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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to
the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean
and its Protocols

Portoroz (Slovenia), 8-11 November 2005

REPORT BY THE COORDINATOR FOR THE 14TH MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Slovenia 8-11 November 2005

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BAT	Best Available Techniques
BEP	Best Environmental Practices
CAMP	Coastal Area Management Project
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
EC	European Commission
EEA	European Environment Agency
EMP	Euro-Mediterranean Partnership
EU	European Union
FFEM	Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ICAM	Integrated Coastal Area Management
IGO	Intergovernmental Organisation
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LBS	Land Based Sources
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MCSD	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
MED POL	Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Region
METAP	Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NSSD	National Strategy for Sustainable Development
PAP/RAC	Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
REMPEC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SMAP	Short and Medium-term Priority Environmental Action Programme
SPA	Specially Protected Area
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GPA	UN Environment Programme / Global Programme of Action

INTRODUCTION

There have been significant developments since the last meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania in 2003 which are worth highlighting.

The amended Barcelona Convention and the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol have entered into force. A Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development has been prepared by the MCSD. National Actions Plans (NAPs) to address pollution from land-based sources have been completed by all the Mediterranean countries. The Report on Environment and Development has been finalized and will be published in the autumn. The GEF Project in support of the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) has been completed and a new GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean has been launched. Progress has continued to be registered in the development of new mechanisms to address compliance, liability and compensation mechanisms.

It is worth recalling that the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention coincides with the 30th Anniversary of the Mediterranean Action Plan. It is therefore appropriate that after three decades, MAP should carry out an external evaluation of its past performance and determine its future orientation for the next decade.

As requested by the Contracting Parties in Catania in 2003 the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable development has been elaborated and is being submitted for adoption by the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Slovenia.

Land-based urban and industrial sources of pollution still have a significant negative impact on the state of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment and its ecosystem. In this regard, the full implementation by the countries of the National Action Plans (NAPs) to address pollution from land-based sources takes on greater importance.

As the Mediterranean monk seal is in danger of extinction, Contracting Parties are being called upon to take necessary measures to halt the decline of this important species of Mediterranean biodiversity.

Due to their importance, the Bureau proposed and the MAP Focal Points approved that these issues should constitute the agenda for the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties meeting in Slovenia.

At the end of the meeting Contracting Parties are expected to adopt the Portoroz Declaration.

I. CONTEXT FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE 2006-2007 BUDGET

The proposed allocations included in the 2006 – 2007 Budget are based on the following activities to be carried out in the next biennium:-

- the continued implementation of the Convention and related Protocols including the provision of assistance to countries for this purpose;
- preparatory work and the organization of meetings of the Working Group to prepare the draft text of the Protocol on ICAM;
- Organization of the meetings of the Working Group of legal and technical experts to develop appropriate rules and procedures for a liability and compensation mechanism;
- the implementation of the MCSDD programme of work and assistance to countries to develop National Strategies for Sustainable Development;
- Assistance to NGOs in the organization of meetings and events related to the Barcelona Convention;
- Organization of meeting of the MAP Focal Points, including the extraordinary meeting of MAP Focal Points scheduled for 2006, and the meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007.

The budgetary allocations for the MAP components are intended for the implementation of activities as approved by the meetings of the respective Focal Points.

The total financial allocations for the biennium 2006-2007 have been kept at the same level as for the biennium 2004-2005 in conformity with the decision of the Contracting Parties in Catania that there should be no increases in the next financial exercise.

Some of the activities planned for the next two years, including the meetings of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development, the extraordinary meeting of the MAP Focal Points on the external evaluation of MAP and the meeting of the Contracting Parties are intended to be financed from external sources primarily voluntary contributions by countries. If these additional funds do not materialize, the planned activities would have to be financed through the Revolving Fund subject to approval by the Bureau.

During the current biennium, additional voluntary contributions were received from a number of countries in support of MAP activities. As requested by the meeting of the MAP Focal Points, overall information on additional in-cash and in-kind contributions was provided in the Progress Report on Activities carried out during the years 2004-2005.

By the end of September 2005, over 78% of total pledges to the Mediterranean Trust Fund had been received. This is an improvement on the performance in previous years. Arrears amounting to 23% of outstanding payments were received. During the next biennium efforts will be made to recover the outstanding contributions for 2005 and previous years which are also quite substantial. A table showing the status of contributions as at end of September 2005 is attached as **Annex** to this report.

II. NEW DEVELOPMENTS

II.1 Legal Issues

The main expected developments during the next biennium with regard to the MAP legal framework are the following:

1. Entry into force of the amendments to the LBS and Dumping Protocols
2. Further ratifications of the legal instruments already in force
3. Elaboration of the text of the draft protocol on ICAM
4. Progress in the elaboration of a liability and compensation as well as compliance mechanisms
5. Improvement of the MAP reporting system

II.1.1 Current Status of Ratifications of the Convention and Its Related Protocols

Since the last meeting of the Contracting Parties in November 2003, the major legal development has been the entry into force of the amended Barcelona Convention with effect from 9 July 2004, 30 days after the deposit of the 16th instrument of acceptance by Algeria. Morocco has also accepted the amendments to the Convention in 2005. The official title of the Convention is now the "Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean".

Another significant development was the entry into force, on 25 March 2004, of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol following its ratification by Slovenia on 16 February 2004. Seven Contracting Parties have so far ratified this Protocol.

A detailed table of the status of ratifications of the various instruments is attached as **Annex** to this report.

Convention: 17 Contracting Parties¹ have accepted the amendments adopted in Barcelona in 1995.

Dumping Protocol: 14 Contracting Parties have accepted the 1995 amendments.

Prevention and Emergency Protocol: Seven Contracting Parties have so far ratified the new Protocol. This protocol has entered into force on 25 March 2004.

