draft legal instrument on ICAM, provided that priority is given throughout the process to ensuring that the proposed text is based on full consensus of all the Contracting Parties and other stakeholders.

– ***Minor discrepancies of the legal text of the Barcelona Convention in the Arabic version***

20. Mr Mifsud noted that the discrepancies observed were of a minor nature and that, having brought them to the attention of the Depositary country and the Secretariat, Algeria had been able to go ahead with the process of ratifying the amended Convention. The Secretariat was advised by its legal consultant that the matter could be resolved through a *Proces Verbal*, which could be circulated among the Contracting Parties through diplomatic channels. There would therefore be no need to convene a special meeting of the Contracting Parties.

21. In the discussion that followed, it was pointed out that, although English was normally the original drafting language for the instruments of the Barcelona legal system, all four language versions were equally authoritative, as provided in the text of the Convention. It was therefore of great importance to ensure that all the language versions were thoroughly checked for conformity before their submission for adoption and ratification.

– ***Support to countries on legal matters***

22. Ms Hema recalled the recommendation by the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties that the Secretariat should assist countries in their efforts to adhere to MAP legal instruments. She noted that, during the period covered by the report, assistance of this type had been provided to Albania. She added that most of the legal assistance provided by the Secretariat during the same period concerned reporting. It was the intention of the

Secretariat that in future such assistance should be provided on the basis of the findings of reports on the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

– ***Membership of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties***

23. Mr Mifsud recalled the request by the Contracting Parties that the Bureau discuss whether by membership of the Bureau it is meant the country or the individual.

24. Referring to the Rules of Procedure and relevant experience, it seemed clear that each meeting of the Contracting parties should elect the Bureau for a term of two years. It should be noted that members of the Bureau were elected from among participants at the meeting. This therefore meant that membership of the Bureau did not imply only the country itself, but appeared to be strongly linked to an individual nomination.

25. The Bureau agreed with the explanation provided by the Secretariat.

– ***Publication of the legal texts of the MAP system in English and French***

26. Mr Mifsud observed that the new and revised MAP legal texts, most of which had not yet come into force, had up to now been published in an “informal” version. The question was whether the label “informal” should be retained.

27. The representative of Egypt indicated that once texts had been adopted by the MAP National Focal Points and the Contracting Parties, there was no further need to use the term “informal”. Therefore, re-edition of this document without using the word “informal” will be done soon.

(b) Institutional matters

– ***Evaluation of MAP***

28. Mr Mifsud emphasized that the overall external evaluation of MAP requested by the Contracting Parties in Catania was an extremely important exercise as it was essential for MAP, its components and its parties to look at their performance in a more meaningful manner.

29. All the members of the Bureau agreed on the significance of the external evaluation and called for it to be fully objective. The President and the representative of France recalled the decision taken in Catania that the internal evaluation of MAP carried out during the last biennium, represents a good starting point for the new external process of evaluation. The representative of the European Commission believed that the evaluation should focus in particular on two themes. The first was the implementation of MAP’s legal instruments in practice and the second the real extent to which the various components of MAP were integrated into its overall structure and any overlapping that might arise due to MAP’s decentralized structure. The President said that the terms of reference of the evaluators should include consideration of the future role of MAP in the Mediterranean, particularly in the context of the enlargement of the European Union, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the perspective of the Euro-Mediterranean free trade zone. The representative of Egypt added that it was important for the evaluation to focus on what needed to be done to strengthen the implementation of MAP’s legal instruments and facilitate their coming into force. The representative of Algeria suggested to consider also the impact of MAP at the national level.

30. Several members of the Bureau raised the question of whether the sum of 60,000 euros set out in the budget was sufficient to cover the external evaluation and it was suggested that further funding, up to an overall sum of 100,000 euros, could be made available from MAP's income from interest on back deposits. The President indicated that his country would be willing to provide further resources to facilitate the evaluation exercise, if necessary.

31. Mr Mifsud said that the evaluation exercise should not be taken lightly. It was important that the results of the evaluation led to concrete action. It would also be necessary to address the issue of the proliferation of evaluations that were being undertaken, as evaluations were being carried out of individual regional activity centres in parallel to the overall evaluation. He thanked the Government of Italy for the offer of further assistance.

