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Sixth Meeting on Reporting under
the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

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**New Reporting format on the Barcelona Convention
and its Protocols**

Approach Paper

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1. Introduction

The decision to develop a reporting format in order to facilitate the work of the CPs with respect to the preparation of their reports on measures taken to implement the Convention and its Protocols dates back to 1996 and the 11th meeting of the CPs held in Montpellier, France. This meeting recommended the following:

Recommendation I.A.c.4

The Contracting Parties invite the Secretariat, in consultation with Contracting Parties and with the assistance of two to three experts, to propose the development of a system of coherent reporting by the Contracting Parties in conformity with MAP II and the relevant provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

At the 12th meeting of the CPs held in Monaco, 2001, the Contracting Parties adopted the reporting format for the legal component of the Mediterranean Action Plan and agreed to start implementing it progressively during the next biennium. Seven Contracting Parties volunteered to participate in a reporting exercise which was to constitute the pilot phase of the system adopted. The meeting also requested the Secretariat *to report to the 13th meeting on lessons learnt from the reporting exercise and to propose appropriate revisions based on MAP experience as well as on ongoing coordination of reporting activities implemented within the United Nations framework.*

The meeting of the Contracting Parties, held in Catania, Italy in 2003, having reviewed and discussed the results of the pilot exercise agreed to consolidate the parts of the reporting format dealing with the legal and administrative aspects of implementation in one consolidated document for the Convention and its Protocols and address the reporting requirements with respect to specific articles of protocols (mainly on technical issues and provision of data) separately. It also invited the CPs to prepare and submit their implementation reports for the biennium 2002-2003 on the basis of the agreed format.

The 14th meeting of the CPs held in Portoroz, Slovenia, after analyzing the regional assessment report, a number of recommendations proposed by the 4th and 5th meetings on reporting and reviewed by the meeting of MAP Focal Points held in 2005 decided as follows:

Recommendation I.A.I.4 Reporting system

The Contracting Parties request the Secretariat to

1. *develop a new reporting format in the framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in close cooperation and consultation with the Contracting Parties and relevant organizations for consideration and adoption at the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007 based on the following criteria:*
 - (a) *an integrated reporting system covering all MAP legal instruments;*
 - (b) *coherence in the timing of the reporting for all MAP legal instruments;*
 - (c) *the use of an indicator-based approach;*
 - (d) *harmonization with other reporting systems relevant to MAP in relation to timing and content; and*
 - (e) *inclusion of the decisions on which the Contracting Parties have to report within the framework of the legal instruments of MAP.*
2. *develop a list of indicators relevant to the practical implementation measures for the consideration by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007.*

3. *establish an electronic database with the information provided by the Contracting Parties and introduce a system of electronic on-line reporting to be implemented by INFO/RAC once it is refocused on information activities.*
4. *prepare a regional report on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention in the 2004-2005 biennium for submission to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points and of the Contracting Parties in 2007."*

With a view to discussing the main elements of an updated reporting format of MAP and taking into account the above decision of the meeting of the CPs held in Portoroz, Slovenia in 2005, two preparatory meetings with all MAP components have been organized in Athens on 23 June 2006 and 15 September 2006 in the premises of the MAP Coordinating Unit.

The Coordinating Unit (MEDU), MED POL, REMPEC, Blue Plan, RAC SPA, CP/RAC INFO RAC and EEA participated in the first meeting. The MEDU, MED POL, Blue Plan, RAC/SPA and CP/RAC also participated in the second meeting.

Both meetings reviewed in detail all legally binding and non legally binding reporting requirements within the text of the Convention and its Protocols, the guidelines, decisions of the meetings of the CP, Action Plans and specific regional strategies adopted in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan since 1995.

All reporting formats/questionnaires adopted by the meetings of the CPs to the Conventions on Biological Diversity, POPs, Bonn, OSPAR and some relevant EC Directives such as the Habitat and IPPC Directives have been carefully examined for harmonization purposes.

The need to focus on implementation indicators in order to facilitate the assessment of the status of implementation of the Convention and its Protocols at the national and regional levels was also addressed as a priority.