Land-based Sources Protocol: 13 Contracting Parties have accepted the 1996 amendments.

Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity Protocol: Currently 14 Parties have ratified the Protocol, which entered into force on 12 December 1999.

Offshore Protocol: This Protocol was adopted in 1994 and has been ratified by four Contracting Parties. Two more ratifications are necessary for it to enter into force.

Hazardous Wastes Protocol: This Protocol was adopted in 1996 and five Contracting Parties have ratified it. An additional ratification is necessary for the Protocol to enter into force.

Six Mediterranean countries are still parties to the 1976 Barcelona Convention, eight to the 1982 SPA Protocol and fifteen to the 1976 Emergency Protocol. Until all Mediterranean

¹ At the meeting of the MAP Focal Points last September, Israel announced that it has ratified the amendments to the Convention.

countries become parties to the revised or new legal instruments, both the earlier and more recent legal regimes of the Barcelona Convention system will therefore coexist.

During the MAP Focal Points Meeting, held on 21-24 September 2005 in Athens, some Contracting Parties reported that they will soon complete the ratification of new protocols and accept the amendments to the LBS and Dumping protocols.

Related recommendations I.A.1, as reviewed by the MAP Focal Points meeting, are presented in document UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.16/5.

II.1.2 Towards a regional instrument on ICAM

The 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to "...prepare a draft text of the regional protocol on integrated coastal management, on the basis of a broad process of consultation among experts and all other interested parties in view of its consideration by the Contracting Parties."

A group of Mediterranean experts was convened to address this very complex issue. A draft text was prepared and is presented as Annex I to document UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.16/5. A large number of different stakeholders was involved in the preparation of the draft text.

At the meeting of MAP Focal points last September, it was emphasized that the final draft text of the protocol could be prepared and submitted for possible approval by the meeting of the 15th Contracting Parties in 2007 and eventually for adoption by a diplomatic conference to be held back to back with the meeting of the Contracting Parties.

The related recommendations I.A.1.2, addressed to the Parties and to the Secretariat are given in document UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.16/5).

II.1.3 Liability and Compensation

At their 13th Meeting in Catania the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare a feasibility study to determine the economic, financial and social implications of a possible liability and compensation regime in the Mediterranean. The Secretariat was advised that on the basis of similar initiatives, a partnership should be established with all the stakeholders, partners and socio-economic actors involved.

The feasibility study was finalized by the Secretariat following a consultation process with the Contracting Parties, NGOs and socio-economic actors.

The Meeting of MAP focal points recommended that the work should proceed on a step-by-step basis and no pre-conceived format of rules and procedures on liability and compensation should be singled out at this stage. All options with respect to the nature of the ultimate instrument to be developed should be kept open. The meeting also recommended the establishment of a working group of legal and technical experts with the mandate to consider and make recommendations on the various issues relating to the formulation of the above-mentioned rules and procedures. The working group will carry out its work during the biennium 2006-2007 with a view to submitting its report to the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007.

Related recommendations I.A.1.3 are presented in document UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.16/5, as reviewed by the MAP Focal Points.

II.1.4 Reporting system

In conformity with the decision of the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, twenty countries submitted their report on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols for the biennium 2002-2003. On the basis of the findings and lessons learnt from this important exercise a set of recommendations was reviewed by the MAP focal points. The recommendations address the need for improvement of the reporting format, its harmonization with other systems relevant to MAP, the introduction of an on-line reporting system and the need to report on the basis of "good faith" regardless of the status of ratification of the legal instruments.

Related recommendations I.A.1.4, as reviewed by MAP Focal Points, are presented in document UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.16/5.

II.1.5 Compliance mechanism

The 13th meeting of the Contracting Parties decided to establish a working group on Implementation and Compliance to develop a platform with respect to the setting up a compliance mechanism for its consideration by the Contracting parties.

The working group assigned with this task has prepared a general platform and also a draft paper describing the main elements for a compliance mechanism under the Barcelona Convention and its protocols. The meeting of focal points recommended that the mandate and membership of the working group should be extended with a view to developing a compliance mechanism for consideration and possible approval by the 15th meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Related recommendations I.A.1.5, as reviewed by MAP Focal Points, are presented in document UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.16/5.

II.2 Regional Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships

After the adoption of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol in 2002, it became necessary to develop a strategy for its implementation.

On the basis of the priority issues identified in the Catania Declaration of 2003, and following meetings of national experts, taking into consideration also the comments received from the Contracting Parties, new developments at the global and regional levels as well as within the European Union, a draft Regional Strategy was developed and eventually endorsed by REMPEC Focal Points. An assessment of the cost of implementation of the proposed Regional Strategy was also carried out.

The proposed strategy (UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.16/10) includes a mission statement of REMPEC, present and future scenarios of the maritime traffic in the Mediterranean region and general and specific objectives addressing the key issues related to the protection of the marine environment from shipping activities. The strategy is being submitted to the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties for approval.

Through the Regional Strategy, which is in line with the objectives of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), the Contracting Parties will be taking a number of important measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol and to further reduce ship-generated pollution in the Mediterranean Sea.

Background paper for the Ministerial discussion on Agenda Item 4.2

III. *FUTURE ORIENTATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN*

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Mediterranean Action Plan that was launched in Barcelona in 1975 to mark the recognition by the Mediterranean Coastal States that pollution of the marine environment was a problem that, in addition to action at the national level, also called for cooperation at the regional level too. They realized that the Mediterranean was threatened by many different kinds of pollution and that a comprehensive approach covering the region as a whole was essential if the problems were to be managed effectively.

