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STRATEGIC REVIEW FOR THE YEAR 2000

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FOREWORD

The Mediterranean, cradle of so many civilisations, was one of the very first eco-systems, and undoubtedly continues to be the only one to have given shape at its own level to the Principles of the Agenda 21, adopted in Rio in 1992.

Indeed, as early as 1994 an Agenda MED 21 was approved, followed one year later by the setting up of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, one of a kind in that it brings representatives of the States together within one single forum of reflexion and proposal-making with representatives of local communities, economic actors and NGOs.

The Mediterranean region is an arena for contact between developed countries on the Northern rim, and developing countries, or those whose economies are undergoing transition, on the other banks.

Exchange within the MCSD forum can prove highly productive for all concerned, facilitating the shaping and implementation of a regional strategy, and the way it is reflected in national strategies.

Work already undertaken, particularly in the fields of water demand management, tourism, indicators of sustainable development, information and awareness-raising and, more recently, the Strategic Review, bears witness to the relevance of this Commission.

The preparation of the Strategic Review was part and parcel of the terms of reference which the Mediterranean countries within the Barcelona Convention issued to the MCSD when it was set up. Its preparation involved intensive work on the part of the Commission and the experts it appointed.

As with all work of this nature, it highlights the success achieved in terms of the clear progress which has been made in our region over the past ten years or so; yet at the same time it also points to some areas of concern, even failure, whether this be in terms of the ever-increasing pressure on nature due in particular to clashes over land use, or to the widening economic and social disparity between the two shores.

Taking the Review as a basis, it is now up to the political decision-makers to trigger the processes which will allow suitable responses to be found for the problems raised; first and foremost these responses need to be found within the national context, although it is obvious that nowadays cooperation between States, whether this be at bilateral level, or through multilateral bodies, is an essential key to any progress towards sustainable development. In this respect, it can only be hoped that, taking the Review as their baseline, the riparian states will rapidly and effectively agree to shape and adapt a genuine Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development in the near future.

In our region the structures of the Mediterranean Action Plan have long been proving themselves; they now enjoy the backing of the financial mechanisms of the Global Environment Fund; furthermore, the Euro-Mediterranean partnership initiated by the European Union has given rise to great hopes, which should on no account be dashed.

B. Fautrier
2001 President of the MCSD

INTRODUCTION

This report, the preparation of which began in March 2000, was prepared by the MAP/MCSD Secretariat under the supervision of the "Comité de Pilotage" and the Steering Committee, assisted by the Mediterranean experts Mr. Mohammed Ennabli and Mr. Harry Coccossis; apart from the specific contributions made by the members of this team, the report has largely drawn on the information contained in:

- The questionnaires completed by all 21 Contracting Parties; 7 of the remaining members of the MCSD also filled in the questionnaire (which mainly addressed a national context), i.e.: AIFM, Calvià Municipality, the City of Rome, IME, MEDWET, MEDCITIES and MIO-ECSDE; in addition to the questionnaire, 11 countries and the EC also submitted national reports; all of these documents were received by the Secretariat between May and August 2000.
- Regional studies prepared by consultants:
 - Report on the main groups in Society (Mr. Aldo Manos)
 - Regional cooperation, MAP and sustainable development in the Mediterranean (Mr. Magdi Ibrahim, Mr. Paolo Bifani)
 - The Barcelona System/MAP (Mr. Arsen Pavasovic)

The Secretariat has endeavoured to summarise these elements, whilst retaining the points of view of the authors. Given the short lapse of time between the arrival of the last national reports and the preparation of the draft document, it was not possible to make full use of the wealth of information contained in the national reports.

Following the 6th meeting of the MCSD (14-17 November 2000, Tunis), which took note with satisfaction of this report as a whole, and reviewed its recommendations and proposals for action in detail, a summary based largely on the major stakes, performance and weak points, as well as the recommendations and proposals for action has been drawn up, mainly with an eye to the preparation of the third UNEP report on the Future of the Global Environment (GEO 3) and the second Earth Summit in 2002, as well as for broader distribution in the countries concerned and to partners.

It should also- indeed mainly- provide the basis for preparing a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, the final report of which is foreseen for 2004.

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I THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGIC REVIEW

MAP and Sustainable Development

Of the “ Rio plus 5” meeting held in New York in June 1997, its President was to state: “For five years we have simply been lamenting our incompetence and our inability to get down to business”.

A tough judgement no doubt, but one which was intended to put across in no uncertain terms the mismatch which exists between the scale of damage revealed by UNCED at world level, and the notoriously inadequate mobilisation of political and socio-economic actors towards the environment and sustainable development.

The obstacles are well-known:

- Difficulties in correctly grasping the concept of sustainable development
- Difficulties in overcoming short- term interests and acquired rights.
- Non-sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Excessive use of natural resources
- The debt burden
- Difficulties in solving questions of financing and the transfer of environmentally rational technologies.

What, then, is the state of play in the Mediterranean region in the year 2000, five years after Agenda Med 21 and MAP II?

Mobilisation may at first sight appear to be proving more effective, with governments in the region as far back as 1975 having taken the initiative to set up the Mediterranean Action Plan, which commits the European Union as well as the Mediterranean countries. Under the aegis of UNEP within the legal framework of the Barcelona Convention, this collective joint North-South as well as South-South exercise which is one of a kind, quickly came to the conclusion that the threats to the Mediterranean Sea are related to the intensive shipping within it, and to activities conducted in the countries which surround it, whose economic and social activities produce waste or exert pressure on resources, and lead to the degradation of vulnerable and threatened landscapes.

In the wake of Agenda 21 which the UNCED adopted in Rio, and which calls for the strengthening of UNEP's regional seas programme and for cooperation and exchange of information on issues related to the sea and coasts, in 1994 the Mediterranean adopted its own Agenda Med 21 adapted to the regional context.

Buoyed up by shared experience spanning a quarter of a century, to their credit the Contracting Parties also amended the Convention, breathed new life into MAP through MAP II which was adopted in 1995, and provided it with a Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), thus broadening its scope.

The legitimate development aspirations of large sections of the population on the Southern and Eastern rims in particular, but also in many of the Mediterranean regions of Europe, are deeply felt. But the resources needed to ensure this development are traditionally scarce, and some of them have already been exploited for thousands of years.

- Soil and water, possibly the most precious resources, have been impoverished and degraded.

- The food needs of a population still forecast to grow for some decades to come on the Southern rim are becoming pressing.
- The coast is coveted and threatened particularly by tourist pressure.
- The fragile Mediterranean ecosystem is being chronically degraded.
- Traditional cultures are facing a clash with new technologies.
- Finally, there is a context of conflict and tension, which is hardly conducive to development.

These are some of the challenges which Mediterranean countries must face.

Sustainable development is a key concept. It puts the environment across in an advantageous light, opening it up to society and human activities, and freeing it from radical temptations. This needs to be explained, the efforts which it entails need to be translated into political language, and the proposals which it expresses into concrete steps.

As an advisory body representing the States, yet at the same time broadly open to the main groups within society, the MCSD has been able to provide effective assistance to the Contracting Parties through making proposals aimed at implementing a regional sustainable development strategy in the Mediterranean.

Why this review?

