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ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Naples, Italy, 1 December 2019

**Report of the Meeting**

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2019

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## **I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda**

1. The 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 1 December 2019, in Naples, Italy. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) / Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Deputy Coordinator, the Heads of MAP Components and the Programme Officer responsible for governance issues. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 17:30 on 1 December 2019.
3. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as in document UNEP/MED ECP.39/1. The Agenda is presented in Annex II of the present document.

## **II. Agenda item 2: Preparation of COP 21:**

### **a) Organizational Matters**

4. The Coordinator referred to the organization of COP 21, noting that the Meeting will be held in daily sessions from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., subject to adjustments as necessary, and that no session is envisaged to be held in the morning of the last day (5 December 2019) to allow for the preparation of the Meeting Report.
5. The Coordinator noted that, in accordance with Rule 24, the meeting may consider establishing working groups as required for the transaction of its business. To this end, it is expected that a Budget Contact Group will be set up (as per Decision IG.21/13) which will report to the Plenary on Tuesday, 3 December at 16:30. He added that, on the basis of the well-established practice, the meeting may also wish to establish an Informal Working Group on the Naples Ministerial Declaration, chaired by the Host Country and facilitated by the Secretariat. The Coordinator also referred to the side events to take place in the margins of the COP, which are relevant to the main themes of COP 21.

### **b) Main draft Decisions**

6. The meeting discussed the main draft Decisions submitted to COP 21 for consideration and possible adoption. It was noted that two draft Decisions that are expected to require more extended discussions during the COP are those on (a) *Assessment Studies*, especially in relation to the 2019 State of the Environment and Development (SoED) Report, and (b) on the *Road Map for the Possible Designation of the Mediterranean Sea Area as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides Pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, within the Framework of the Barcelona Convention*. He also added that under the draft Decision on *Governance*, (a) there are still pending issues in brackets in relation to the Joint Cooperation Strategy, where more discussions are expected, and that (b) several inputs have been received in relation to the Host Country Agreements of Regional Activity Centres (RACs) by host country governments of RACs, adding that further work on this issue will take place in the next biennium.
7. The Coordinator stressed that it is necessary for MAP Component Directors to be present at the plenary sessions of the COP to support the discussions of draft Decisions relevant to their mandate. He also reminded the meeting of the fact that many issues remained open after the MAP Focal Points Meeting (Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019) and that these issues would need to be decided by the Contracting Parties at the COP. On the *UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021*, it was noted that this draft Decision was not discussed during the MAP Focal Points Meeting, and that it would be very important for the strengthening of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system that Contracting Parties supported Option 2, which includes a 4% budget increase in relation to the previous biennium.
8. On the Naples Ministerial Declaration, it was noted that this should be a forward-looking document providing political guidance and that it should not serve the purpose of re-iterating or re-negotiating the draft Decisions.

### **c) Information and Communication**

9. The Coordinator referred to the progress related to Information and Communication activities and to the work done in preparation of COP 21, thanking INFO/RAC for the cooperation with the Coordinating Unit and the visibility provided to the COP, also through the dedicated website. He added that registrations at COP 21 are more than double in relation to those of previous COPs. He stressed the importance of interacting with the journalists present at COP 21 and highlighted the coverage of the COP by IISD for the first time.

**III. Agenda item 3: Date and Venue of the 40<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting**

10. Following a brief discussion, the meeting suggested the next ECP meeting to be held in Rome, Italy, possibly in the last week of January 2020.

**IV. Agenda item 4: Any Other Matters**

11. No other matters were raised during the meeting.

12. The Coordinator thanked the Directors of the MAP Components, stressing the importance of their support.

13. The meeting was closed by the Coordinator at 19:00 on 1 December 2019.

**Annex I**  
**List of participants**

**MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL**

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**Annex II**  
**Agenda**



## **Agenda**

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- Agenda item 2**            Preparation of COP 21:
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  - b) Main draft Decisions
  - c) Information and Communication
- Agenda item 3**            Date and Venue of the 40<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting
- Agenda item 4**            Any Other Matters