In 1976, the Mediterranean countries adopted the “Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution” which entered into force two years later. The Convention, together with six related Protocols, form the legal basis of MAP. These regional legal instruments outline the rights and obligations of Contracting Parties in the coordination of their efforts at the regional level with a view to achieving the optimum results from their national activities. Within the framework of the Convention and its protocols countries have agreed to take measures to prevent pollution caused by dumping, accidental or illicit discharges from ships, offshore activities, land-based sources and to cooperate in dealing with pollution emergencies and safeguarding biodiversity.

The Barcelona Convention was amended in 1995 and its remit widened to address sustainable development issues, biodiversity protection and conservation and coastal zone management. The amendments opened the way for the establishment in 1996 of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development.

Last year, the MAP achieved a major objective with the development by the MCSD of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. The Strategy, together with the Strategic Action Programme to Combat Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities adopted in 1997, the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Marine and Coastal Biodiversity in the Mediterranean region adopted in 2003, and the Regional Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, to be adopted in Slovenia represent a comprehensive regional policy for sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

Over the years, through the Barcelona Convention and the various protocols, MAP has been successful in bringing about a coordinated approach among countries to improve the quality of the marine and coastal environment. All Mediterranean countries now have legislation in place that allows them to exercise the necessary control to protect the Mediterranean sea. A considerable amount of effort and funds have been invested in providing training in different sectors of environmental protection and in building capacities in the countries. MAP has helped to develop national infrastructures and institutions specifically dedicated to the marine sector. Structures with sole responsibility for the environment are in place in all countries. MAP Regional Activity Centres and MED POL have been instrumental in assisting countries to build their capacities and implement pilot projects with very positive results. Monitoring and assessment of the marine environment have been carried out and several technical reports providing valuable data and useful guidelines have been published covering a wide range of pollutants entering the Mediterranean Sea. MAP has embraced NGOs together with civil society and the private sector as partners. They contribute to decision making through their participation in the meeting of the Contracting Parties and the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development. Strong relationships with UN organizations, in particular UNEP, which has administrative responsibility for MAP, and other international and regional organizations dealing with the environment and sustainable development have been established.

Since MAP was set up, environmental policy world wide has undergone a rapid evolution. At the Mediterranean level environmental development has been strongly influenced especially by the environmental policies of the European Union. In 1995 the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, known as the Barcelona process, was signed. Within this framework the European Union has supported a number of actions to improve the Mediterranean environment, including regional projects financed under the Short and Medium Term Environmental Action Programme (SMAP). The regional dimension of the Partnership has also grown considerably with the establishment in 2003 of the Euro-Mediterranean Investment Facility for the Mediterranean (FEMIP). Neighbourhood Policies have also been introduced to help partner countries on a bilateral basis. The EU is now in the process of launching a major initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean Sea by 2020.

MAP and the EC, are now striving for environmental protection and sustainable development in the Mediterranean. In order to avoid the possibility of overlapping and duplication of effort and ensure the maximum benefit from the scarce resources available, it would be in the interest of the individual countries and the region if both MAP and EC were to co-ordinate their environmental policies and their sustainable development strategies even more closely and if they developed synergies with a view to achieve common goals. The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and MAP should further strengthen their already strong relationship, taking advantage of the fact that seven Contracting Parties are also members of the European Union.

In the circumstances, the Contracting Parties, at their 12th Meeting in Monaco in 2001, decided to carry out a strategic assessment of the general framework of the Barcelona convention. The need was felt to look back on the past performance of MAP, analyse its achievements and shortcomings over the years and plan for the decade ahead. An internal procedure for the evaluation was utilized consisting of a Think Tank composed of representatives of countries and experts under the Presidency of Monaco. At the 13th Meeting in Catania in 2003, the Contracting Parties decided to launch another evaluation of MAP but this time to be carried out by external consultants.

Although the evaluation exercise was carried out in less than one year, it has come up with a number of valid conclusions and recommendations. On the positive side, the evaluation exercise concluded that the Convention and its related processes have made a significant contribution by providing a forum for equitable participation by the Mediterranean countries; have helped considerably in placing environmental issues on the political agenda; have encouraged and supported the adoption of environmental legislation and regulations, and have encouraged and provided assistance for capacity building to deal with environmental protection in the region.

The Convention has brought about improvement in the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zone. It was the first process to highlight the importance of environmental protection at the regional level. It has the merit of providing a forum for countries in the region, regardless of any differences they might have, to promote environmental protection at the regional and sub-regional levels. MAP has also played a major role in a number of areas and has articulated a series of regional policies that have influenced marine conservation in the Mediterranean.

On the other hand, the evaluation exercise also makes critical comments. It states that MAP has ceased to exist as a work plan and that the term MAP has lost its true value. To many actors in the Mediterranean MAP has come to be synonymous with dispersed and weak action. There are some doubts as to the real focus of the Convention after its amendment in 1995. It is necessary to reinforce the political clout of the Convention which continues to operate to a large extent on its own vis-à-vis the major treaties and processes that have emerged in recent years. The Secretariat has not been subject to sufficient renewal and has played a timid role in the overall Convention process. Compliance continues to be a pending

issue and the periodic reporting by the Parties has only started recently. The conclusion in brief is that the Convention seems to have become “dusty” and that a new vision and a new image need to be developed.

Several recommendations are put forward with a view to making a new start with the Convention and launching a new phase with a new meaning and new resolve. Some of the recommendations deserve more careful consideration than others. Foremost among these is the recommendation that the Convention and its Protocols should be renewed as the central international legal instruments forming the basis of the process.

At the same time, the issue of non-ratification of MAP legal instruments has to be addressed. First of all, it took almost ten years for the amended Convention to enter into force following its adoption in 1995. Of concern is the fact that the Offshore and Hazardous Wastes Protocols have not yet entered into force almost ten years after adoption. So far, these Protocols have been ratified by four and five parties respectively and there are no indications concerning the intentions of the other countries in this respect.