The meetings drew a number of conclusions on the approach on which basis the new reporting format for MAP with respect to the legally binding reporting requirements has to be prepared and on the preparation of the 6th meeting on reporting to be held in December 2006, in Greece.

2. Purpose of Reporting as per Article 26 of the amended Barcelona Convention

The Barcelona Convention addresses the obligation for reporting on its implementation and its purpose in Articles 26, 27 and 17 and 18. A number of specific articles in all Protocols also provides for obligatory reporting on a number of issues.

Article 26 of the Convention provides for submission of Reports:

- 1) *The Contracting parties shall transmit to the Organization reports on:*
 - a) *the legal, administrative or other measures taken by them for the implementation of this Convention, the Protocol and of the recommendations adopted by their meetings;*
 - b) *the effectiveness of the measures referred to in subparagraph (a) and problems encountered in the implementation of the instruments as above.*
- 2) *The reports shall be submitted in such form and at such intervals as the meetings of the CPs may determine*

Article 27 of the Convention provides for Compliance Control:

The meetings of the CPs shall, on the basis of periodical reports referred to in Article 26 and any other report submitted by the CPs, assess the compliance with the Convention and the protocols as well as the measures and recommendations. They shall recommend, when appropriate, the necessary steps to bring about full compliance with the Convention and the Protocols and promote the implementation of the decisions and recommendations.

Article 18 of the Convention provides for review by the Meetings of the Contracting Parties

It shall be the function of the meetings of the Parties to keep under review the implementation of this Convention and the Protocols, in particular:

- (i) to review generally the inventories established by the Contracting Parties and competent international organizations on the state of marine pollution and its effects in the Mediterranean Sea*

- (ii) to consider reports submitted by the CPs under Article 26*

Article 17 of the Convention provides for the Institutional arrangements:

The CPs designate the UNEP as responsible for carrying out the following Secretariat functions:

(vi) to regularly report to the CPs on the implementation of the Convention and of the Protocols.

In view of the above exposé, the purpose of establishing a formal legally binding reporting process by the meeting of the Contracting Parties becomes very clear.

Article 15 of the convention on Public Information and Participation provides that:

- 1) "the CPs shall ensure that their competent authorities shall give to the public appropriate access to information on the environmental state in the field of application of the Convention and the Protocols and on activities or measures adversely affecting or likely to affect it and on activities carried out or measures taken in accordance with the Convention and the Protocols".*
- 2) The CPs shall ensure that the opportunity is given to the public to participate in decision-making process relevant to the field of application of the Convention and the Protocols, as appropriate.*

With the view to providing assistance to CPs to implement and comply with the requirements of this article, new tools on reporting and assessment are being elaborated by all MAP components and especially INFO/RAC, to ensure better access for the public to information and environmental data in the field of application of the Convention and Protocols.

3. Main Reporting Requirements

As mentioned in chapter 2, in accordance with Article 26 the reports on Implementation shall include the following:

- a) the legal, administrative or other measures taken for the implementation of this Convention and the Protocols;*
- b) the legal, administrative or other measures taken for the implementation and of the recommendations adopted by their meetings*
- c) the effectiveness of the measures referred to in sub paragraph (a) and (b)*
- d) and problems encountered in the implementation of the instruments as above.*

The Protocols specifically provide for preparation and adoption by the Meeting of the Parties and implementation by the Parties of a number of guidelines, standards, criteria or Action Plans for endangered species.

In this respect four guidelines have been adopted in the framework of the Dumping protocol (Article 4) and seven Action Plans in the framework of the SPA and Biodiversity protocol (Article 12, par.3). In the view of the Secretariat the report by the parties on Implementation shall also include information on the implementation of these guidelines and Action Plans.

The Secretariat also proposes that the new reporting should not include questions requesting information on legal, administrative and other measures of implementation of those recommendations of the CPs meetings that have been adopted before the entry into force of the amended Convention, with the exception of those recommendations that contain mandatory reporting requirements on their implementation.

The recommendations to be adopted by the CP meetings in the future should be formulated in such a way as to facilitate reporting on their implementation. In addition, each of the recommendations that will contain reporting obligations on their implementation should be accompanied by a reporting format as is the case in other Conventions.