What can be said at this stage about the performance and results achieved since 1992, and more particularly since 1995, by the partners necessarily involved in sustainable development in this eco-region and at the various levels of decision taking? Has the concept of sustainable development succeeded in mobilising all potential takers within civil society?

To what extent have States applied themselves to implementing the decisions which have been taken?

The Strategic Review, which is part of the MCSD's terms of reference, and was agreed upon at the 11th meeting of the Contracting Parties in Malta in October 1999, in order to inject the political impetus needed by MAP and the MCSD in their work, should make it possible to assess how the measures agreed upon by the Mediterranean community and its partners towards sustainable development have effectively been implemented.

It also provides an opportunity to try out the effectiveness of the revised Mediterranean structures, and test the degree of motivation within the States and the main groups within society. Furthermore, the Strategic Review should enable the MCSD to participate in the preparation and implementation of a regional sustainable development strategy in the Mediterranean.

Is it possible to envisage any other type of less production-related growth and development which would be more respectful of the Mediterranean eco-system and its natural resources, which are seriously compromised for the non-too-distant future in the current context of relations between Europe and the developing countries in the region?

Is any other reference model possible, which would ensure a smooth transition towards sustainable development?

The differences in demographic, economic, technological and socio-cultural terms which exist between the two banks of the Mediterranean would not a priori favour such a line: the combination of demographic and economic growth is resulting in an ever-widening gap between North and South, since the societies on the two banks do not have the same capacity to assimilate present-day constraints.

Relative growth of awareness

Population growth, urbanisation, littoralisation, and tourist development are playing a major role nowadays in the rapid “artificialisation” of the Mediterranean landscape and its degradation process, despite a clear growth of awareness of relatively long date, which has been marked by numerous initiatives committing States as well as the international community.

The creation of MAP in 1975 under the aegis of UNEP, and the Barcelona Convention in 1976 at the initiative of governments in the region and the European Union, represented important steps in this growing political awareness of the need to protect the environment.

The revision of the Convention and its Protocols in 1995 in order to extend its scope of action to the coastal zones, and to introduce the concept of sustainability, was a further stage in this dialogue and more in-depth thinking, which was reflected in the redefinition of MAP’s priorities and was crowned in 1996 by the setting up of the MCSD.

Called upon to identify the region’s socio-economic and environmental problems, to track the implementation of proposals, and to encourage cooperation and the exchange of information on sustainable development, by its very composition the MCSD has helped to polish the Mediterranean’s image as an eco-region anxious to harness all potential forces within civil society in the interests of sustainable development. It acts as the interface for the work of the United Nations’ CSD at Mediterranean level.

Agenda Med 21 has provided a framework for reflection to identify the objectives to be achieved in relation to:

- Social and economic stakes
- Conservation and management of resources
- Strengthening the role of the main groups in society
- Strengthening the means for implementation.

It has also taken account of the specific context of the region, particularly concerning tourism, shipping, cultural heritage, water, energy, fisheries and aquaculture.

In this respect, it has provided the sustainable development issue with its Mediterranean dimension and sensitivity, making what is expected of the community of mankind more legible and more explicit: “to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability to satisfy those of future generations”.

A general objective

What share of success have the countries and their partners, and MAP and its structures had in this undertaking? It is the general objective of the Strategic Review to answer that point.

If a realistic picture were available at various different levels this would facilitate reflection and assist decision taking. It would doubtless also allow the necessary political impetus to be provided for the structures to be re-launched. However, merely tackling ecological concerns related to environmental pollution, waste management, safety in the use of hazardous substances, and assessing their environmental impact does not actually question the bases of our present-day economic and social system; it merely serves to postpone the moment when society and its living environment reach breaking point. Only once all human activities are marked by the environmental approach in particular will the dawn of sustainable development really be upon us.

Pressured by technology and the strength of the productive system, have societies fully awoken to the limited nature of resources, and the need to rethink our relationship with nature and to manage it in such a way as to make it possible to strike a lasting dynamic balance, which will be of benefit not only to present generations, but also to those to come? This is no foregone conclusion; indeed, it is highly unlikely.

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the Strategic Review will involve:

- Highlighting MAP's efforts towards impetus and coordination at regional level in the form of an exhaustive and retrospective critical assessment of steps taken since 1995, but also highlighting the weaknesses and constraints which affect it, thus creating shortcomings and loopholes which undermine its efficiency.
- Evidencing the headway made by countries at different levels towards sustainability in terms of effective reforms, genuine integration of environmental concerns in development programmes, and capacity building.
- Assessing the role played by MAP's regional partners and the States.
- Putting forward relevant proposals for action likely to improve MAP's efficiency, involving the partners concerned to a greater extent, and building the capacity of the Contracting Parties to implement the policies and strategies of sustainable development.

The approach taken in preparing the Review was based on a share-out of tasks between various experts aware of the situation prevailing in the Mediterranean and within the countries, and drawing on governmental institutions able to validate any useful and relevant national information. A "comité de pilotage" composed of the MAP Secretariat and the representatives of Greece, Monaco, Tunisia, the City of Rome, the EOAEN and MIO-ECSD was responsible for monitoring this work, alongside the MCSD Steering Committee (Tunisia, Malta, Turkey, Monaco, EOAEN, WWF and the City of Rome).

A Strategic Approach

Since the clear aim of the Review is to improve the effective implementing conditions for measures adopted by the Mediterranean community and the partners involved, considering the recommendations and decisions adopted by the Contracting Parties and in accordance with the MCSD's terms of reference, the chosen approach was of a strategic nature.

The Mediterranean as an area for North-South partnership between Europe and other Mediterranean countries should provide the arena in which to try out and apply the sustainable development concept.

It brings together many of the conditions for this purpose:

- fragile eco-systems and landscapes and the presence of shared resources such as the sea and coastal zones require the joint management of environmental issues,
- in contrast, the unequal development of economies and riparian countries, the presence of pockets of poverty, and the existence of conflict and tension represent major handicaps to this joint approach.

The Mediterranean will certainly never reproduce export-driven development models. A development perspective which takes account of its own specific nature needs to be worked out. In this respect, the sustainable development concept with its dominant environmental facet, the search for equity and relevant growth, holds great potential.

Implementation by the countries of measures towards sustainable development requires:

- Greater practical understanding of what sustainable development requires
- Consistency between the mechanisms to be established and the aims set
- A level of authority to influence the behaviour and encourage the support of all citizens, as well as their actual involvement.
- Cohesion and conviction on the part of those responsible for decision taking and implementation.

The measures to be implemented need to be clearly formulated within the framework of a strategy, the main elements of which will have been supported by a broad consensus at all levels.

At regional level, the efficiency of the Mediterranean structures requires an optimum level of organisation, which it is difficult to attain in the absence of a clear and determined political will to cooperate towards specific ends, agreed upon by all States. A Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development will have to take account of:

- On the one hand, the context outside the region in terms of opportunities to be grasped, or threats to be avoided;
- On the other, the context within the region in its full complexity, in terms of the strengths to be exploited and the weaknesses to be reduced.

It will also have to take account of:

- On the one hand, the diversity of leading political structures;
- On the other hand, the multiple values within Mediterranean societies.