Recommendations are made for a substantial improvement in the collaboration between the Convention and the European Union. In particular a new deal in the form of a “Strategic Partnership between the EC and the Barcelona Convention for Joint Action in Areas of Common Concern” is recommended.

More action on the ground, going beyond the adoption of resolutions and the preparation of guidelines and technical and policy analysis is also strongly recommended. The establishment of a compliance and effective reporting system should be given high priority. To increase its political clout, the evaluators suggest that the point of entry of the Convention in each Contracting Party should be the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is also recommended that consideration should be given to holding the meeting of the Contracting Parties every three years. The Head of the Secretariat should have the title of Executive Secretary. Other recommendations refer directly to the Regional Activity Centres, the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development, the system of Focal Points and MAP’s relations with other partners.

Finally, to support the new image with real substance the evaluators recommend that a new Vision and Strategic Statement should be developed for MAP.

As expected, initial reactions to the evaluation exercise have been mixed. Although some of the recommendations may be implemented immediately, because they are more of an administrative nature, the majority of them have legal, institutional and financial implications and therefore need to be examined in greater detail before they are submitted to the Contracting Parties for their consideration. It is for the Contracting Parties to decide which of the recommendations should be implemented or discarded. After all they are the ones who ultimately will have to bear the responsibility and the costs for any changes which may be introduced within MAP.

The conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation report should be considered holistically and not implemented piecemeal. Even though it was carried out within a tight timeframe the end result of the external evaluation is comprehensive and provides food for thought. It is also acknowledged that the countries may not have had enough time to digest and consider at the national level the implications of the recommendations which will ultimately influence MAP’s orientation for the next decade.

In order to ensure the meaningful and active participation of the Contracting Parties and to benefit from their valuable contributions to the future orientation of MAP, it is proposed to convene a special meeting of the MAP Focal Points during the next biennium to discuss the evaluation report and prepare recommendations for the consideration of the Contracting

Parties. It will then be for the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007 to decide on the future orientation of MAP.

Proposed points for discussion

1. *Contracting Parties are invited to give their views on the future of MAP. They are also invited to suggest which issues of relevance to the Mediterranean should be given priority by MAP and its components when developing their strategies and action plans for the future.*
2. *Taking into consideration the desire expressed by the Contracting Parties for the strengthening of the partnership and cooperation between MAP and the European Commission, Ministers are invited to propose how they see these relations developing in the next decade taking into account the various initiatives being taken by the EU in the region in particular the goal launched on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the EMP to “de-pollute” the Mediterranean by 2020.*
3. *Contracting Parties had recommended that a strategic assessment of the general framework of the Barcelona Convention should be carried out to reorient MAP so that it can respond to the challenge of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region. In view of the proposal to hold an extraordinary meeting of MAP Focal Points next year on the external evaluation of MAP, Contracting Parties are invited to make recommendations for the improvement of the general framework MAP so as to make it more relevant and effective in the region.*

Background paper for the Ministerial discussion on Agenda Item 4.3

IV. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

At their 13th Ordinary Meeting (Catania, November 2003), the Contracting Parties have reiterated firmly their commitment to promote sustainable development at the regional and national levels. To that end, MAP was requested to proceed with the preparatory process for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). In this context, the Vision and the Framework Orientations for a MSSD were reviewed and finalized, a set of relevant Strategic Thematic Notes were prepared, and the MSSD report was finally elaborated and presented to the MCSD that approved it at its 10th meeting (Athens, June 2005). Moreover, a regional review and assessment of the National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD) in the Mediterranean was undertaken, and various countries have been induced, with support and technical assistance, to prepare their NSSD.

In addition to its regional activities as Secretariat of the Convention, MAP has been encouraging and catalyzing exchanges between Mediterranean countries and other actors in the region, the promotion of sustainable development through capacity and institutional building as well as specific projects.

The IGOs and in particular the NGOs played a very important role in this exercise together with other partners such as regional business association and cities networks as well as partners such as UNEP/GPA, the EU, Arabic and Adriatic institutions, etc. The MSSD preparatory process has been a interactive multi-stakeholders exercise that has greatly contributed to awareness raising and regional cooperation towards sustainable development.

Despite the progress made in terms of environmental protection and development, there is still a latent but growing awareness throughout the Mediterranean that current trends are unsustainable. Mediterranean people are becoming increasingly aware that it is just not possible to keep using existing limited and fragile resources, building up coastal areas and developing industries, especially tourism, without an adequate long term integrated planning process and necessary policy reforms.

The Mediterranean is an eco-region with a unique heritage and very specific features and its future depends on ensuring that development patterns are sustainable throughout the region. Through its legal system for the protection of the environment and the MCSD, the Mediterranean is already a pioneer in environmental matters and sustainable development approaches. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development offers another chance for the region to make history through genuine partnership and co-development for a common vision of a region characterized by peace, stability and shared prosperity. To that end, the EU has a determinant role to play as key driving force in close cooperation with MAP, on a basis of partnership with Mediterranean countries.

If the Mediterranean community has been able to follow the Rio and Johannesburg paths and processes, and adapt them to the regional context, it is mainly because a common sense of regional concerns, destiny and community has been progressively developed together with a common, shared and differentiated responsibility.

MAP activities and achievements in relation to sustainable development have raised high expectations among most of the MCSD members and other partners, despite the shortcomings regarding the follow up and implementation of its recommendations and proposals for action. The various sets of recommendations, the different workshops, the various publications, the Strategic Review and some thematic brochures together with the launching of the preparatory process for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, have all much contributed to MAP and MCSD's visibility, even though still a lot needs to be done before reaching a satisfactory stage towards sustainable development.