The same is valid for future guidelines and Action Plans or other tools if they contain reporting obligations on their implementation. Each of them should be accompanied by a reporting format.

Other reporting requirements under the LBS and SPA and biodiversity protocol

Articles 8, 9, 14 (2),b of the Dumping protocol provide for reporting on a number of issues such as permits and records, dumping in case of force majeure etc.

Article 13 of the amended LBS Protocol provides for the CPs to report to the Meetings of the CPs through the Organization the following data: a) statistical data on the authorizations granted in accordance with Article 6 of this protocol, b) **data resulting from monitoring as provided for in Article 8 of this Protocol**; c) quantities of pollution discharged from their territories d) Action Plans, programs and measures implemented in accordance with Articles 5,7 and 15 of this protocol. Article 14 provides for the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to consider reports submitted by the Parties under Article 13 of the Protocol.

According to Articles 3 par.5 and 23 of the SPA and biodiversity Protocol, the Parties are under obligation to submit to the meetings of the CPs to this Protocol, report on the implementation of this Protocol in particular on: a) the status and the **state of the areas included in the SPAMI** list b) any change in the delimitation or legal status of the SPAMI and protected species c) possible exemptions allowed, pursuant to Articles 12 and 18 of this Protocol. There is an obligation for the Parties, as per requirements of Article 3 paragraphs 3 and 5, Art 15, Art. 20 par.3 to identify and compile inventories of the components of biological diversity and for this purpose they shall monitor components of biological diversity, fragile ecosystems and endangered species.

There is no clear legally binding obligation for the Parties to submit the data to the Meeting of the Parties either through the Organization or the Center. Article 20 provides for the Parties to exchange, directly or through the Center, scientific and technical information concerning current and planned research and monitoring programs and the results thereof.

The Hazardous Waste Protocol provides in Article 4(1), (2), Art. 11, Art. 8(2) for a number of requirements to report on national definitions of hazardous waste, quantity of hazardous waste generated and transferred annually in the Protocol area, etc.

Articles 4(3), 7(2),(3); 9, 10 and 18 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol provide for the parties to submit information and reports on a number of issues to REMPEC.

Articles 6(4) and 30 (c,d,g,i) also provide for reporting and submission of information on permits, records of the contingency plans and means of intervention, etc.

Detailed description of all Articles of the 6 protocols which provide for reporting to the organization or centers is presented in Annex I attached to this document.

Parties might consider more appropriate to submit the necessary information as provided for in specific articles of the Protocols not in the framework of reporting under Article 26 but through a separate reporting exercise to be carried out in close cooperation with MEDPOL and concerned RACs. Collection and submission of technical data need validation before any use for assessment or other purposes.

The approach of the Secretariat is to limit the present reporting format on requesting information on measures taken by Parties to implement the Convention, Protocols, Decisions of the Meeting of the Parties, Guidelines and Actions Plans as adopted. The other relevant information focusing on technical data and others for example conditions included in different permits shall be submitted to MEDPOL and concerned RACs that will be responsible for their collection, validation and processing for assessment at the regional level.

In the view of the Secretariat, any change of the reporting cycle from two to three or four years on **measures taken** as per Article 26 of the Convention and from two to one year for **technical data and other** as specified in specific Articles of the Protocols might be useful with a view of reducing the reporting burden for the parties and increasing flexibility of reporting. It might also positively affect the process of harmonization.

4. Harmonization

Possibilities for harmonization are not at the same level for all components. There are more chances that the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol, can be better harmonized with the CBD, EC Habitat Directive, Bonn and other relevant Conventions. With respect to the LBS Protocol under the MEDPOL program, there is an important difference in terms of the purpose and approach followed by the relevant EC directives concerning reporting requirements and purposes. This makes the harmonization exercise somewhat limited.

There is a proposal to consider the possibility (through appropriate institutional decisions and steps by the meetings of the Contracting Parties, the Bureau and agreements among Secretariats) of developing a co-shared reporting format with the Basel Convention, London Convention and to some extent the CBD in order that the CPs to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols which are Parties to the said global conventions, submit their reports to the MAP secretariat. The latter will transmit such reports to the abovementioned global Conventions secretariats.