In the interests of greater efficiency, the basic elements which could avoid the failure of any sustainable development strategy in the Mediterranean could come in the following guise:

- Allowing States to play their full role, which is important to them, and encouraging the emerging role of local authorities
- Drawing on all elements of Society;
- Working towards economic and social justice and taking the ancestral values of communities into account;
- Promoting scientific activity and technological achievement;
- Strengthening human resources.

There is no doubt that only reforms which constitute various packages of statutory, fiscal, financial, commercial or economic measures will allow the rules to be changed and the outcome to be coaxed through the channels intended. The reforms to be considered would be rendered still more beneficial and desirable by the fact that their impact would encourage growth, alleviate poverty and reduce income inequality.

Thus the aims of the reforms and decisions to be taken would more often than not boil down to:

- Striving for efficiency in terms of rationalising economic activity;
- Creating equity in terms of social justice and shared well-being;
- Preserving the natural resource base in terms of recovering the real cost of their use.

The mechanisms to be triggered to achieve these objectives are manifold and various. Some of the most obvious are:

- Price policy within the framework of the market economy;
- Allotting natural resources to such activities as would ensure the highest added value, in order to better preserve them,
- Matching resources to their use.

Planning reforms related to sustainable development is no easy matter, since it lies at the heart of the countries' institutional and economic policy, raises sensitive issues such as the redistribution of profit, participation in decision-taking, and compensation, and can give rise to biased coalitions, the setting up of alliance groupings, and crises.

At Mediterranean level, some useful rules should, however, help to provide the right direction.

- Perfect the organisation of Mediterranean structures and concentrate their resources in the areas where they have a comparative advantage;
- Choose the most appropriate range of activities given the resources available and the demands of the moment;
- Retain the initiative and leadership in activities by mobilising the region's own capacity as a priority;
- Support the unique nature of the Mediterranean eco-region and strengthen the exemplary nature of its mobilisation within the framework of UNEP and the UN-CSD;
- Mobilise national cultures and values.

II DEVELOPMENT STAKES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

1. THE MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT

An eco-region: Does the Mediterranean really exist?

Some would claim that it was once the centre of the world.

It needs to be invented, others would say, since apart from its actual geographical limits the Mediterranean has no political existence of its own and does not represent any geo-political reference today.

Possibly as an eco-region: the sea, the coast and the land stand as a shrine of nostalgia, simultaneously singular, unique and multiple, highly present in the spirit and the life experience of Mediterraneans.

At the crossroads of three continents, the 2.5 million km² of sea only make up 0.8% of total ocean area. Compared with overall dry land, the Mediterranean area only represents 6.42%, and the Mediterranean regions barely 0.65%.

Specific geographical characteristics

- Mountain ranges rejuvenated by a late tectonic period, narrow coastal plains and rare deltas characterise its relief, creating a varied, complex and changing landscape.
- Fertile soil which has been cultivated or grazed since time immemorial, which is however vulnerable and easily degraded. More than half the cultivated areas face problems of engorgement, salination, erosion, destructuring or settling.
- 46,000 km of coastline, 54% of which is rocky.
- A narrow continental shelf as a result, apart from in the gulfs and major deltas.
- A tide-less sea, which is saltier towards the East, with an average depth of 1,500m but which is broken up into separate basins, annual evaporation of around 2,900 km³ of water, renewing its stock every 90 years.
- An original climate, determined by the interaction between the desert to the South and the Atlantic ocean to the West, tempered by the sea which reduces the temperature range and regulates rainfall and winds: mild, wet winters, early springs, hot dry summers and rainy autumns. A Mediterranean climate, which is humid to the North and arid to the South, with more than 2,300 hours of sunshine per year.

The vulnerability of natural resources

A wealth of flora with around 25,000 species, a good half of which are endemic to the region.

A land of olive trees and vines par excellence, the Mediterranean is the cradle of numerous crop varieties which are an essential part of the human diet.

A considerable wealth of fauna which has, however, been widely affected by human pressure and is under threat: constant decrease in large land and marine mammal populations and other endemic species.

Forests made up of 32 million hectares of oak and pine, “anthropised” and widely degraded to scrub and maquis, which now only represent 5% of their original size and are threatened with further shrinkage in spite of the essential role they play in the fight against soil erosion, regulating the water system, and maintaining biodiversity and landscapes.

Vulnerable, scarce and poorly distributed water resources, the Northern countries enjoying 86% of the basin’s resources, whilst 2/3 of the South’s resources are sourced elsewhere. Population density compared with natural renewable water resources varies between less than 100 inhabitants per Mm³/yr in the North to more than 1,000 inhabitants per Mm³/yr in the South.

Major natural risks in terms of soil erosion caused by water and wind, raising the threat of desertification: losses of 15t/ha/yr affecting one third of land in the basin, amounting to 330 million tonnes of suspended matter being washed into the sea every year.

Oil and gas reserves, each representing 4% of world resources, are concentrated in the South, but there is constantly increasing energy consumption in all regions, with a South North spread of 1 to 10.

Uncertain development potential

- Agriculture which is conditioned by limited natural resources and is highly dependent on irrigation, swallowing up 75% of water drawn in the region, and which is having to cope with encroaching soil salination in the South, because of poor drainage and high levels of evaporation.
- Rapid industrialisation, now making itself felt on the Southern rim (less than 10% of Mediterranean production), but which is still largely located in the North, competing with urbanisation for the coastline.
- Flourishing tourism, growing by more than 5% each year, making the region the world's leading destination with over 150 million international and domestic visitors and still with the potential of virgin sites in the hinterland, or in certain coastal areas to the South.
- Active shipping of over 220,000 vessels per annum, representing 1/3 of world traffic, which presents major risks but which is gradually losing ground to land transport as the motorway network is built, and in the face of the recent increase in the car pool, as well as passenger air transport.
- An attractive coastline, but one which is limited and much sought after, built up to the extreme, with twenty or so metropolises, accounting for more than 35% of total inhabitants in the riparian countries.

Island eco-systems

The Mediterranean islands are vulnerable eco-systems having an unstable and shaky balance between the environment, economy and society. Varying widely in terms of size, ease of access, population density and political status, the Mediterranean islands also have much in common- a strong local identity, a rich cultural heritage and an outstanding environment, be it natural or shaped by man, but at the same time they are also lagging behind in their development, their local natural resources are scarce, and they face fluctuations in their island economies and populations and, more recently, intense pressure from tourism. The latter has become a major source of income for many islands. At the same time, however, it is a threat to the environment.

Because of their peripheral position, many islands are the least favoured areas of the countries to which they belong, facing problems of isolation: limited markets, more expensive access to information, excessive transport costs, a lack of economies of scale, less efficient administration, inadequate infrastructures, social services which leave much to be desired, and under-development. Often these problems incite island populations to abandon them and move to the towns on the mainland; as a result rural activities and management practices are abandoned, thus threatening environmental resources and undermining local societies. The future of the islands depends on their geographical location compared with the major economic decision-taking centres, their local resources (particularly from a tourist point of view), the ability of their societies to mobilise these resources, and the quality of the environment and of services.

The small island states are a case apart, since they are forced to depend on their own financial resources and administrative capacity. Their unique character, their natural, socio-economic, cultural and environmental peculiarities and their development and progress-related needs were recognised by the United Nations Conference in Barbados in 1994.