DECISION

The Bureau agreed with the proposed methodology for the MAP evaluation bearing in mind that the focus of the evaluation should be on the future role of MAP in the implementation of the Convention in practice and the role of the RACs as integral components of the overall MAP structure. Vision and future orientation of MAP in a changing Mediterranean region should be taken into consideration.

The Bureau authorized the withdrawal from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) of 100,000 euros for the financing of the MAP external evaluation exercise.

The Bureau recommended the following time schedule for the evaluation of MAP:

- **June – July 2004**
Preparation of TORs for the MAP evaluation, including the profile of the evaluators
- **July – September 2004**
Consultation with the Bureau through electronic means
- **September – October 2004**
Recruitment of the evaluators
- **November 2004 (after the Bureau)**
Launching of the evaluation process
- **March 2005 - April 2005**
Discussing a pre-term evaluation document at a meeting of government-designated experts.
- **September 2005**
Submitting a consolidated draft evaluation document to the meeting of the MAP National Focal Points.
- **November 2005**
Submitting the final draft of the evaluation document to the Contracting Parties meeting for their consideration and adoption, if appropriate.

– ***Evaluation of MAP components***

32. Introducing this item, the President recalled that ERS/RAC, based in Sicily, was being transformed into an information and communication technology centre. The evaluation of the centre was going ahead and the terms of reference had been established for the evaluators.

33. The representative of the European Commission said that it was important that evaluations of individual components of MAP focussed on their contribution to the overall objectives of the Barcelona system and the avoidance of duplication. Mr Mifsud agreed that it was important to ensure that the regional activity centres contributed to the overall work and objectives of MAP, rather than following their own agenda.

34. In response to a question from the representative of France, Mr Mifsud and Mr Hoballah explained that, as a follow up to the findings of the evaluation of SPA/RAC, efforts were being made to ensure that it was more closely integrated into the work of MAP in general. The Centre went through some difficulties during the last six months, but, in close cooperation with MEDU, the situation has improved and the appointment of the Scientific Director is expected to improve efficiency of the Centre. Moreover, following a recommendation of the recent evaluation of the center, the Secretariat will consult soon with concerned authorities about the possibilities and options for an international status of RAC/SPA. The work of SPA/RAC would also be integrated more fully into MAP's action on sustainable development, particularly within the context of the MCSD.

(c) Cooperation and partners

– ***Cooperation with the European Commission***

35. Mr Mifsud emphasized that his first mission upon taking up office as the MAP Coordinator had been to Brussels to meet senior officials in the European Commission, where he had found a great willingness to extend cooperation with MAP. Although the development of a draft programme of work, as requested by the Contracting Parties, had been somewhat put back by the delay in the appointment of the Coordinator, work was now progressing. Valuable proposals had already been made, but it was still necessary to make them more specific. It was clearly to the mutual benefit of MAP and the European Commission to work more closely together and a joint programme of work would be developed for submission to the Commission and the Contracting Parties.

36. The representative of the European Commission welcomed the visit by Mr Mifsud and looked forward to the finalization of the draft programme of work. She recalled that various joint activities were already underway, including the involvement of MAP in the preparation of the European Marine Strategy. She added that, in its interaction with the European Commission, care should be taken that the MAP officials represented MAP as a whole, and not just the different components. She also welcomed the comparative appraisal that was being undertaken of the legal measures, policies and commitments of MAP and the European Union in such areas as combating land-based pollution.

37. The President added that cooperation with the European Commission should also be channelled through the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Special attention should also be paid to the increased cooperation required between the new Member States of the European Union, including candidate countries such as Turkey. In addition, MAP should cooperate with other international organizations, including the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) in Budapest.

- ***Cooperation with other United Nations programmes and other programmes***

38. Mr Hoballah briefly reviewed the main areas in which MAP was engaged in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and other programmes. With regard to GEF, he observed that, in addition to cooperation in relation to the SAP MED, GEF was currently making a major contribution to almost all the GEF -eligible countries in the region and was providing active support for the preparation of the SAP BIO, which could be even more important for the region than the SAP MED. In relation to UNECE, he recalled the cooperation in relation to the Espoo Convention on EIA and said that it was necessary to seek improved cooperation and visibility in this area. As an illustration of the benefits of cooperation with other institutions, he cited the collaboration between MAP and the REC in Budapest in the holding of a seminar in Croatia on legal issues relating to the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol. Nevertheless, greater efforts were required to improve collaboration with other institutions.