The MSSD report was finally elaborated during a period of 10 months between the two MCSD meetings of 2004 and 2005. Apart from Mediterranean stakeholders and partners that were interested in and concerned with the results and proposals of the MSSD, the Strategy and its derived policy actions are expected to exert a major impact on MAP's programme of work, at least during the next decade.

In the elaboration of the MSSD appropriate use was made of the valuable information provided by the assessment and prospective documents prepared by various MAP components, in particular the Report on Environment and Development.

Even though prepared by and in the framework of MAP, the MSSD concerns the whole Mediterranean and its actors. This was clearly stated by the Contracting Parties, the 21 Mediterranean countries and the EU together with the IGOs and NGOs Partners; this was then reinforced by the declaration by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, that consider the MSSD as an important vehicle for mainstreaming sustainable development throughout the partnership.

Considering the Mediterranean geopolitical context and the absence of a "Mediterranean Authority", the MSSD has been developed as a framework strategy. As such, it is not meant to be strictly binding and consists of both strategic orientations and proposed actions. It is designed to strengthen the commitment and solidarity between countries on both the southern and northern shores of the Mediterranean through sustainable development and calls upon countries to transpose these orientations and actions into national sustainable development strategies.

The Mediterranean Strategy calls for action to pursue sustainable development goals with a view to strengthening peace, stability and prosperity, taking into account the weaknesses of the region and the threats that it faces, as well as its strengths and opportunities. It also takes into consideration the need to reduce the broad gap between developed and developing countries in the region. The challenge for all Mediterranean countries is to use the Strategy as an opportunity to improve and strengthen coordinated and joint progress in the field of human and economic development, environmental protection and cultural advancement.

The MSSD is also aiming at strengthening and rationalizing regional cooperation between concerned partners for promoting and jointly implementing the Strategy's objectives. In so doing, it is designed to play a catalytic role in guiding decision-makers and all civil society actors to implement national, sectoral and local strategies for sustainable development. It therefore aims to reinforce partnerships between countries, communities, enterprises and civil society, based on broad cooperation and solidarity. It invites countries to make the commitment to enter into joint partnership initiatives and implement pilot actions in the seven priority fields of action for which specific sets of objectives and actions were identified with as far as possible time-bound results.

Throughout the preparatory process, it became progressively obvious that pursuing sustainable development in the Mediterranean region is essentially a task of transforming governance. Preparing and implementing a sustainable development strategy could be considered as a test case for adequate and efficient governance. Moving seriously towards and implementing efficiently sustainable development will require adequate structural changes in economic, social, environmental and political sectors: reforming fiscal policies, the unequal access to assets and resources, integrating environment in development policies, decoupling environmental degradation and resource consumption from economic and social development, and reorienting and increasing public and private investment towards Sustainable Development.

The MSSD constitutes a framework for promoting and implementing sustainable development at regional and national levels. It is a tool for:

- MAP and its programme of activities, including the MCSD;
- National Strategies, providing guidelines for their preparation and/or revision as well as orientations for their policies, projects and actions;
- Regional cooperation, its promotion and strengthening with and through the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the European Union, the Arab and Adriatic Regional institutions, relevant UN and UNEP regional initiatives and programs, METAP, and especially the civil society, in particular the NGOs.

In order to better promote sustainable development in the region, notably through an effective implementation of the MSSD, the Contracting Parties and their Partners are called upon to adopt the MSSD and to strive towards its effective implementation.

Proposed points for discussion

In order to promote sustainable development in the region, notably through an effective implementation of the MSSD, Ministers are invited:

1. *To give an assessment of the MSSD in particular on the four major objectives and the seven priority fields of action.*
2. *To define specific and practical commitments towards the implementation of the MSSD at the various levels including policy measures, institutional, technical and financial measures, projects and actions relevant to the MSSD objectives, orientations and actions and joint projects and partnerships.*
3. *To express their support for the adoption of the MSSD and to commit themselves to do their utmost to implement its objectives, orientations and proposed actions.*

Background paper for the Ministerial discussion on Agenda Item 4.4

V. A STRATEGY FOR THE REDUCTION OF LAND-BASED POLLUTION: THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

The Mediterranean marine environment has for long been subjected to considerable stress as a result of pollution caused by human activities. The greatest part of this pollution, around 80%, originates on land and is linked primarily to population pressures, urban growth, industrial and agricultural development.

It is undeniable that one of the major regional achievements registered in the region in the fight against land-based pollution was the formulation and adoption by the Contracting Parties in 1997 of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to address pollution from land-based activities.

The SAP is in fact the basis for the implementation of the Land-Based Sources Protocol by the Mediterranean countries in the next 25 years. The SAP is an action-oriented MED POL initiative identifying priority target categories of substances and activities to be eliminated or controlled by the Mediterranean countries within a set time frame of interventions. It also represents a concrete follow up to the principles of the Rio Summit and a solid contribution to sustainable development. The reduction and phasing out targets are also formulated in full harmony with the related regional and international Conventions and programmes, such as the EU Directives, policies and strategies and the Stockholm and Basel Conventions.

The key land-based activities addressed in the SAP are linked to the reduction of municipal and industrial pollution, in particular targeting those activities responsible for the release of toxic persistent and bioaccumulative substances into the marine environment, giving special attention to persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

Concerning municipal pollution, the central and direct role of the Governments in the mitigation of this type of pollution (i.e. the construction of sewage treatment plants) was recognized when planning the activities. It is in fact evident that the responsibility for the major investments mostly related to the constructions of plants lies with national authorities. The possible direct contribution of international organizations and programmes is obviously limited. However, in planning the specific activities of the SAP in this very important field, it was felt that the SAP could still play a very important role in implementing capacity building programmes (for managers and technicians) and in attempting to create the right policy, legal and financial frameworks, including contacts with stakeholders and donors, thus facilitating possible investments.