Consequently, sustainable development will need a strategy adapted to the peculiarities of the islands, where the socio-economic development and well-being of the community, its socio-cultural progress, and environmental protection need to be tackled simultaneously.

An area of contrast

Two major contradictions, one of a socio-economic and the other of an ecological type, both of which are linked to demographic pressure, lie behind current developments, explaining the variety of possible situations and showing the scale of risk throughout the region. Within the space of half a century the population of the Mediterranean countries has more than doubled, rising from 210 to 430 million inhabitants. Even though the population structure has changed, with fewer children and increased life expectancy, this half-century will have witnessed a major structural upheaval:

Demographic growth is unevenly distributed between the two banks of the Mediterranean, the relative strength of the North decreasing to the benefit of the South.

This population growth is going hand in hand with pronounced urbanisation, which is in particular increasing the clout of capitals in the Southern countries and considerably increasing littoralisation, which is also adding to the problems of water supply, waste treatment, air pollution and urban planning. This in turn is also increasing competition between users for scarce space.

Although generally speaking economic growth tends to be faster in the Southern countries than it is to the North, the difference in relative strength of the economies in the South and in the North on the one hand is quite considerable; and on the other hand, population growth in the South is such that any benefit to be gained therefrom is largely balanced out in terms of per capita GDP.

The organisational logistics and economic rationality which have proved themselves in certain emerging countries outside the area, albeit with highly negative environmental spin-offs, have still not permeated through to a sufficient degree to the Southern Mediterranean countries. Compared with the countries on the Northern rim, those to the South have, moreover, also seen a non-negligible section of their population excluded from the benefits of economic growth because of the major difference in average standards of living.

Thus, the economic and population flows are leading to a growing gap between the countries to the North of the Mediterranean and those to the South, basically because the societies on the two banks do not have the same ability to assimilate present-day opportunities and constraints.

Population dynamics are expressing themselves in an excess of socio-economic activity, exerting ever more drastic pressure on scarce resources and on ever-less productive ecosystems. The resulting decline in the countryside and the break-down of traditional social systems within towns, of which there are not actually many in the South, are focusing migration flows and causing hordes to concentrate in the outskirts of the major urban centres. Under this burden these centres are in turn losing the ability to play their essential role of integrating and helping in the socialisation of new arrivals.

2. THE VITAL ISSUES IN THE REGION

The major development stakes in the Mediterranean are of a socio-economic nature, affecting all the sectoral activities likely to raise the population's standard of living, and territorial, posing risks to the environment and to the natural areas.

2.1 Macro-economic context

The preparation of sustainable development policies must of necessity take place within the international, regional and national macro-economic and financial context.

Weak growth, imbalanced public finances, and increased indebtedness do not tip the balance in favour of quality concerns. Conversely, overly rapid growth along the lines of what has happened in South-East Asia, along with clumsily handled structural adjustment could impact on the environment and society in such a way as to compromise the shaping of sustainable development.

Globally speaking, the average rate of growth of Mediterranean economies fell from a 3% average in 1980-1990 to 2.5% from 1990-1998, with the rate being lower for the European countries, but higher for the majority of other countries. These rates are in line with world averages. Generally speaking, national economic development in terms of growth rates, international openness, indebtedness and public finance remains country-specific and varied.

Within the European Union (EU), economic and monetary integration has continued, with the latest Mediterranean countries to accede (Spain and Greece) – despite having low rates of growth-enjoying a vast market as well as generous regional development and cohesion aid, two factors which have allowed their national income and infrastructure, including of an environmental nature, to develop in spectacular fashion; having taken on board the single currency, and enjoying major tourist development at the same time, these countries are facing the start of the new decade under favourable economic circumstances- this should

enable them to implement more ambitious environmental protection policies.

Conversely, post 1990 the economies of the Central and Eastern European countries experienced a series of major shocks, aggravated in some cases by armed conflict; these economies moved into a period of transition and restructuring, which is still on-going. Fluctuations in the price of oil have on occasion affected the resources of producer countries. Some countries have introduced financial recovery and structural reform policies, which have left them in a better position.

Over the last decade, within a context of trade liberalisation linked both to GATT/WTO agreements and to trade agreements with the EU, trade balances deteriorated in most countries; the trade deficit is particularly important for the countries most recently admitted to the EU (Greece, Spain), with a deficit of 53 billion US dollars in 1999, as well as for those countries having trade agreements with it (Turkey, Israel and Tunisia).

The European Community has recorded an increasing surplus vis a vis these Mediterranean Partner Countries (M.P.Cs) which stood at 2 billion US dollars in 1972, increasing to 10 billion US dollars in 1990, and 25 billion US dollars in 1998. The foreign trade deficit of the Mediterranean partner countries is worsening year on year (according to a recent FEMISE study, the MPCs' trade deficit with the EU grew by 50% between 1995 and 1998), creating a delicate context in terms of the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean free trade area.

Despite the growing success of tourism and the export of trade services, some countries still have relatively large balance of current payment deficits, amounting to up to 5% of GDP. This situation raises even more questions given that inflation is

generally under control, and public finances are being better managed. Questions therefore need to be asked about the general level of economic competitiveness of part of the regional economy. If the price of oil continues to rise, this should somewhat alter the picture, improving the balance of payments for the producer countries, but possibly causing the deficit amongst importing countries to worsen.

Whatever the case, the deterioration in foreign trade may well explain the on-going efforts to promote tourism which, given the environmental impact of this activity, should be very carefully monitored. It would be rather worrying if the desire to balance their payments led some countries to exceed the tourist carrying capacity of the natural environment, and to sacrifice natural areas and landscapes.

As regards movement of capital, direct foreign investment in Mediterranean third countries (except Israel) has remained at very low levels (3.6 billion US dollars in 1997) despite the progress made in some countries. Compared with global levels, over the 80s this flow represented around 3% of direct investment in countries with medium levels of income, and less than 1% of total direct foreign investment flows.

Public development aid (PDA) expressed in terms of GNP shrank considerably from 1990 to 1997, particularly in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Syria, thus following a global trend; overall, net PDA amounted to 4.4 billion US dollars in 1998, compared with 7.9 billion in 1992, usually falling below 1% of the beneficiary country's GDP.

In many countries, despite structural adjustment and means for renegotiating debt and writing off amounts due, foreign debt levels are still high, amounting to between 30 and 110% of GDP. Debt servicing thus swallows up a substantial amount of income; added to that is the fact that throughout the region the average level of military spending continues to exceed the world average (4.2% of GDP

as opposed to 2.8%), which could be explained by on-going sub-regional tension; consequently, the budgetary means needed to support sustainable development policies particularly in the areas of education, health, urban and rural planning, public transport and the environment are of necessity limited.

Thus within a liberalisation scenario which would tend to see foreign trade and investment as having to take over from public development aid and protectionist trade policies (implicit application of the "trade not aid" principle), the Mediterranean region still has a difficult path to follow. There is no saying whether the bases for this development have been laid, even within the context of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership; neither is it sure whether this approach is realistic in terms of sustainable development.