39. The representative of the European Commission noted that cooperation with United Nations agencies in the Mediterranean was rendered complex by the fact that Mediterranean countries formed part of three different regions as defined by the United Nations. She indicated that, while all types of collaboration were important, they inevitably took up time and resources and it would be necessary to strike the necessary balance between the efforts made and the benefits accrued.

40. Mr Mifsud agreed that it was important not to stretch the resources available too far. However, collaboration with other institutions, such as UNECE, was of great importance in raising the visibility of MAP and of issues relating to sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

DECISION

The Bureau urged the Contracting Parties members of UNECE to ensure that the Mediterranean region and the Barcelona Convention are given more recognition and visibility in its major activities and publications and that the Barcelona Convention features on the agenda of the UNECE Ministerial Conference.

(d) Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

41. Mr Hoballah recalled that the preparation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) was the most important issue currently before the MCSD. At their Meeting in Catania, the Contracting Parties had taken note of the Vision and Framework Orientations for an MSSD, but had left the Parties some time to submit further comments, which had been done by two countries. The Vision and Framework Orientations could therefore be considered final. The MCSD Steering Committee had met in Split in April to advise on the preparation of the MSSD and a workshop on that subject had been held in Rabat in May. The workshop, among other recommendations, had emphasized the importance of sustainable agriculture and rural development for sustainable development in the region. The Blue Plan had prepared an information note on this subject, which was attached to the progress report. He added that, in response to the request made by the Contracting Parties to improve cooperation with the major groups in the context of the MCSD, support had been provided for a working session involving the main Mediterranean NGO Networks. The Secretariat had also been in contact with the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce concerning closer collaboration, particularly in relation to the proposed Coastal Management Summer Institute, which could be launched in Split. He also reported on the progress that had been made towards the appointment of a Sustainable Development Officer

for a limited period of two years to assist in MCSD activities and to help in the preparation of the MSSD. It was hoped that an announcement would be made shortly concerning the post. Finally, he reported briefly on the activities of the 100 Historic Sites Programme, which is being re-defined within the framework of the MCSD.

42. The representative of Egypt expressed misgivings concerning the inclusion of agriculture and rural development within the programme of work of the MCSD, which would create problems of coordination and competence in many Mediterranean countries. He believed that this subject was not within the mandate of MAP or the MCSD. Although agriculture and rural development were vital subjects for sustainable development, if they were to be addressed by the MSSD it would be necessary to specify that the MSSD only covered them in relation to coastal areas. The proposed documents would therefore need to be amended. The MCSD was already going beyond the scope of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Although he agreed that the sustainable management of resources, and particularly agricultural resources and water, was vital for the prevention and alleviation of poverty and the conservation of the environment, it was necessary to be realistic. If matters relating to sustainable development in the whole of the territory of Mediterranean countries were to be addressed, it would be necessary to involve fully the international organizations responsible for agriculture and water management. If this were not done, anything decided upon within the context of MAP would simply be rejected by Ministries of Agriculture and other bodies which had not participated in the preparation of the proposed measures.

43. The representative of the European Commission emphasized that sustainable development went well beyond environmental issues and that it was a matter of long-standing concern that the other stakeholders had not been involved sufficiently in the preparation of the MSSD. There could be no MSSD unless Ministries of Agriculture and other relevant stakeholders were brought on board. This raised fundamental issues concerning the correspondence of the MSSD to the mandate of MAP.

44. The representative of Algeria said that the sustainable development of coastal areas could not be separated from their hinterlands. The issue of rural development was a global problem requiring an integrated approach, which could not be separated into sectoral competences. He cited the problem of desertification, which concerned all parts of many Mediterranean countries, and even coastal areas.