The reporting format needs to be formulated in such a way as to enable Parties to provide the necessary information for the Meeting of the Parties, to understand **if and what** measures have been taken by Parties to implement the Convention, the related Protocols, the decisions of the meeting of the Parties, and their effectiveness. In this context, the harmonization exercise is particularly important in order to facilitate the process of the description of measures taken, and submission of data. The proposed new reporting format needs more elaboration in order to reflect fully the harmonization possibilities. While compiling the Status of Implementation report, three options are proposed to the Parties for the description of the measures taken and the data submitted:

- a) To provide the official sources and their addresses where this information can be found in English or French for use by the Secretariat (address of the web site, assessment reports, national reports, regional reports, reports submitted in the framework of other Conventions, etc.);
- b) To insert the data or information in the databases being developed by INFO/RAC/MEDPOL and INFO/RAC/MEDU in the framework of the MAP Info system;
- c) To attach annexes to the report with the description of the measures taken and other requested information.

Assessment of the status of implementation

The assessment will be carried out at the Contracting party level and at the regional level per each legal instrument on its own and per each Article alone.

For this purpose the described measures are proposed to be classified in five groups such as: legal, institutional measures, administrative measures, monitoring and research measures, pollution reduction measures/protection of biodiversity measures and supporting measures.

Assessment of efficiency of measures taken

A set of a restricted/limited number (10-15) of “ Implementation indicators” covering pressures, impacts and quality of the marine and coastal environment can be proposed on the basis of the work already done by MED POL, RAC SPA, PAP RAC and Blue Plan. If the Contracting Parties would accept the idea of establishing a limited list of “Implementation indicators” on the basis of the proposal by MAP components (MED POL and concerned RACs), the MAP system can work in the future to render possible the quantification, on the basis of such indicators, of the contribution of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its protocols, its specific regional programs and strategies to the improvement of the marine and coastal environment quality and the quest for sustainable development in the Mediterranean region. This set of indicators can also be used to assess the contribution of MAP to other initiatives in the region such as the Horizon 2020 Initiative established in the framework of the EuroMediterranean Partnership.

Further research needs to be carried out by the Secretariat and concerned RACs in order to bring about synergy with other programmes, UN organizations and the EEA that are developing a number of tools to measure the “effectiveness” of the implementation of legal instruments.

Design of the MAP reporting format

It is proposed that a compilation of the definitions given in the Convention and Protocols, should be part of the reporting format in the form of a data dictionary that, if agreed by this meeting, will be prepared at a later stage.

The proposed reporting format for the Convention, for the implementation of the Protocol concerning specially protected areas and biological diversity in the Mediterranean, and the Dumping, LBS and Hazardous Waste Protocols, has three objectives:

1. To provide the Meeting of the Contracting Parties with information about the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols by the Contracting Parties at:
 - Convention Level,
 - Protocol Level; and
 - Article level.
2. To provide the Meeting of the Contracting Parties with information as to the nature of difficulties encountered by the Parties in the implementation of the Protocols' requirements; this can be the basis for future assistance programmes.
3. To provide the Meeting of the Contracting Parties with some information on effectiveness of measures taken by the Contracting Parties.

The proposed reporting format includes questions related to the implementation of the Convention, Protocols, decisions of the meetings of the Contracting Parties which provide for reporting on their implementation; moreover on those guidelines that are referred to in specific Articles of the afore-mentioned legal instruments.

The proposed reporting format does not include questions requesting information on legal, administrative and other measures of implementation of those recommendations of the CPs meetings that have been adopted before the entry into force of the amended Convention unless they provide for submission of reports on their implementation.

The proposed reporting format contains a questionnaire in which the answers are already provided and only a tick to mask the most appropriate answer(s) is required. The questionnaire has also been conceived in such a way as to facilitate the harmonization exercise by providing the Contracting Parties with guidance on the source and information for the description of the measures taken as well as technical data.