By way of reference, the positive economic development on the part of European Mediterranean countries as well as an improvement in their quality of living indicators are not only linked to their being integrated within the large European market, but also to the generous European aid coming from the structural and cohesion funds; thus the amount of aid to eligible countries in the Mediterranean basin from the cohesion fund alone is forecast to reach 14 billion euros for 2000-2006, representing up to 4% of the GDP of the beneficiary countries, with a participation rate in selected projects of 80- 85%. Over the same period, the regions of European Mediterranean countries eligible under the European Regional Development Fund are set to receive 106 billion euros for their development.

Within the European Union, it is therefore a "trade and aid" principle which is being applied, with undeniable results from an economic point of view at least for the Mediterranean countries concerned.

All of the indicators of human development, health, level of education, provision of means of communication, and per capita income have tended to follow a

positive trend throughout the region; more specifically, the region has a lower share of absolute poverty than other regions in the world.

Finally, far from shrinking as might be suggested by the concept of an "area of shared prosperity", economic disparity has grown considerably considering, for example, that in 1997 the four Mediterranean members of the European Union and Israel received 35 billion dollars

2.2 Socio-economic aspects

Demographic pressure

The population of the Mediterranean countries is forecast to be in the order of 550 million inhabitants by 2025. The Northern countries, which accounted for 2/3 of the total population in 1950, will only account for 1/3 in 2025. At the same time, the population of the Southern countries will have increased five-fold.

This swing will go hand in hand with ageing in the North and rejuvenation in the South, reflected in an increase in job-seekers in the coastal towns due to more rapid littoralisation and urbanization, which will affect more than 75% of the population in 2025. This scale of development will mean considerably greater demand on the countries on the Southern rim (factor 3 or 4) for foodstuffs, industrial goods, energy, housing, water, etc., which it will be more difficult, costly and environmentally harmful to produce.

Major differences in agriculture between North and South

Agriculture in the Mediterranean countries of Europe has been modernised through the structural policies, and by making massive use of the results of agronomic research, chemical inputs, and structural policies. This is giving rise to a dual trend, with intensive agriculture which, however, causes pollution on the one hand, and a tendency for vast areas to be abandoned on the other, with the consequent risk of fires and erosion. Since the Common Agricultural Policy was reformed in 1992,

in direct foreign investment, as compared with 3.6 billion for all the other countries put together. In absolute terms, the difference in overall or per capita wealth levels between the European Union countries and developing countries of the region continues to grow; bearing in mind the public and private finances likely to be earmarked for development throughout the whole of the Mediterranean basin, nothing would seem to indicate any reversal of this trend in the medium term- on the contrary

Europe has been striving, not without difficulty, to strike a better balance.

Conversely, in the Southern countries facing population pressure, the intensification of irrigated agriculture in an arid context which is much less favourable than in the North, will lead to an increase in the area of cultivated land to the detriment of wooded areas and pasture land, as well as ever greater use of water resources, mechanisation and inputs, which in the long term will lead to the over-exploitation of natural resources, and thereby to their being degraded. The exorbitant cost of investments needed to obtain projected yields would not guarantee any sort of comparative advantage for these countries within the context of trade globalisation.

Some natural constraints such as tapping non-renewable fossil aquifers, or geopolitical ones such as the development and exploitation of international resources (Nile, Tigris, Euphrates) raise vital political problems.

Fish production, which is notoriously inadequate in terms of the needs of Mediterranean countries, is forcing the issue of rationalising fisheries to the fore, as well as the need to develop aquaculture.

Energy-consuming Industrialisation

A reversal of trends resulting in the North in the relative decline of heavy industry to the benefit of the Southern countries will be the expression of the de-localisation phenomenon brought about by the new

distribution of labour, with the Northern countries for the time being coming forward with more arguments for developing new generation industries such as bio-technology, electronics or new materials. It is thus forecast that steel production in the Southern countries will be one and a half times greater than that in the North in 2025, although it only represented a quarter of it during the 90s.

Such a development would affect energy consumption expressed in tonnes of oil equivalent. The relative share of the North and South in this consumption would change from a factor of around 3.5 in favour of the North at present to a factor of only about 1.5 in 2025. The oil which is currently available in several Southern Mediterranean countries would have to be imported in 2025, considerably affecting their balance of payments. Natural gas, in relatively abundant supply, would take over on the energy market along with renewables, particularly solar energy, albeit to a lesser extent.

Because of urbanisation and industrialisation, efforts to provide electricity supply will be two and a half times greater in the South than in the North, with electricity consumption set to practically double by 2025 in the Northern countries and to increase four-fold to the South. As an indication, average per capita electricity consumption was 4,800 kw/hr in the North, and 850 kw/hr in the South in the nineties.

Rapid development of tourism and outdoor leisure activities

Of the 450 million visitors to the region, which currently represent one third of world tourists, 100 million stay on the Mediterranean coast of their host country, considerably increasing human concentration. This figure is likely to double if not triple by 2025, entailing the risk of over-load based depreciation of the tourist capital represented by this activity, which is seen as vital to most countries in the region as a source of hard currency and an essential development factor for the Southern countries.

Although 4/5 of international tourism today is monopolised by the traditional tourist countries in the North, a certain degree of disenchantment with over-urbanised coasts is likely to benefit the wilder hinterland and the as yet virgin coasts of the Southern countries. There is no doubt that this would act as a potential essential rebalancing factor between the two banks of the Mediterranean.

Cultural and ecological tourism would also rationalise the development of the leisure industry by better sharing out the load which it entails for all areas, as well as the income and spin-offs it generates for broader sections of the population.

Speedier urbanisation on the Southern rim

The urban population of the Mediterranean countries as a whole is forecast to stand at around 430 million people in 2025, representing an urbanisation rate of around 77%. Whilst the urban population has risen greatly over recent years in the Northern countries, to stabilise probably at about 90%, the South is rapidly catching up. In the major metropolises the trend is more clearly marked still, which is further increasing their relative weight. Whilst the total population for all Southern countries rose over four decades (1950-1990) by 175%, the urban population rose by 500%. Thus, Cairo is growing on average by 1000 inhabitants each day. Density in the heart of Algiers has reached 200,000 inhabitants per km².

It has not always been possible to meet the basic infrastructure requirements, and provide the urban and public installations which these developments entail. The pressure of social demand in terms of unavailable housing, insufficient jobs, and the lack of provision of urban services, particularly public transport and hygiene, is creating a mismatch between what exists and what is aspired to. This is creating the conditions for the emergence of acute conflict situations, which places major political question marks over the near future.

Transport struggling in its development, serving trade and people

The unmanageable spread of private car transport poses the crucial problem of how to effectively organise urban public transport. The organisation and regulation of modern, non-polluting, safe and cheap public transport throughout all the countries in the Mediterranean region still depends heavily, however, on the choice of socio-economic development imposed by the North. The 60-odd million strong Mediterranean car pool, which is largely concentrated in the Northern countries, is likely to have reached 175 million by 2025, with a ten-fold increase in the South which is far from having reached saturation point. Intercity car transport will require road infrastructure, which will swallow up some 20,000 km² of land.

Railways in the South have not developed as they have in some countries to the North.

Because of its vital importance to the development of the secondary sector and in opening up the hinterland, rail transport will require some major investment if it is to avoid losing the competition battle with maritime transport for heavy loads, and with air transport for passengers.