45. The representative of France said that it was necessary for the MSSD to address all the subjects that were essential for the region, including agricultural development and the impact of trade agreements on the countries of the region. The paper circulated should therefore address the important issue of trade and its impacts. He also expressed concern at the delays in the appointment of the Sustainable Development Officer and hoped that the post would be filled rapidly.

46. The President said that the MSSD should take into account the various points of view expressed. As the framework for the preparation of the MSSD was the Barcelona Convention, the Strategy should focus on sustainable development in coastal areas, which should in turn act as an engine for sustainable development throughout the region. Everything was closely interlinked. For example, sustainable water management and agriculture was vital for the prevention of land-based pollution of the Mediterranean Sea. It should be recalled in this respect that MAP formed part of a global process and mandate based on a consensus reached through the United Nations. Therefore, while focusing on coastal issues, particularly within the framework of integrated coastal area management, it also needed to take into account the linkages with global problems.

47. Mr Hoballah indicated that the addition of sustainable agriculture and rural development to the MSSD was based on the sound reasoning that all environmental issues were interlinked. Agriculture and rural development were already included in to the work

programme under the Barcelona Convention as approved in 1995 as MAP II. In any case, it would be necessary to work more closely with the competent international agencies, including FAO and CIHAEM, and such cooperation is being developed by BP/RAC.

48. Mr Mifsud welcomed the important issues discussed, which stated that the Strategy could not overlook other related issues, such as agriculture, but would have to focus on matters within the MAP mandate. He also said that, if any progress were to be made, issues that had been discussed on previous occasions should not be reopened.

(e) NGOs/MAP partners

49. Ms Hema recalled that the Contracting Parties had mandated the Bureau to approve the addition of NGOs to the list of MAP Partners. Two applications had been received from NGOs. After checking their situation, the Secretariat had concluded that they met the criteria for inclusion on the list.

50. The representative of Albania said that it is in the policy of the Ministry of Environment of Albania to cooperate with the NGOs, including the NGO "Association of Albanian Chemists".

DECISION

The Bureau approved the addition to the list of MAP partners of the "Fund for Integrated Rural Development" of the Syrian Arab Republic and the "Association of the Albanian Chemists".

(f) Information, public awareness and participation

51. Mr Mifsud indicated that he gave very high priority to ensuring that MAP achieved a higher public profile. He therefore welcomed the MAP Information Strategy and the fact that the Catania Meeting of the Contracting Parties had been the first at which the media coverage had been fairly extensive. He said that MAP activities offered many areas with a high potential for media coverage and indicated that it was intended to invite journalists to attend specific workshops on selected topical issues. Part of the drive to improve the profile of MAP would include a major effort to upgrade its website, including its links with the websites of the regional activity centres. The new website should be operational within one month.

52. Several members of the Bureau welcomed the emphasis placed by the Coordinator on raising public awareness of MAP's work. The President noted that ERS/RAC, in its new phase, would also be focussing on the use of information technology to further the work of MAP. With reference to the MAP technical reports, the representative of the European Commission said that what was important was not the volume of information produced, but the use that was made of it. To ensure relevance, the questions to be asked were what was being produced, why and for whom?

53. The representative of Egypt pointed out that the MAP Information Strategy did not just concern MEDU, but should also include the MAP National Focal Points, who could play an important role in disseminating MAP documents and information on MAP activities and concerns to a wide range of colleagues. Unfortunately, at present, many National Focal Points confined themselves to disseminating information to close colleagues within their ministries. They should therefore be urged to reach out to other policy-makers and stakeholders. The representative of France suggested that the evaluation of MAP could look into the role of the National Focal Points in this respect and that it might be beneficial to

prepare a check list or mission statement for the Focal Points on how they could play a full role in developing a broad basis of support for MAP policies and objectives. The President agreed that the Focal Points could play an important role in the MAP communication strategy and said that they should act as an interface with the media in their countries, as well as with their ministries and other government agencies. More concrete proposals on this subject should be submitted to the next meeting of the Bureau. The representative of Egypt added that the Focal Points needed to be given the opportunity to work on important issues. For example, in the case of the draft ICAM Protocol, the Focal Points could play an important role in securing acceptance and support for the draft text before its official approval. The representative of France agreed that the role of National Focal Points should be reviewed and observed that they should act as two-way channels, disseminating information from MAP back to their countries, and vice versa. In the light of the above discussion, the Secretariat was requested to submit to the upcoming meeting of the Bureau, clarifications of the tasks and of the role of the MAP National Focal Point.