For each issue, a question is formulated, in order to assess the status of implementation on the basis of the following answers:

- Yes: indicating full agreement with the contents of the question
- Sometimes: indicating that on certain occasions, the answer is 'Yes'
- No: indicating complete disagreement with the contents of the question
- N/A: indicating that the contents of the question do not apply to the present situation of the Contracting Party
- Under development

There are three options for the Parties to report on and describe the measures taken as well as to provide the data required if the response is positive(Yes):

- To provide the source of available information in English or French (official website of the Parties, relevant national publications, website of the Secretariat of other Conventions or Eionet and other official networks).
- To insert the description of the existing or new measure in the data base, which is being elaborated by INFO/RAC and MEDU and/or MED POL, or in any other available data bases within the MAP system.
- To provide the information in the framework of this reporting format in the form of annexes to the report. The Secretariat will then insert it in the relevant data base and will use it for assessment purposes.

For each answer to the above listed options, a second question follows to cover any challenges that the Contracting Party may be facing in implementation. These challenges are classified into six groups:

1. Improved legal and institutional framework,
2. Improved access to knowledge and information,
3. Improved public awareness at all levels,
4. Better access to financial resources,
5. Stronger technical capabilities, and
6. Stronger stakeholder participation.

The Contracting Party may tick one or several challenge options depending on those it encounters while implementing the Convention and measures included in the Protocols. For certain cases, no answers are needed; these are indicated by "gray-shaded cells" in the reporting system questionnaire. In total, 37 reporting questions are formulated for the Convention, 36 for the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol, 43 for seven action plans adopted in the framework of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol, 23 for the Dumping Protocol; 59 for the LBS Protocol; and 39 for the Hazardous Wastes Protocol.

In order to assess the status of implementation and the contribution of different types of measures taken, at the national and regional levels, it is proposed to classify the measures of implementation in five groups, which may not necessarily be the same for the Convention and all protocols. The five groups are:

1. Legal/Institutional/policy measures
2. Administrative measures
3. Pollution-reduction measures/Biodiversity conservation measures
4. Monitoring and research
5. Supporting measures
 - a. Reporting
 - b. Communications and
 - c. Record keeping.

This assessment will be performed by analyzing the answers to the questions included in the reporting system.

The draft reporting format on the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol and Offshore Protocol will be elaborated at a later stage by the Secretariat on the basis of the recommendations of the present meeting, and will be submitted to the next meeting on Reporting to be held in spring 2007.

ANNEX 1

Requirements and obligations of the Contracting Parties on the reporting system, deriving from the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean

Article 14

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

1. The Contracting Parties shall adopt legislation implementing the Convention and the Protocols.
2. The Secretariat may, upon request from a Contracting Party, assist that Party in the drafting of environmental legislation in compliance with the Convention and the Protocols.

Article 26

REPORTS

1. The Contracting Parties shall transmit to the Organization reports on:
 - (a) the legal, administrative or other measures taken by them for the implementation of this Convention, the Protocols and of the recommendations adopted by their meetings;
 - (b) the effectiveness of the measures referred to in subparagraph (a) and problems encountered in the implementation of the instruments as mentioned above.
2. The reports shall be submitted in such form and at such intervals as the Meetings of Contracting Parties may determine.

Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea

Article 5

The dumping of the wastes or other matter listed in Article 4.2 requires a prior special permit from the competent national authorities.

Article 6

1. The permit referred to in Article 5 shall be issued only after careful consideration of the factors set forth in the Annex to this Protocol or the criteria, guidelines and relevant procedures adopted by the meeting of the Contracting Parties pursuant to paragraph 2 below:

2. The Contracting Parties shall draw up and adopt criteria, guidelines and procedures for the dumping of wastes or other matter listed in Article 4.2 so as to prevent, abate and eliminate pollution.

Article 7

Incineration at sea is prohibited.

Article 8

The provisions of articles 4, 5 and 6 shall not apply in case of *force majeure* due to stress of weather or any other cause when human life or the safety of a ship or aircraft is threatened. Such dumpings shall immediately be reported to the Organization and, either through the Organization or directly, to any Party or Parties likely to be affected, together with full details of the circumstances and of the nature and quantities of the wastes or other matter dumped.