Environmental Education needs to be generalised

Environmental education and training are part and parcel of the essential adaptation of schools to current social changes, which are transforming the basic links between man and his environment. The issue of man's relationship with his environment has become a major concern. Within this context, environmental education becomes an ethical approach. The Mediterranean eco-system includes Mediterraneans themselves, and its clearly dynamic balance is not something which has been given for all time. But neither is it compromised once and for all either. There is always room for individual or group responsibility and commitment.

Since the environment is first and foremost a global reality, and since the Mediterranean is striving to more positively enjoy its place within this eco-region, any educational or training approach related to the environment must of necessity be holistic. School does not have a monopoly on environmental education. However, it is up to the States in the region to first and foremost provide schools, colleges and universities with a minimum of ecological awareness. At the right level this responsibility must then be shared by the social partners so that these centres can learn from them and open up to their surroundings.

Environmental education involves numerous different aspects: scientific, civic, political, economic, aesthetic, social, moral and personal. It is a type of learning towards the individual's integral development, which is needed for any activity to be fully taken on board. Awareness of the need for schools nowadays to train citizens who tomorrow will be able to responsibly shoulder their activities is of vital importance to the region. This education should prepare the way for the emergence of the responsible citizen, more open to the practice of good governance and decentralised participation.

2.3 Environmental Aspects

Shrinking forest cover

Despite their important ecological and social role, the forests and woodlands continue to deteriorate in general terms, as a result of dry climate and the economic interest they represent as a raw material, source of energy and pasture.

Whilst woodland cover in the Mediterranean countries as a whole barely amounts to 10%, cover in the direct Mediterranean area itself is 15%, so that this area alone represents 38% of the woodland in Mediterranean countries. The pressure being exerted upon the woodlands in the Southern countries is slowly easing, but the situation is not really likely to improve before 2025, using sound

accompanying measures. In the North, the rehabilitation policy for land which has been abandoned by agriculture is already making it possible to win back lost ground.

Over-grazing, fires, excessive tourism, widespread urbanisation, growth of the rural population, and acid rain are to varying degrees having a negative effect on efforts towards reforestation. Inadequate protection of the forest cover would lead to an increase in the cost of wood and the number of fires, and the need to buy fodder, and would also undermine leisure activities.

Soil degradation

The inability to check Mediterranean soil erosion in regions where torrential rain and steep slopes also play their part represents a real threat and a spectacular attack on the environment in the Southern countries, where per hectare losses vary between 5 to 50 t/yr.

As a support for biomass production but also as an important biological reserve in terms of both quantity and diversity, and part of our cultural heritage embedded in the landscapes shaped by human society, the soil is a complex milieu which needs to be protected. It demands protection since its natural regeneration, calculated in centuries and millennia, cannot keep pace with the rapid rate of its degradation by mankind, which is assessed in terms of a few decades.

As the most important basis for mankind's food supply, sustainable soil use would benefit from being guaranteed by binding rules in order to create greater awareness of the problem in all its facets. Otherwise the abandonment of degraded land, food contamination, a drop in fertility and yields, restoration costs and a shorter working life for dams will be the price that society has to pay.

Encroaching salinity

Salinization, the process which leads to a concentration of mineral salts, becomes a problem when rainfall levels do not exceed

600 mm per year, hampering annual leaching. Wherever the soil and rainwater availability or irrigation have allowed it, agricultural over-production has been achieved. The agricultural surpluses then became trading goods obeying the laws of the market.

Increased demand for food has encouraged the transition to industrial agriculture which is becoming ever more technical and artificial, with negative consequences in terms of both water and soil salinization.

Poor management of irrigation, the lack of drainage and channel maintenance have led to the appearance and spread of soil salinity. The non irrigated land which has been made saline by the evaporation of water lost from the channels because they were not water tight or adequately maintained should also be added to the salty surface soil. Moreover, the over-exploitation of ground water, and evaporation from areas of surface water always go hand in hand with a concentration of salt in the water resources.

The particularly threatening phenomenon of water and soil salinization in the countries on the Southern rim demands the implementation of quality management which will allow the negative effects of users on resources to be averted, and the principles of sustainable development to be respected. Good water and soil management respecting certain straightforward principles of caution, moderation and preservation would mean that the different functions of water and soil could be used on a sustainable basis, and could be maintained in order to avoid unacceptable and irreversible developments.

Pressure on water resources

Water demand varies although across the board it is high and on an upward trend. Demand has doubled in the space of a century. It is unequally distributed: from over 1,000 m³/inhab/yr in the Northern

countries to 100 m³/inhab/yr in certain countries in the South.

In many of the Southern countries the water drawn already exceeds 50% of renewable natural water resources, and some other countries such as Libya only have non-renewable fossil sources. Over-exploitation of coastal aquifers has already led to many cases of irreversible saltwater seepage, whilst the silting up of dams is leading to annual losses of useful capacity of 2-3%, bringing the sustainability of exploitation systems into question. The disappearance and loss of many wetlands has had a lasting effect on eco-systems, which have also seen their quality impaired by pollution. Production and management costs for this resource are on the up and up.

Conflicts of use and interests between upstream and down-stream, towns and agriculture, and the short and long term are tending to get worse. Food imports into Southern Mediterranean countries correspond to a virtual water transfer of 40 billion cubic metres per year. In spite of high production costs, non-conventional resources are being widely drawn upon in some countries: reuse of treated wastewater, or drainage and desalination.

If current trends were to continue, this would lead to an increase in demand of more than 55% by 2025, exceeding the renewable water resources available in ten or so Southern countries, with a major impact on the environment and society. At best, maintaining such an economic growth process at the cost of considerable public investment, and growing environmental and social instability, would only manage to postpone the crisis when the resource-demand balance reaches breaking point.

What the region needs right here and now is a policy to limit pressure on natural water, both surface and ground, to the maximum levels which nature can sustain. Apart from demand management policies this will require increased use, where necessary, of non-conventional resources, and particularly the structural adaptation of

agricultural and rural development policies in the Mediterranean which, whilst striving to render irrigation more efficient, must also take greater account of environmental and social issues. Health problems stemming from contamination of water and the water milieu, increases in the cost of water and sanitation, effects on leisure possibilities, and lesser well-being would be the price to be paid for doing nothing, or for failure to adopt an integrated policy.

Loss of biodiversity and living resources

Human pressure, increasing throughout history, has led to the disappearance of certain eco-systems which are essential to maintaining biodiversity, such as the wetlands, 50% of which have been dried up for both health and economic reasons: agricultural and urban development. Coastal eco-systems are at their most vulnerable in the face of the process to build up the Mediterranean coast. Urbanisation, the break-up of habitats, deforestation, over-grazing, pollution, over-exploitation of natural sites and excessive drawing are seriously threatening the region's genetic capital which has already witnessed the disappearance of the majority of its large herbivores and predators.

As throughout the world, the number of threatened species is growing. Since the conservation of biodiversity starts with clear knowledge about the number of animal and plant species in the Mediterranean area, some solid ground work needs to be put in in order to complete the list of species and their distribution, so that reliable indicators are available for the pressures being exerted on threatened species. The survival of endemic species is particularly vital, since they act as good indicators of biodiversity in the area. Entirely dependent on the countries where they live, this survival places responsibility on the States concerned.