54. Mr Mifsud recalled the need to adopt a proactive approach to the promotion of MAP activities. The Catania Meeting of the Contracting Parties, for which the organizers had made a point of inviting the right contacts, offered a model of how to proceed. With regard to the National Focal Points, he believed that, without in any way limiting the manner in which they operated, they should be encouraged to play a fuller role in the MAP Information Strategy.

(g) Financial, personnel and security matters

55. With regard to the financial situation, Mr Mifsud said that it was better than the previous year. In particular, he thanked Italy for effecting payment of its contribution. On the subject of security issues, he informed the Bureau that, as the highest ranking United Nations officer in Athens, he was the Designated Officer responsible for the management of the security plan covering United Nations staff and premises in Greece in view of the heightened security risk in the present international situation. The host country was providing support for security measures. For example, there was now a police officer stationed permanently outside the MAP premises in Athens. A decision had also been taken to appoint a security officer, the cost of which would be directly covered by UNEP/UNON.

DECISION

The Bureau, after reviewing the security requirements of UNEP/MAP offices and MEDU staff in Athens, approved the process for the engagement of the Security Officer to be paid by UNEP/UNON.

(h) Meetings

56. The representative of the European Commission called for the list of meetings to be updated and disseminated more frequently. The representative of France added that it would be useful for the updated list of meetings to be placed on the MAP website. The representative of Egypt observed that it was important to have sufficient advance notice of meetings in view of the delays that often occurred in obtaining visas for representatives from the countries of the South and East of the Mediterranean.

57. Mr Mifsud said that the documents relating to meetings should from now on be circulated electronically as much as possible, which would lead to savings in mailing costs. He added that, when agreeing to host MAP meetings, the countries concerned undertook to provide visas to all participants, where necessary. He also informed the Bureau that the proposed dates for the meeting of MAP National Focal Points were 13 to 16 September 2005 and that those for the next meeting of the Contracting Parties, which was to be held in Slovenia, were 8 to 12 November 2005.

B. COMPONENTS

(i) Pollution prevention and control

58. The President noted that Italy was endeavouring, in the same way as certain other countries, to complete its National Diagnostic Analysis (NDA) and National Baseline Budget (NBB) by June 2004. However, it had encountered problems related, among other matters to the inclusion of some erroneous information concerning the volume of waste water treated in the country. In order to adjust the report so that it gave a clear and reliable description of the actual situation, he proposed that the deadline be set at September 2004.

59. With regard to the intention to integrate the reporting system for the LBS Protocol into the overall MAP reporting system "as appropriate", as indicated in paragraph 133 of the progress report, the representative of the European Commission called for the fullest possible integration of the two systems, with a very broad definition being applied to the expression "as appropriate" in this context.

DECISION

The Bureau urged those countries that had not yet provided their NDA and NBB reports to endeavour to complete them by the end of September 2004 at the latest and all Parties to plan without delay the appropriate launching of the process for the preparation of Sectoral Plans and National Action Plans.

60. With regard to the other MAP components, the representative of the European Commission emphasized the importance of SPA/RAC and urged the Secretariat to provide the Centre with all the support needed to ensure that its activities were implemented as fully and effectively as possible. In relation to PAP/RAC, noting that the MedOpen training course on ICAM was also open to candidates from outside the Mediterranean, raised the question as to whether the course should be limited to candidates from the Mediterranean and asked what costs were involved for the admission of candidates from outside the region.

61. Mr Mifsud assured the members of the Bureau of MAP's commitment and concern to ensure that SPA/RAC worked as effectively as possible. MAP was now directly involved in the appointment of the Scientific Director for the Centre. With regard to the MedOpen training course, Mr Hoballah said that the course mainly involved online training, that the costs of providing training for students from outside the Mediterranean were marginal and that, indeed, such students offered benefits, as one of the purposes of the exercise was the exchange of information with partners outside the region. Moreover, PAP/RAC has developed good cooperation with non-Mediterranean institutions and experts on ICAM issues.

