



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**



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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

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

Ljubljana (Slovenia), 6-7 April 2006

**PROGRESS REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT ON ACTIVITIES  
CARRIED OUT SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF  
THE CONTRACTING PARTIES (PORTOROZ 2005)**

**(NOVEMBER 2005 – MARCH 2006)**

**(ADDENDUM)**



## ADDENDUM

In view of the preparation of the Mission Statement and Strategic Vision of MAP as part of the evaluation exercise, as requested by the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties, in Portoroz Slovenia in November 2006, the Secretariat is having internal discussions involving all RAC Directors in order to arrive at a common position with respect to the various recommendations made by the Consultant. The Secretariat's position will then be submitted for the consideration of the extraordinary meeting of MAP Focal Points next September.

The first discussion took place during the annual meeting of the MEDU and RAC Directors that was held in Athens on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2006 during which both the documents as well as the time-table for the conclusion of the exercise as submitted by the Consultant were reviewed.

Another more detailed discussion took place in Rome on 27 March 2006. The Secretariat took the opportunity of the presence of all RACs in Rome to participate in the INFO/RAC workshop on the new MAP/INFO System to discuss the submissions made by the Directors individually and to arrive at a common position. Facilities for this meeting were made available by APAT, the Italian Environment Agency.

The meeting in Rome considered in detail those recommendations that, if adopted, could have political, legal, financial and institutional implications. It was agreed that those recommendations, which were of an administrative nature and did not have any such implications should be introduced straight away.

The intention of the Secretariat is to prepare two main documents for the extraordinary meetings of MAP Focal Points as follows:

1. A draft Ministerial declaration which will address major policy issues with respect to the objectives, strategic vision, and institutional arrangements on the regional and national levels. It will also address the commitment of the CPs on a number of issues in particular with respect to the ratification and entry into force of the Convention and the Protocols;
2. A list of recommendations from the Evaluation report dealing with the institutional structure of MAP/Barcelona Convention, including the Coordination Unit, the relationship of MEDU with UNEP, the RACs profile and structure, the MCSD, the network of MAP and RACs focal points and MAP's future relations with international organizations in particular the E.C.

Since some of the recommendations, if accepted, will necessitate changes to the Rules and Procedures for the meeting and Conferences of the CPs to the Barcelona Convention, the Secretariat will be having consultations with Nairobi in order to be in a position to advice the Focal Points when discussing these issues.

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These recommendations deal mainly with the role of the Secretariat of the Convention and the MAP Coordinator when convening the meeting of the Contracting Parties, a role which up to now has been carried out by the Executive Director of UNEP.

**Recommendation:**

**In view of the above, the Bureau is invited to discuss and advise the Secretariat on the process to be followed with respect to:-**

- a) the preparation of the documents to be submitted to the extraordinary meeting of the focal points, and**
- b) its dealings with UNEP with regard to those recommendations which, if accepted, will involve changes to the Rules and Procedures for the meeting of the Contracting Parties.**