Basic steps were also taken towards the reduction of industrial pollution. First of all, in the framework of a long and largely participative process, involving many international and government-designated experts and other stakeholders at the regional and national levels, a methodology for the calculation of the "national baseline budget of emissions and releases", with 2003 as the basis year, was prepared, tested and developed into a software programme. Detailed data compiled by the countries now represents the starting point from which the reduction in terms of percentage of pollutants' inputs will have to be achieved according to the targets and timetable of the SAP.

Shortly after its adoption, the SAP was recognized by the Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as an important programme concretely dealing with a number of major concerns relating to international waters. As a result, the GEF Council approved in 1998 a Mediterranean Project. It started in January 2001 and ended this year, entailing a contribution of six million US\$ for the realization of a number of important activities of the Strategic Action Programme on the ground. The Project, which has attracted other donors

such as the FFEM for an overall budget of US \$ 12 million, has prepared the ground for the long-term implementation of the SAP objectives in the countries of the region.

The main goal of the first years of implementation of the SAP was to prepare a solid background through information gathering, preparation of technical/policy documents and a large capacity building programme. However, the ultimate objective of the SAP was the preparation of **National Action Plans (NAPs)**.

The process that led to the preparation of the Plans was very well conceived considering that they are expected to formally represent and describe the policy and the actions/interventions by each country to reduce pollution in line with the SAP targets, including technical and financial means and deadlines. The countries have made use of all the background work carried out in the framework of MED POL (Guidelines, technical and policy documents, capacity building programmes), as well as of all the data and information gathered during the process; the best example being the data and figures of the baseline budget of emissions and releases that clearly show where the problems are and what should be done to solve them.

Another innovative approach used in process was the full involvement of all stakeholders; in fact, in each country, national and local authorities, the industrial sector and NGOs sat around the same table discussing priorities, possible measures and opportunities for investments. During the consultative work carried out, it was very clear that the long-term process of implementation of the National Action Plans, that includes mechanisms for exchange of information, promotion of use of cleaner technology, transfer of technology and public participation, will enhance the economic, technological and social development at the local level, thus making a contribution towards sustainable development. Finally, the process of preparation of NAPs was very successful as it resulted in a realistic country-owned exercise based on up-to-date data and information.

Almost six years have passed since the formal adoption of the SAP. Two years ago the concrete operational details for its implementation were discussed and approved by the Mediterranean countries. A lot has been said on the importance of this programme and the potential positive impact it is expected to have on the reduction of pollution in the region. However, it is important for the SAP to be a success and for the countries to consider it as an effective opportunity to achieve pollution reduction in the region.

At first glance, the results achieved so far are very important and promising. The injection of funds through the implementation of the Project financed by GEF, FFEM and other donors has been very effective: all countries have prepared their National Diagnostic Analysis (NDA) and have calculated, by source and by type, the amount of pollution released (the baseline budget of releases (BB)). These are fundamental steps, together with the strengthening of the national legal and institutional aspects, on the basis of which the NAPs were prepared.

However, considering the long-term character of the SAP (25 years), one could say that only the preparatory phase of the programme has been implemented and that the "pollution reduction" process has not been concretely initiated. Undeniably true, but the importance and the rather innovative character of the activities carried out so far, and also the very active participation of the countries, add value to the first achievements of the programme. The very successful process of preparation of NAPs, characterized by a large involvement of all national stakeholders, indicates that the SAP has actually assisted the countries in entering in a new era and that the transition from intentions to action may have begun. In addition, the preparation of the technical, scientific and policy basis for the long-term implementation of the SAP is a first indispensable step towards a successful programme.

One issue which is the key to the success of the SAP is whether the countries and the other stakeholders are ready to provide adequate funds for the concrete implementation of the

interventions indicated in the NAPs. Governments would have to put the environment higher on their agenda and make more funds available. However, in times of economic difficulties, with many other priorities existing in both developed and developing countries, this may be difficult to achieve.

It should be emphasized however that there are complementary ways to seek alternative financing including from external sources. The SAP itself indicates the cost of the necessary interventions and lists the main financial instruments available in the region. In addition, one component of the GEF Project was dedicated to the economic dimension of the SAP and case studies were carried out in a number of countries to identify innovative and alternative financial instruments. This approach is also being followed with respect to projects jointly prepared with the Global Programme of Action (GPA) Coordination Office of UNEP where the creation of a multilateral mechanism to prepare and review projects for possible financing is being studied. Another option is the new initiative of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership aiming at de-polluting the Mediterranean by the year 2020. Considering the very similar approach followed by the SAP, this initiative could substantially contribute to the achievements of concrete interventions in the region. Public/private partnerships could also play a fundamental role. In the meantime, negotiations have already been initiated with the GEF Secretariat and with other partners including the World Bank for the elaboration of a strategic partnership that would make available more substantial funds for the actual implementation by the countries of projects related to the achievement of the SAP targets.

In the specific field of pollution reduction by industry, some steps could be taken immediately at very low cost and, in many cases, with quick and visible results, through the application of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP). Considering that the concept of BAT in particular includes the promotion of continuous improvement of the industries' performance, its application could easily ensure a progressive reduction of the generation of solid, liquid and air emission in the region. In view of the very positive cost/benefit ratio of their application, strong efforts are being made to make the Mediterranean industry, especially the small and medium sized enterprises, aware of such opportunities including training on the practical application of BAT and BEP.

Although the region is hoping to witness stronger economic efforts by the Governments in support of the environment, some opportunities for alternative sources of financing do exist and should be fully exploited. The political will of the Governments, the awareness of the need to actually reduce pollution, a more concrete public/private partnership and the assistance of the international community could be the right mix for making the National Action Plans adequate and viable towards visible interventions. More attention needs to be given to the financial dimension of the activities proposed, to ensure that what is eventually adopted by the countries is actually feasible.