Agenda item 4: Date and place of the next meeting of the Bureau

DECISION

At the invitation of Egypt, the next Bureau meeting will be held in Egypt in November 2004.

Agenda item 5: Any other business

DECISION

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to submit to the next meeting of the Bureau the following:

- Clarification of the tasks and role of the MAP NFPs.
- Definition of a strategic approach on communication and participation, the role of media and of the NFPs.

Agenda item 6: Conclusions and decisions

62. The Bureau reviewed, amended and adopted the summary of decisions prepared by the Secretariat. The full list of decisions is attached as **Annex IV** to the present report.

Agenda item 7: Closure of the meeting

63. Following the usual exchange of courtesies, the President declared the meeting closed at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 16 June 2004.

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**UNEP/COORDINATING UNIT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)
PNUE/UNITE DE COORDINATION DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE (PAM)**

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 1) Opening of the meeting
- 2) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and organization of work
- 3) Progress Report by the Secretariat on activities carried out since the last Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Catania, 11-14 November 2003)

A. COORDINATION

a. Legal matters:

1. Status of ratification of the Convention and Protocols
2. Reporting System: implementation of article 26 to the Barcelona Convention on Reporting
3. Legal issues: New legal instrument on ICAM
4. Compliance mechanism
5. Other issues:

b. Institutional matters:

1. MAP evaluation
2. ERS/RAC; CP/RAC and MED POL evaluation

c. Cooperation and Partners

1. Cooperation with EC
2. Synergy and cooperation with other programs and initiatives in the region
3. Partners
4. Meetings

d. Financial and personnel matters, Security issues

1. Contributions and other issues
2. Personnel
3. Security (financial & personnel related matters)

e. Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

1. Preparation of the MSSD
2. 9th meeting of the MCSD
3. Follow up on the Programme "Historic Sites"

f. Information and Public Awareness

1. Progress on Information and Communication activities

B. COMPONENTS

g. Pollution prevention and control

1. Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP/MED)
2. Progress of negotiations for a new GEF Project
3. Strategy for the implementation of the new Prevention and Emergency protocol

h. Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity

1. Implementation of the SPA & Biodiversity protocol
2. Implementation of the SAP/BIO

i. Environment and Development

1. ICAM, New CAMPs
2. Report Environment and Development
3. Other activities

- 4) Date and place of the next meeting of the Bureau
- 5) Any other business
- 6) Conclusions and decisions
- 7) Closure of the meeting

ANNEX III

STATUS OF SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS

as at 31 May 2004

Contracting Parties	Barcelona Convention 1/			Dumping Protocol 2/			Emergency Protocol 3/		New Emergency Protocol 4/	
	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification
Albania	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	-	-
Algeria	-	16.02.81/AC	-	-	16.03.81/AC	-	-	16.03.81/AC	25.01.02	-
Bosnia & Herzegovina	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-	01.03.92/SUC	-	-
Croatia	-	08.10.91/SUC	03.05.99	-	08.10.91/SUC	03.05.99	-	08.10.91/SUC	25.01.02	01.10.03
Cyprus	16.02.76	19.11.79	15.10.01	16.02.76	19.11.79	18.07.03	16.02.76	19.11.79	25.01.02	-
European Commission	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	13.09.76	12.08.81/AP	25.01.02	25.06.04
Egypt	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	16.02.76	24.08.78/AC	-	-
France	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	16.04.01	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	16.04.01	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	25.01.02	02.07.03
Greece	16.02.76	03.01.79	10.03.03	11.02.77	03.01.79	-	16.02.76	03.01.79	25.01.02	-
Israel	16.02.76	03.03.78	-	16.02.76	01.03.84	-	16.02.76	03.03.78	22.01.03	-
Italy	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	16.02.76	03.02.79	25.01.02	-
Lebanon	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	-	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	-	16.02.76	08.11.77/AC	-	-
Libya	31.01.77	31.01.79	-	31.01.77	31.01.79	-	31.01.77	31.01.79	25.01.02	-
Malta	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	16.02.76	30.12.77	25.01.02	18.02.03
Monaco	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	16.02.76	20.09.77	25.01.02	03.04.02
Morocco	16.02.76	15.01.80	-	16.02.76	15.01.80	05.12.97	16.02.76	15.01.80	25.01.02	-
Serbia and Montenegro	-	16.07.2002/SUC*	-	-	16.07.2002/SUC*	-	-	16.07.2002/SUC*	-	-
Slovenia	-	15.03.94/AC	08.01.03	-	15.03.94/AC	08.01.03	-	15.03.94/AC	25.01.02	16.02.04
Spain	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	16.02.76	17.12.76	25.01.02	-
Syria	-	26.12.78/AC	10.10.03	-	26.12.78/AC	-	-	26.12.78/AC	25.01.02	-
Tunisia	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	25.05.76	30.07.77	25.01.02	-
Turkey	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	16.02.76	06.04.81	-	04.06.03