Article 9

If a Party in a critical situation of an exceptional nature considers that wastes or other matter not listed in Article 4.2 of this Protocol cannot be disposed of on land without unacceptable danger or damage, above all for the safety of human life, the Party concerned shall forthwith consult the Organization. The Organization, after consulting the Parties to this Protocol, shall recommend methods of storage or the most satisfactory means of destruction or disposal under the prevailing circumstances. The Party shall inform the Organization of the steps adopted in pursuance of these recommendations. The Parties pledge themselves to assist one another in such situations.

Article 14

2. It shall be the function of the meetings of the Parties to this Protocol:

(b) To study and consider the records of the permits issued in accordance with articles 5, 6 and 7 and of the dumping which has taken place;

Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea

Article 4

CONTINGENCY PLANS AND OTHER MEANS OF PREVENTING AND COMBATING POLLUTION INCIDENTS

3. The Parties shall inform the Regional Centre every two years of the measures taken for the implementation of this Article. The Regional Centre shall present a report to the Parties on the basis of the information received.

Article 7

DISSEMINATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

2. The Parties which have agreed to exchange information directly shall communicate such information to the Regional Centre. The latter shall communicate this information to the other Parties and, on a basis of reciprocity, to coastal States of the Mediterranean Sea Area which are not Parties to this Protocol.

3. Parties concluding bilateral or multilateral agreements within the framework of this Protocol shall inform the Regional Centre of such agreements, which shall communicate them to the other Parties.

Article 9

REPORTING PROCEDURE

1. Each Party shall issue instructions to masters or other persons having charge of ships flying its flag and to the pilots of aircraft registered in its territory to report by the most rapid and adequate channels in the circumstances, following reporting procedures to the extent required by, and in accordance with, the applicable provisions of the relevant international agreements, to the nearest coastal State and to this Party:

- (a) all incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or hazardous and noxious substances;
- (b) the presence, characteristics and extent of spillages of oil or hazardous and noxious substances, including hazardous and noxious substances in packaged form, observed at sea which pose or are likely to pose a threat to the marine environment or to the coast or related interests of one or more of the Parties.

2. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 20 of the Protocol, each Party shall take appropriate measures with a view to ensuring that the master of every ship sailing in its territorial waters complies with the obligations under (a) and (b) of paragraph 1 and may request assistance from the Regional Centre in this respect. It shall inform the International Maritime Organization of the measures taken.

3. Each Party shall also issue instructions to persons having charge of sea ports or handling facilities under its jurisdiction to report to it, in accordance with applicable laws, all incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or hazardous and noxious substances.

4. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil, each Party shall issue instructions to persons having charge of offshore units under its jurisdiction to report to it by the most rapid and adequate channels in the circumstances, following reporting procedures it has prescribed, all incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or hazardous and noxious substances.

5. In paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of this Article, the term "incident" means an incident meeting the conditions described therein, whether or not it is a pollution incident.

6. The information collected in accordance with paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 shall be communicated to the Regional Centre in the case of a pollution incident.

7. The information collected in accordance with paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 shall be immediately communicated to the other Parties likely to be affected by a pollution incident:

- (a) by the Party which has received the information, preferably directly or through the Regional Centre; or
- (b) by the Regional Centre.

In case of direct communication between Parties, these shall inform the Regional Centre of the measures taken, and the Centre shall communicate them to the other Parties.

8. The Parties shall use a mutually agreed standard form proposed by the Regional Centre for the reporting of pollution incidents as required under paragraphs 6 and 7 of this Article.

9. In consequence of the application of the provisions of paragraph 7, the Parties are not bound by the obligation laid down in Article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

Article 10

OPERATIONAL MEASURES

1. Any Party faced with a pollution incident shall:
 - (a) make the necessary assessments of the nature, extent and possible consequences of the pollution incident or, as the case may be, the type and approximate quantity of oil or hazardous and noxious substances and the direction and speed of drift of the spillage;
 - (b) take every practicable measure to prevent, reduce and, to the fullest possible extent, eliminate the effects of the pollution incident;
 - (c) immediately inform all Parties likely to be affected by the pollution incident of these assessments and of any action which it has taken or intends to take, and simultaneously provide the same information to the Regional Centre, which shall communicate it to all other Parties;
 - (d) continue to observe the situation for as long as possible and report thereon in accordance with Article 9.
2. Where action is taken to combat pollution originating from a ship, all possible measures shall be taken to safeguard:
 - (a) human lives;
 - (b) the ship itself; in doing so, damage to the environment in general shall be prevented or minimized.