In conclusion, even though concrete elements do exist to consider the actual implementation of National Action Plans feasible, and even if the Plans were prepared by the national authorities realistically and with the participation and the large consensus of the relevant national stakeholders, NAPs have still to be politically endorsed by Governments. Now that NAPs have been prepared and are ready to be implemented, the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention is a good opportunity for the Parties to express their political endorsement of the NAPs and to confirm that the actual process of reducing pollution has started.

Proposed points for discussion

1. *Considering the positive contribution that the NAPs can make to the over all process of achieving sustainable development, Contracting Parties are invited to formally endorse their respective National Action Plans as part of the implementation of the SAP and to elaborate on the prospects of their execution, including the mobilization of human and financial resources.*
2. *In particular, do Contracting Parties foresee any difficulties in their respective countries in the integration of the NAPs into the existing national development plans and pollution control programmes ?*
3. *In view of the very successful experience gained during the process of preparation of NAPs, Contracting Parties are invited to confirm the participation of all stakeholders, including national and local authorities, the private sector and the civil society, in the long-term process of implementation of the NAPs.*
4. *Substantial investments need to be made by the countries in the implementation of the NAPs. Contracting Parties are invited to give an indication on how they intend to raise the necessary funds for the execution of the Plans and whether they consider the new GEF Strategic Partnership and other similar opportunities as effective financing mechanisms.*

Background paper for the discussion on Agenda item 4.5

VI. CONSERVATION OF THE MONK SEAL

As a response to mitigate the impact of the complex threats to the Mediterranean marine and coastal biological diversity, the Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2003 adopted the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO) that was elaborated through a participatory approach involving the stakeholders at national and regional levels. They also agreed to take the necessary measures for its implementation.

The SAP BIO represents a further development of the regional policy on biodiversity. It identifies priority targets, objectives and actions to be undertaken at regional and national levels with a view to implementing the Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity Protocol, in order to protect and conserve the values of marine and coastal biodiversity.

One of the most important issues addressed by the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol and the SAP BIO is the protection and conservation of endangered or threatened species. In this context, the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus*) is one of the mammal species most threatened with extinction in the world. This species' distribution has shrunk considerably over the last decades. The bulk of the world population (about 380-500 individuals) is currently limited to only two nuclei, one in the eastern Mediterranean consisting of 246/300 seals located in Greece and the other in the north-east Atlantic, off the coast of north-west Africa.

The causes of such a situation are related to human activities. In fact, deliberate killing, negative interaction with fishing activities and disturbance of their habitats still constitute the major threats to the species at several locations. It has been legally protected in virtually all countries within its range of distribution. However, important gaps exist in law enforcement. An integrated approach combining awareness campaigns for fishermen and enforcement of appropriate legislation and regulations is urgently needed.

Habitat loss or degradation constitutes the other major threat to the monk seals. Moreover, the number of protected sites encompassing seal habitats is still extremely limited in the Mediterranean, and existing ones are not always properly managed. The adequate protection and management of important monk seal habitats is recognized as a priority.

In spite of the highly threatened status of the species, there is relatively little basic knowledge on population size and parameters, habitat use and movement. This lack of know-how constitutes a hindrance to the identification of adequate conservation measures. Nevertheless, sound management actions can already be undertaken based on the present knowledge.

The Mediterranean Monk Seal is listed as Critically Endangered by IUCN and is also included in Appendix I of the CITES. It is also covered by the UNEP Bonn Convention on Migratory Species and the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.

In 1985, the Parties to the Barcelona Convention included among their priority targets the protection of Mediterranean Monk Seal (Genoa Declaration). For this purpose, they adopted, in 1987, the Action Plan for the Management of the Mediterranean Monk Seal. In 1996, the Parties confirmed their commitment to the conservation of the monk seal by including the species in the List of Endangered or Threatened Species annexed to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (Barcelona, 1995). The Protocol calls on the Parties to continue to cooperate in implementing those action plans already adopted.

During the 7th Meeting of National Focal Points for SPAs (Seville, May - June 2005) and MAP Focal Points (Athens, September 2005), the participants recognised that while a good deal of investigative work had been carried out, many proposals had been made and many action or management plans had been devised, little practical actions to protect a seriously threatened species had been taken so far.

The Mediterranean States carry regional and worldwide responsibility for safeguarding such an important element of the global ecosystem. Some representatives at the 7th Meeting of NFPs for SPAs voiced their concern that the issue of protecting the Mediterranean monk seal had not been given sufficient political attention. At the same time the scientific Community has a major part to play in this conservation exercise.

Unless the Contracting Parties endeavour to take concrete measures, the decline of the species will continue. Although the species is nowadays present in only a few countries, its protection should be seen as a collective responsibility of the Mediterranean countries.

Therefore, it is urgent to draw the attention of the Contracting Parties to the critical status of the species and its importance as a part of the heritage of the Mediterranean. The RAC/SPA and MAP Focal Points Meetings held in 2005 agreed that a political declaration should be made by the Contracting Parties for them to commit themselves to take all necessary measures to reverse the decline of the species. This initiative is intended to give new life to the Action Plan and to serve also as a call for the relevant IGOs, including other concerned Convention Secretariats, and NGOs to support its implementation.

Preventing the extinction of the Mediterranean Monk Seal is a challenge for the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. It is more than safeguarding one species; it would be a concrete example of MAP initiative in facing complex and severe biodiversity conservation issues through a coordinated joint action.