Accession = AC

Approval = AP

Succession = SUC

* Notified on 16 July 2002. Effective since 27.04.92

Contracting Parties	Land-Based Sources Protocol 5/			Specially Protected Areas Protocol 6/		SPA & Biodiversity Protocol 7/		Offshore Protocol 8/		Hazardous Wastes Protocol 9/	
	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification
Albania	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	10.06.95	26.07.01	-	26.07.01	-	26.07.01
Algeria	-	02.05.83/AC	-	-	16.05.85/AC	10.06.95	-	-	-	01.10.96	-
Bosnia & Herzegovina	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	-	12.06.92/SUC	-	-	12.06.92/SUC	10.06.95	12.04.02	14.10.94	-	-	-
Cyprus	17.05.80	28.06.88	12.10.01	-	28.06.88/AC	10.06.95	15.10.01	14.10.94	15.10.01	-	-
European Community	17.05.80	07.10.83/AP	12.11.99	30.03.83	30.06.84/AP	10.06.95	12.11.99	-	-	-	-
Egypt	-	18.05.83/AC	-	16.02.83	08.07.83	10.06.95	11.02.00	-	-	01.10.96	-
France	17.05.80	13.07.82/AP	16.04.01	03.04.82	02.09.86/AP	10.06.95	16.04.01	-	-	-	-
Greece	17.05.80	26.01.87	10.03.03	03.04.82	26.01.87	10.06.95	-	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Israel	17.05.80	21.02.91	-	03.04.82	28.10.87	10.06.95	-	14.10.94	-	-	-
Italy	17.05.80	04.07.85	07.09.99	03.04.82	04.07.85	10.06.95	07.09.99	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Lebanon	17.05.80	27.12.94	-	-	27.12.94/AC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Libya	17.05.80	06.06.89/AP	-	-	06.06.89/AC	10.06.95	-	-	-	01.10.96	-
Malta	17.05.80	02.03.89	28.10.99	03.04.82	11.01.88	10.06.95	28.10.99	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	28.10.99
Monaco	17.05.80	12.01.83	26.11.96	03.04.82	29.05.89	10.06.95	03.06.97	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Morocco	17.05.80	09.02.87	02.10.96	02.04.83	22.06.90	10.06.95	-	-	01.07.99	20.03.97	01.07.99
Serbia and Montenegro	-	16.07.2002*	-	-	16.07.2002*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slovenia	-	16.09.93/AC	08.01.03	-	16.09.93/AC	-	08.01.03	10.10.95	-	-	-
Spain	17.05.80	06.06.84	17.02.99	03.04.82	22.12.87	10.06.95	23.12.98	14.10.94	-	01.10.96	-
Syria	-	01.12.93/AC	-	-	11.09.92/AC	-	10.10.03	20.09.95	-	-	-
Tunisia	17.05.80	29.10.81	01.06.98	03.04.82	26.05.83	10.06.95	01.06.98	14.10.94	01.06.98	01.10.96	01.06.98
Turkey	-	21.02.83/AC	18.05.02	-	06.11.86/AC	10.06.95	18.09.02	-	-	01.10.96	-

Accession = AC

Approval = AP

Succession = SUC

* Notified on 16 July 2002. Effective since 27.04.92

1/ Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution

Adopted (Barcelona): 16 February 1976

Entry into force*: 12 February 1978

2/ The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Dumping Protocol)