Any Party which takes such action shall inform the International Maritime Organization either directly or through the Regional Centre.

Article 18

MEETINGS

2. It shall be the function of the meetings of the Parties to this Protocol, in particular:
 - (a) to examine and discuss reports from the Regional Centre on the implementation of this Protocol, and particularly of its Articles 4, 7 and 16;

Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities

Article 13

REPORTS

1. The Parties shall submit reports every two years, unless decided otherwise by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, to the meetings of the Contracting Parties, through the Organization, of measures taken, results achieved and, if the case arises, of difficulties encountered in the application of this Protocol. Procedures for the submission of such reports shall be determined at the meetings of the Parties.

2. Such reports shall include, *inter alia*:

(a) Statistical data on the authorizations granted in accordance with article 6 of this Protocol;

(b) Data resulting from monitoring as provided for in article 8 of this Protocol;

(c) Quantities of pollutants discharged from their territories;

(d) Action plans, programmes and measures implemented in accordance with articles 5, 7 and 15 of this Protocol.

Article 14

MEETINGS

(f) To consider the reports submitted by the Parties under article 13 of this Protocol;

Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean

Article 3

GENERAL OBLIGATIONS

3. The Parties shall identify and compile inventories of the components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use.

5. The Parties shall monitor the components of biological diversity referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article and shall identify processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and monitor their effects.

Article 15

INVENTORIES

Each Party shall compile comprehensive inventories of:

- (a) areas over which they exercise sovereignty or jurisdiction that contain rare or fragile ecosystems, that are reservoirs of biological diversity, that are important for threatened or endangered species;
- (b) species of fauna or flora that are endangered or threatened.

Article 20

SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

3. The Parties shall exchange, directly or through the Centre, scientific and technical information concerning current and planned research and monitoring programmes and the results thereof. They shall, to the fullest extent possible, coordinate their research and monitoring programmes, and endeavour jointly to define or standardize their procedures.

Article 23

REPORTS OF THE PARTIES

The Parties shall submit to ordinary meetings of the Parties a report on the implementation of this Protocol, in particular on:

- (a) the status and the state of the areas included in the SPAMI List;
- (b) any changes in the delimitation or legal status of the SPAMIs and protected species;
- (c) possible exemptions allowed pursuant to Articles 12 and 18 of this Protocol.

Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil

Article 6

GRANTING OF AUTHORIZATIONS

4. The Parties shall notify the Organization as soon as possible of authorizations granted or renewed. The Organization shall keep a register of all the authorized installations in the Protocol Area.

Article 30

MEETINGS

2. The functions of the meetings of the Parties to this Protocol shall be, *inter alia*:

(c) To consider the information concerning authorizations granted or renewed in accordance with Section II of this Protocol;

(d) To consider the information concerning the permits issued and approvals given in accordance with Section III of this Protocol;

(g) To establish criteria and formulate international rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures in accordance with Article 23, paragraph 1, of this Protocol, in whatever form the Parties may agree;

(i) To review progress made in the implementation of Article 27 of this Protocol;

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

Article 4

NATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF HAZARDOUS WASTES

1. Each Party to the Convention shall, within six months of becoming a Party, inform the Organization of the wastes, other than those listed in Annex I to this Protocol, considered or defined as hazardous wastes under its national legislation, and of any requirements concerning transboundary movement procedures applicable to such wastes.

2. Each Party shall subsequently inform the Organization of any significant changes in information it has provided pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 8

REGIONAL COOPERATION

2. To this end, the Parties shall submit annual reports to the Organization regarding the hazardous wastes they generate and transfer within the Protocol area in order to enable the Organization to produce a hazardous waste audit.

Article 11

TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION

The Parties shall inform one another through the Organization of measures taken, of results achieved and, if the case arises, of difficulties encountered in the application of this Protocol. Procedures for the collection and distribution of such information shall be determined at the meetings of the Parties.