Proposed points for discussion

1. *Mediterranean countries that are known to have a monk seal population, are invited to elaborate on the actions they intend to take to protect known sites with critical habitats of the monk seals before the species become extinct.*
2. *The conservation of the monk seal should be seen as a collective responsibility of the Mediterranean countries. Contracting parties are invited to propose coordinated initiatives, which could be implemented by all countries in the Mediterranean to stop the deliberate killing, protect critical habitats and promote the conservation of the species.*

ANNEX

**Status of Signatures and Ratifications of the Barcelona Convention
for the Protection of the Marine Environment and
the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean
and its Protocols
as at the end of July 2005**

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	09.06-04	-	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	18.0703	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	07.12.2004	16.02.76	15.01.80	05.12.97	16.02.76	15.01.80	25.01.02	-
Serbia & Montenegro*	-	16.07.2002	-	-	16.07.2002	-	-	16.07.2002	-	-
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

* F.R. of Yugoslavia notified on 16 July 2002 its succession to the Convention and the Protocols as above. The date of succession is 27.04.92. On 20 March 2003, UNEP Regional Office for Europe was notified that the newly reorganized State Union of Serbia and Montenegro had become party by succession to the Barcelona Convention.

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 & 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	03.04.04

Accession = AC

Approval = AP

Succession = SUC

* F.R. of Yugoslavia notified on 16 July 2002 its succession to the Convention and the Protocols as above. The date of succession is 27.04.92. On 20 March 2003, UNEP Regional Office for Europe was notified that the newly reorganized State Union of Serbia and Montenegro had become party by succession to the Barcelona Convention.

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

Adoption (Barcelona): 16 February 1976
Entry into force*: 12 February 1978
Status: Signatories: 15, Parties: 22

The 1995 Amendments (Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean)

Adoption (Barcelona) 10 June 1995
Entry into force 9 July 2004
Status: Parties to the Amendments: 16

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

Adoption (Barcelona): 16 February 1976
Entry into force*: 12 February 1978
Status: Signatories: 15, Parties: 22

The 1995 Amendments (The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea)

Adoption (Barcelona) 10 June 1995
Not Yet in Force
Status: Parties to the Amendments: 14

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)

Adoption (Barcelona): 16 February 1976
Entry into force*: 12 February 1978
Status: Signatories: 15, Parties: 22

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

Adoption (Malta): 25 January 2002
Entry into force*: 17 March 2004, replacing the 1976 Emergency Protocol in accordance with Article 25(2)
Status: Signatories: 16, Parties: 7

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

Adoption (Athens): 17 May 1980
Entry into force*: 17 June 1983
Status: Signatories: 22, Parties: 22

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The 1996 Amendments (The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol))

Adoption (Syracuse): 7 March 1996

Not Yet in Force

Status: Parties to the Amendments: 13

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

Adoption (Geneva): 3 April 1982

Entry into force*: 23 March 1986

Status: Signatories: 11, Parties: 22

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

Adoption (Barcelona): 10 June 1995

Entry into force*: 12 December 1999, replacing the 1980 SPA Protocol in accordance with Article 32

Status: Signatories: 17, Parties: 14

8/ 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 (Offshore Protocol)

Adoption (Madrid): 14 October 1994

Not Yet in Force

Status: Signatories: 11, Parties: 4

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

Adoption (Izmir): 1 October 1996

Not Yet in Force

Status: Signatories: 11, Parties: 5

ANNEX

**Status of contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF)
as at 30 September 2005
(Expressed in Euros)**

COUNTRIES	Unpaid pledges for 2004 & prior yrs	Adjustments	Pledges for 2005	Collections during 2005 for 2005 and fut. yrs	Collections during 2005 for prior yrs	Collections during 2005 for prior yrs - US \$	Unpaid pledges for prior yrs.	Unpaid pledges for 2005 & prior yrs
Albania	4,997	0	3,877	0	4,976	0	21	3,898
Algeria	58,163	0	58,163	0	0	0	58,163	116,326
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0	0	16,619	16,619	0	0	0	0
Croatia	0	0	53,730	53,730	0	0	0	0
Cyprus	0	0	7,755	7,755	0	0	0	0
European Union	0	0	138,483	138,483	0	0	0	0
Egypt	47,041	0	27,143	0	0	0	47,041	74,184
France	0	0	2,103,262	2,103,262	0	0	0	0
Greece	155,647	0	155,653	0	155,647	0	0	155,653
Israel	6,297	0	81,427	83,703	6,297	0	0	(2,276)
Italy	0	0	1,737,670	1,737,670	0	0	0	0
Lebanon	6,720	0	3,877	0	0	0	6,720	10,597
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	267,262	0	109,124	0	145,749	0	121,514	230,638
Malta	3,877	0	3,877	0	3,877	0	0	3,877
Monaco	0	0	3,877	3,877	0	0	0	0
Morocco	59,916	0	15,511	0	0	0	59,916	75,427
Serbia and Montenegro	18,000	0	18,000	0	0	0	18,000	36,000
Slovenia	0	0	37,113	37,113	0	0	0	0
Spain	0	0	830,337	830,337	0	0	0	0
Syrian Arab Rep.	(428)	0	15,511	0	0	0	(428)	15,083
Tunisia	11,632	0	11,632	0	11,632	0	0	11,632
Turkey	0	0	124,634	124,634	0	0	0	0
T o t a l	639,125	0	5,557,275	5,137,183	328,178	0	310,947	731,039
				0				
Additional Contributions (for information only)				0				
European Commission	0	0	598,569	598,569	0	0	0	0
Host Country *	103,866	0	440,000	307,692	0	0	103,866	236,173
UNEP Env. Fund	0	0	16,840	16,840	0	0	0	0
T o t a l	742,990	0	6,612,684	6,060,284	328,178	0	414,813	967,212

N.B. Amounts in brackets mean credit to the Government