Adopted (Barcelona): 16 February 1976

Entry into force*: 12 February 1978

3/ The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in cases of Emergency (Emergency Protocol)

Adopted (Barcelona): 16 February 1976

Entry into force*: 12 February 1978

4/ The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea

Adopted (Malta): 25 January 2002

Entry into force*: 17 March 2004

5/ The Protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources (LBS Protocol)

Adopted (Athens): 17 May 1980

Entry into force*: 17 June 1983

6/ The Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (SPA Protocol)

Adopted (Geneva): 3 April 1982

Entry into force*: 23 March 1986

7/ The Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA & Biodiversity Protocol)

Adopted (Barcelona): 10 June 1995

Entry into force*: 12 December 1999

8/ Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation (Offshore Protocol) of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil

Adopted (Madrid): 14 October 1994

Entry into force*:

9/ Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Hazardous Wastes Protocol)

Adopted (Izmir): 1 October 1996

Entry into force*:

* The amendments are not yet into force

ANNEX IV

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

1. Reporting under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

The Bureau requests the Secretariat to follow up carefully the process of reporting under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols with a view to ensuring full ownership by the Contracting Parties of that process and its sustainability. The Bureau encourages the Contracting Parties to provide their inputs on the development of the reporting process under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, including other reporting obligations.

2. Compliance with the Barcelona Convention

The Bureau requests the Secretariat to:

- Organize the meeting of the Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts, if appropriate, back to back with the meetings of the Bureau;
- Ensure the full sharing of information with the Contracting Parties on the progress achieved throughout the process of developing the compliance mechanism under the Barcelona Convention;

The Bureau recommends the selection of the candidate from WWF, as representative of the Civil Society in the Working Group.

3. Legal instrument on ICAM

The Bureau agrees with the proposed programme of activities for the preparation of the draft legal instrument on ICAM, provided that priority is given throughout the process to ensuring that the proposed text is based on full consensus of all the Contracting Parties and other stakeholders.

4. MAP evaluation

The Bureau agrees with the proposed methodology for the MAP evaluation bearing in mind that the focus of the evaluation should be on the future role of MAP in the implementation of the Convention in practice and the role of RACs as integral components of the overall MAP structure. Vision and future orientation of MAP in a changing Mediterranean region should be taken into consideration.

The Bureau authorizes the withdrawal from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) of 100.000 Euro for the financing of the MAP external evaluation exercise.

The Bureau recommends the following time schedule for the evaluation of MAP:

- June – July 2004
Preparation of TORs for the MAP evaluation, including the profile of the evaluators
- July – September 2004
Consultation with the Bureau through electronic means

- September – October 2004
Recruitment of the Evaluators
- November 2004 (after the Bureau)
Launching the evaluation process
- March 2005/April 2005
Discussing a pre-term evaluation document at a meeting of the government designated experts.
- September 2005
Submitting a consolidated draft evaluation document to the meeting of the national Focal Points.
- November 2005
Submitting the final draft of the evaluation document to the Contracting Parties meeting for their consideration and adoption, if appropriate.

5. Cooperation with Partners

The Bureau urges the Contracting Parties members of UNECE to ensure that the Mediterranean region and the Barcelona Convention are given more recognition and visibility in its major activities and publications and that the Barcelona Convention features on the agenda of the UNECE Ministerial Conference.

6. NGOs/MAP Partners

The Bureau approves the addition to the list of MAP partners of the “Fund for Integrated Rural Development” of Syria and the “Association of the Albanian Chemists”.

7. Security Issues

The Bureau, after reviewing the security requirements of UNEP/MAP offices and MEDU staff in Athens, approves the process for the engagement of the Security Officer to be paid by UNEP/UNON.

8. MED POL

The Bureau urges those countries that have not yet provided their NDA and NBB reports to endeavour to complete them by the end of September 2004 at the latest and all Parties to plan without delay the appropriate launching of the process for the preparation of Sectoral Plans and National Action Plans.

9. Other issues

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to submit to the next meeting of the Bureau the following:

- Clarification of the tasks and role of the MAP NFP.
- Definition of a strategic approach on communication and participation, the role of media and of the NFP.

10. Upon invitation of Egypt, the next Bureau meeting will be held in Egypt in November 2004.