The gradual loss of biodiversity in this area, which is the proto-historic cradle of agriculture and animal husbandry, also

impacts on domestic animal breeds and the varieties of cultivated plants selected by man over the centuries to ensure their adaptation to Mediterranean conditions.

The right to invoke the precautionary principle which has been recognised thus far to countries wishing to defend their traditional agriculture or organic farming from the introduction of genetically modified seed for commercial production purposes, is however today widely contested by countries producing genetically modified raw materials. Loss of landscapes, of heritage, lower resistance of cultivated varieties and races bred in captivity to disease, and losses stemming from the degradation of natural sites would be the result of a laissez-faire attitude, be it unintentional or deliberate.

Air pollution

Regional air pollution will only make a minor contribution to global pollution, even in the long term (less than 3% in 2025). At local level, however, around the main urban metropolises, domestic heating, industry and transport produce a photo-chemical smog of nitrogen oxides, and polluting carbon monoxide and ozone with worrying effects on public health and the quality of life.

The toxic threshold of 100 millilitres per m³ of air is exceeded at certain junctions in the major towns. A powerful oxidizer at ground level, ozone is an active pollutant which attacks living cells. The processing of the sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides to be found in the air as a result of the major industrial centres increases sulphate and nitrate content as well as that of sulphuric and nitric acid, and is the cause of acid rain. Cement dust, to name but one, reduces the yield of olive groves in the Southern countries.

Each year in the Mediterranean atmospheric fall-out releases between 10,000 and 55,000 tonnes of heavy metals.

There is a pressing need to reduce NO_x emissions, because at current rates they will have reached 5 million tonnes by 2025. The number of vehicles per 1,000

inhabitants would be hovering at around 300 at the same date, depending on what strategic options are chosen. Respiratory conditions, monument decay, product contamination, corrosion of installations, and smaller numbers of tourists would be the unavoidable consequences of a deterioration of air quality in the Mediterranean.

Uncontrolled littoralisation

The coastal population is forecast to reach 200 million in 2025 on a very narrow coastal strip, giving rise to a major concentration of economic activity. Whilst littoralisation in the North has tended to follow industrialisation, in the South the attractiveness of the coast compared with the arid hinterland is preceding industrial development, further increasing pressure. Moreover, air and water pollution, the destruction of natural landscapes, and the rapid building up of the coastal area are incompatible with the development of Mediterranean tourism, which essentially seeks the sea.

With the lion's share of coastal population growth coming about in the South, the fear is that the host infrastructures will prove inadequate in terms of water supply, waste treatment, refuse disposal, urban planning and combating air and noise pollution. Competition between users for scarce space can but create dissent within society. The pressure on fragile coastal eco-systems and limited natural resources is threatening their sustainable use.

Density in the Mediterranean regions is in the order of 180 inhabitants per km² (not taking into account the exceptional figures for Malta and Monaco with 1,100 and 15,000 inhabs/km² respectively). Tough, determined land planning policies would open up the possibility of reducing the excessive density which generates stress and violence, deterioration of the living environment, speculation on agricultural land and the disappearance of traditional agriculture, increased industrial concentration, clogged infrastructures and falling tourist figures.

The degradation of the marine environment

More than just an extent of sea, the Mediterranean is the final repository for the land which surrounds it.

According to certain sources, almost 600,000 tonnes of oil are dumped in the sea each year, 30% of which reaches the coast and pollutes the beaches. Less visibly, pollution by poly-benzenic and chlorinated hydrocarbons (DDT, PCB) as well as heavy metals, can seriously affect human health. A quarter of all land-based pollution in the Mediterranean is located in its North-Western part. 35% of pollution is concentrated in the Adriatic. Although more or less spared to date, the Southern countries are now becoming exposed as a result of increased and somewhat anarchical coastal urbanisation and industrialisation.

Serious pollution from heavy metals, urban effluent and pathogenic micro-organisms and pesticides is affecting certain parts of the coast, contributing to the spread of eutrophication, without affecting the sea as a whole. Relatively vulnerable to human activity and pollution, the Posidonian meadows are ailing: they are shrinking in the face of man, pollution, ports, and dykes, since they succumb to trawling. They are covered in rubbish and plastic, ripped up by anchors, and the turbidity of land-based origin deprives them of light. The shrinkage of the meadows is the best indicator of the deterioration of the quality of the Mediterranean marine environment. The development of specially protected areas is one of the preferred measures for protecting turtles, monk seals, Mediterranean biodiversity and coastal eco-systems, the victims of the various attacks to which the Mediterranean is exposed.

The increase in solid domestic and industrial waste

The solid waste produced by coastal towns, particularly plastic packaging, amounts to half a million m³ per day and varies widely in its composition depending on location and level of income. In the

countries on the Mediterranean's Southern rim, solid waste production was estimated to be 35 million tonnes in 1998, and is forecast to reach 50 million in 2010, an increase of 43%. Per capita annual production is also predicted to rise by 15%, from 242 to 277 kg on average. In 1998 the cost of managing this solid waste amounted to around 19 dollars per tonne on average, i.e. around 5 dollars per capita.

Its disposal poses many problems, as it is often difficult to find sites for dumps on what is already an overcrowded coastline. Sites of great heritage value often fall victim to unauthorised dumps. Municipal waste is often dumped there, mixed with hazardous substances from industry or hospitals. When it rains the rainwater carrying harmful substances seeps or is drawn into the watercourses, contaminating the soil, the water table and the coastal waters.

The practice of burning solid waste in the open air transfers pollution into the atmosphere. It has not always been possible to use in situ reprocessing units for toxic industrial waste costing around one hundred dollars per tonne. The storage of this waste has on many occasions created contaminated areas.

Visual pollution and the smell should be added to the picture, drawing attention to the risk attached to a general shift of basic industries from North to South in terms of the number of factories, but also and even more so, the amount of pollution generated and the increase of major industrial risk.

Under these conditions, the promotion of a genuine strategy of clean production based on the new eco-technologies, waste reduction and recycling is a must.

The foreseeable consequences of climate change

The hypothesis of a rise of 1.5 degrees C in temperature and 20cm in sea level in the Mediterranean by 2025 is seen as a cautious one. The effects of climate

change would be added to the population pressure which will be exerted on the coastline (200 million in 2025) essentially in the urban centres in the South, and to the need to increase food production and dispose of waste in an environment undermined by the degradation of its eco-systems, the over-exploitation of resources, excessive tourism, and pollution.

The rise in temperature, the lengthening of the summer season and a Northwards shift of the area with unreliable rainfall would be likely to extend the arid area, which would have negative effects on much of the Mediterranean's productive land. Soil-based processes would be upset by increased evapo-transpiration, and by fluctuations in humidity, salts and organic matter, altering its structure. Lower rainfall along with increased evaporation from the soil would reduce the levels of running and ground water.

The rise in sea level would affect low-lying areas, some of which are ecologically important, as well as human and coastal installations, and saltwater seepage would degrade the quality of coastal freshwater aquifers.

Besides the threats posed by these changes to agriculture and eco-systems, it is essential that social and economic uncertainties be taken into account, which punish the worst off populations in particular. Implementation of the Kyoto protocol hinges on recognising the development needs of the Southern countries, to enable them to become involved in combating the greenhouse effect. How can clean production methods contribute to the development of the poorest countries? How can the transfer of eco-technologies towards Southern countries be organised? Such are the issues raised by climate change in the Mediterranean.

