



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



UNEP(DEPI/MED ECP.4/4
19 December 2008

ENGLISH



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Fourth Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Athens (Greece), 16 December 2008

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REPORT

FOURTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL



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I. Introduction

Following the decision taken by the third meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel, its fourth meeting was held on 16 December at the Coordinating Unit, in Athens, Greece. The meeting was chaired by the MAP Coordinator and attended by all the Directors of Regional Activity Centres' (RAC), except Blue Plan/RAC and INFO/RAC directors, as well as MED POL Coordinator. A list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

II. Agenda items 1 and 2

The MAP coordinator opened the meeting.

The meeting reviewed and adopted the provisional agenda together with the proposed timetable. The agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex II to this report.

Following the discussion of all agenda items, the meeting concluded on some key considerations for each topic and decided on necessary actions and timetables for their implementation.

III. Agenda items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,10,11

Key considerations, Actions and Timetables

Agenda Item 3: Organization of the MCSD meeting and the involvement of MAP components (including the institutional aspects of the new composition of the MCSD)	
<p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>The 13th MCSD meeting is scheduled for 22-24 June 2009 in Cairo at the kind invitation of the Minister and Egyptian Environmental Agency.</p> <p>a) New members of the MCSD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In view of implementing the governance paper with regard to the MCSD, the Coordinator informed the ECP meeting that:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Letters were sent by the Secretariat to all Contracting Parties to nominate eminent experts.b) Regional IGOs and Academic Institutions were also approached by the Secretariat for them to express their interest to become MCSD members.	

<p>c) As a response to the above requests, the Secretariat received a number of nominations by the Contracting Parties as well as expressions of interest by regional IGOs and the academic sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting discussed a number of procedural issues with regard to the selection of the new MCSD members from the three categories that will be proposed by the Secretariat for endorsement by the Bureau. • The meeting emphasised that there is a need to combine both experts with very good knowledge of the Mediterranean region and high level expertise on sustainable development issues with newcomers in the system that would refresh and give a new dimension to the MCSD membership and work. • In order to allow for more nominations to be received, it was suggested to extend the deadline for submissions. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat to extend the deadline for submission of nominations by the Contracting Parties, regional IGOs and the Academic sector by 15 January 2009. • Secretariat to establish a formal process of assessment by the ECP in order to assess the eligibility of those candidates that would be proposed to the Bureau for their endorsement as MCSD members.
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>b) Draft agenda of the MCSD meeting was reviewed and some amendments were proposed</i></p> <p>The meeting reviewed the draft agenda prepared by the Secretariat and exchanged a number of views as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the agenda should make clear the major outputs expected of this MCSD meeting and in particular how and to what extent they are going to affect the work of MAP as a whole as well as of the RACs and MEDPOL; • There is a need to create a better balance with regard to the institutions that are going to make key presentations at the meeting; • MAP should present its vision on adaptation to climate change in the Mediterranean; • A major work for the MCSD during the next biennium will be the update of the MSSD. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAP to present at the 13th MCSD meeting a policy paper on adaptation to climate change in the Mediterranean. • MAP Policy paper to be prepared jointly by all components under the guidance of the Secretariat. • Proposed adaptation measures/policy should incorporate and cover socio economic aspects and dimensions. • MAP components to prepare reports on the implementation of the MCSD programme of work that will be incorporated in the progress report by the Secretariat. • MAP components to prepare background information papers on climate change adaptation for dissemination at the meeting.

<p>c) MCSD Task force and MCSD Working Group on climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting discussed about the proposal on the establishment of a Task force for the organization of the 13th MCSD meeting as well as the need to formalize the establishment of the thematic MCSD working groups. • The Coordinator informed the meeting that some Contracting Parties have already expressed their interest to be involved in the Task force for the preparation of the MCSD meeting. • Climate change was reconfirmed as one of priority cross-cutting issue to be dealt in the framework of all Regional Seas programmes. • It was pointed out the need to prioritise the work because the components cannot afford working for both MAP legal system and MCSD if they act totally independently from each other. • As such there is a need for both systems to converge with each other to the extent possible. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ECP agreed with regard to proposals on the establishment of the Task force for the organization of the 13th MCSD meeting as well as a MCSD Working Group on climate change. • Establishment of formal Working Groups on vertical themes of the MCSD programme of work to be discussed by the MCSD meeting.
<p>Agenda Item 4: Organization of the ministerial segment of the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>With regard to the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the meeting discussed both substantial and organizational issues.</p> <p>There is a need to further expand the chapter that identifies the added value of MAP by mentioning all the aspects of work of MAP that are relevant to the Mediterranean Union Initiative.</p> <p>The conclusions of the brainstorming meeting organized by DEPI on 18 November 2008 could be also used for the above purpose.</p> <p>The meeting reviewed the proposed options with regard to the organization of the ministerial session. Finally the meeting concluded to combine both</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ECP to propose one single topic to the Bureau with regard to the ministerial session of the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties: MAP added value to the UfM. • The background policy paper already prepared by the Secretariat to be revised in order to include all aspects of the work of MAP that can contribute to the Mediterranean Union initiative. • MAP components to submit their proposal and revisions to the Secretariat by 25 January 2009. • ECP to propose to the Bureau that the ministerial segment should be held during the entire second day of the meeting.

<p>proposed options in order to leave enough space to address any matter related to the preparatory work of the ministerial segment as well as address any outstanding issues from the MAP Focal Points meeting during the first day of the meeting. While the second day would be totally devoted to the ministerial segment.</p> <p>A number of ideas were exchanged with respect to organization of side events, information and publications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The convening of side events during lunch breaks should be generally avoided. However a definitive decision on this issue to be taken after having considered the conference premises and any other organizational related issues together with the host country. • Partners organizations to be invited to organize side events together with the Secretariat and components on the basis of priorities to be jointly agreed at the next ECP meeting. • Contracting Parties to be encouraged to prepare different information materials or publication with regard to their work and achievements in MAP such as for example posters, etc. • MAP components to prepare communication and information publications on different aspects of their work or activities.
<p>Agenda item 5: Host Country Agreement Template and Mandates of MAP components</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>The meeting had a general discussion on the draft HCA prepared by the Secretariat as well as on the procedure to be followed with the RACs and the negotiations by UNEP and MEDU with the host countries.</p> <p>It was recalled that the HCA exercise was not involving MEDPOL programme already hosted with the Coordinating Unit and REMPEC which already has a HCA addressing all relevant issues.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inputs by the RACs on the HCA template to be submitted by end of January 2009 to the Secretariat. • An harmonized version of mandates to be distributed mid-January 2009 by the Secretariat to the RACs and MEDPOL.

<p>It was also agreed that mixing the mandate with the HCA was not appropriate and not in conformity with the international practice.</p>	
<p>Agenda item 6: Five Year Strategic Programme of Work of MAP</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>The meeting considered two proposals on cross cutting thematic issues prepared jointly by different RACs (CP/RAC and SPA/RAC), MEDPOL/CP/RAC and REMPEC.</p> <p>All cross cutting thematic issues should have a text to explain the rationale and a table of activities.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four cross-cutting issues were agreed to be circulated by 15 January 2009 and adopted by the ECP by end of January through electronic means: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Climate change (BP) 2) Harmful substances and hazardous waste (MEDPOL/CP/RAC/REMPEC) 3) Resource Efficiency- sustainable consumption and production (CP/RAC& SPA/RAC) 4) Integrated coastal zone management/ ecosystem management (PAP/RAC) • The cross-cutting themes should be furthered developed according to the model used by Blue Plan for the preparation of climate change theme.
<p>Agenda item 7: Timetables for the main MAP meetings for 2009</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>The host country has proposed to hold the Contracting Parties meeting on 4-6 November 2009.</p> <p>After considering a number of factors and criteria, the meeting agreed on the calendar of the main institutional MAP meetings in 2009.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p><u>Schedule</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of MAP Focal Points: 7 – 10 July 2009 • Joint Focal Points meeting PAP, PB and INFO/RAC: 11-13 May 2009 • REMPEC Focal Points meeting: 21-24 April 2009 • CP/RAC Focal Points meeting: 4-5 May 2009 • MED POL Focal Points meeting: first week of June 2009 • SPA/RAC Focal Points meeting: 2-5 June 2009

	<p><u>Venues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All components to provide as soon as possible information on the venue and other organizational aspects of the above meetings. <p><u>Other issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents of the Focal Points meeting to be circulated to the Secretariat well in advance of meetings. • A list of the expected draft decisions to be submitted by each component to the Secretariat by 15 January 2009.
<p>Agenda Item 8: Organization of the Focal Points meeting for each MAP component</p>	
<p>Key considerations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>PAP RAC to coordinate a meeting in January 2009 to discuss the organization of the joint Focal Points meeting PAP, BP and INFO/RAC.</p>
<p>Agenda item 9: Other matters</p>	
<p>Key considerations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>Budget reallocation in relation to the programme of work for the forthcoming biennium will be addressed at the next ECP meeting.</p> <p>The financial management and audit report will be sent to all RAC Directors for their comments as soon as it is available.</p>
<p>Agenda item 10 Date and venue of the next ECP meeting</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>At the kind invitation of RAC/SPA, the fifth ECP meeting will be held in Tunis on 26-27 February 2009.</p>

Agenda item 11 Adoption of the report	
Agenda item 12 Closure of the Meeting	
	The meeting was closed by the Coordinator on 16 December 2008 at 18:30.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
3. Organization of the MCSD meeting and the involvement of MAP components (including the institutional aspects of the new composition of the MCSD)
4. Organization of the ministerial segment of the 16th meeting of the CPs
5. Host Country Agreement Template and Mandates of MAP components
6. Five Year Strategic Programme of Work of MAP
7. Timetables for the main MAP meetings for 2009
8. Organization of the focal points meeting for each MAP component
9. Any other business
10. Adoption of the report
11. Next meeting of the ECP
12. Closure of the Meeting