2.4 Some relevant indicators

The few indicators presented hereafter (the graphic representations of which are to be found in Annex I) were calculated by the Blue Plan for all the Mediterranean

riparian states, using available data from international sources. They were selected from the 130 chosen by the MCSD.

They do not cover all aspects of sustainable development. They do, however, provide important information about prevailing trends within the region. Some of these trends can most certainly be seen as positive. Many others, however, are not showing any visible improvement. Some crucial aspects of sustainable development cannot be assessed for the time being in the absence of data.

Since the aim of the Strategic Review is not to establish the state of the environment, priority has been given to:

- > Indicators of pressures and driving forces which are undermining an already impaired situation by upsetting the highly fragile balance between development and the environment.
- > Indicators of economic, political and institutional responses aimed at easing these pressures and improving the situation

Population and Society

Demography and population

- > The rate of population growth:
Indicative of increased population pressure on natural resources, but also on the economy and society. It has risen from 1.59% in 1965 to 1.17% today for the region as a whole. It differs, however, between the countries to the South and East of the Mediterranean (above 2) and the Mediterranean countries of Southern Europe (low growth rate).
- > The artificial fertility index:
Indicative of governments' response to demographic pressure in terms of family planning policies. It is showing a constant downward trend across the region, but with variations. It is currently above three children per female in most of the countries to the South and East of the Mediterranean. It is below this level- often

well below- in the countries to the North of
the Mediterranean.

Standard of living, employment, social inequality, poverty, unemployment

- The employment rate:
Indicative of a country's social stability and the fight against poverty. It is constantly falling in most Mediterranean countries. Under the best of circumstances it is showing a slight upward trend. It generally lies at between 80 and 90%.

Health, hygiene

- Access to drinking water:
Indicative of human development in terms of health and hygiene. In most Mediterranean countries, more than 80% of the population has access to drinking water.
The figure is nearing 100% in the EU member states.

Consumption and production patterns

- Annual per capita energy consumption:
Indicative of production and consumption patterns. Energy, seen as the driving force behind economic progress, exerts major pressure on the environment. Improving energy yield in order to reduce consumption is one of the aims of sustainable development. At 3 toe, per capita consumption in the EU Mediterranean countries is 3 to 4 times higher than that of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. Per capita consumption is increasing slightly in the latter in spite of a rather marked annual increase in total energy consumption- 5% on average- due to population growth.
- The number of tourist vehicles per 100 inhabitants:
Indicative on the one hand of an increased standard of living, and increased exhaust and particle emissions into the atmosphere, but also, should the indicator drop, of the rationalisation of policies which encourage public transport. There were on average 21 tourist vehicles per 100 inhabitants in the countries of the Mediterranean basin in 1996. The pool has doubled in 15 years. Italy, France and Spain own 82% of tourist vehicles on the

roads. Change is, however, coming about fairly rapidly in some Southern and Eastern countries.

Land and territory

Habitat and urban system

- The growth rate of the urban population:
Indicative, if strong, of a deterioration in living surroundings and the environment, as well as of a territorial imbalance generating costs and increased social problems. For the Mediterranean basin as a whole, the average rate is 1.85% per year, above the total population growth rate of 1.17% per year. This rate currently stands at 4% in the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean countries, however. The growth rate has a major impact on littoralisation.

- Protected forest area as a % of total forest area:
Indicative of steps taken by society to protect biodiversity and landscapes by creating reserves representative of different forest eco-systems. In the Mediterranean region, 7.3% of forests (40,200 km²) are protected: i.e. more than 9% in general in the European Union countries, 4-8% in the Balkans, 3% in North Africa, and around 1% in the Near East.

Coasts and littoralisation

- The rate of population growth in the coastal regions:
Indicative of increased population pressure on natural resources and eco-systems in the coastal areas, it shows littoralisation trends: coastal density, building-up of the coastline. It stands at over 2% per year (often much higher) in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. It is, with a few exceptions, always below 1% in the Mediterranean countries of Europe.
- The scale of protected coastal areas:
Indicative of efforts to protect parts of the coast important for biodiversity, cultural heritage, scientific research, leisure,

landscapes and resources. 1.15 million hectares for the Mediterranean riparian states as a whole. Area increased six-fold in 25 years. 77% of this area is only partly protected. The largest areas concern the biggest countries, or those with the longest coastlines.

Economic activity and sustainability

General economy

➤ GDP structure per sector:

Indicative of the contribution of 3 sectors of activity- agriculture, industry and services. Low in EU Mediterranean countries (< 3%), agriculture represents 11-17% of GDP in most Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. It is decreasing in the Mediterranean basin. In most countries, the services sector accounts for more than 50% GDP. Industry contributes from 18- 33% of countries' GDP__except for Algeria. Generally speaking, the active agricultural population is shrinking to the benefit of industry and particularly the tertiary sector.

➤ Direct foreign investment:

Indicative of the degree of openness of a country to the world economy, the transfer of new technologies which tend to be more environmentally friendly, enhancement of human resources, capacity building, and international cooperation. There is a progressive increase in investment in countries which have come back to more stable political conditions. But it is the EU Mediterranean countries which soak up 83% of foreign investment in Mediterranean countries as a whole.

Agriculture

➤ Use of fertiliser per hectare of arable land:

Indicative of the intensification of agriculture, but also the major environmental impact in cases of improper use: water eutrophication, soil degradation, risk of nitrate contamination of ground water. Use amounted to 113 kg/hectare of arable land in 1997 in the Mediterranean basin. It is on the increase in virtually all countries.

It is very low in the Maghreb: 23kg/hectare. But it exceeds 300 kg in Egypt.

➤ Percentage of irrigated arable land:

Indicative of intensive use of water resources for irrigation. In the Mediterranean, the average amounts to 20% and is increasing across the board; it is 100% in Egypt, relatively high in the Eastern Mediterranean countries, but less widespread in the Maghreb countries. In some Balkan countries, a very small percentage of land is irrigated.

Fisheries, aquaculture

➤ The number and average power of fishing vessels:

Indicative of fisheries pressure on fish stocks. Most of the vessels from the Northern rim have engines, whilst those to the South and East do not. The highest number of vessels is in Greece: 19,673: average power 33hp. The number of vessels in the EU countries fell by 11% between 1990 and 1995.

Energy

➤ Energy intensity:

Indicative of an environmentally friendly economy if falling. Stood at 0.175 toe/1000\$ in EU Mediterranean countries in 1996 and generally on the decrease. Amounted to 0.4 toe/1000\$ in the Maghreb, however, and rising.

➤ The energy balance:

Indicative of a country's dependency on non-renewable fossil energy resources. Linked to the indicator of renewable energy consumption. In 1993 Mediterranean countries production represented 74% of their consumption. There is a rapid increase in the production and consumption of natural gas which is less polluting than oil.

➤ Proportion of consumption of renewable energy sources:

Indicative of efforts to move away from the use of non renewable resources and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This indicator stands at 21.5% for

Mediterranean countries as a whole. It has increased across the board in European countries, and fallen in countries to the South and East of the Mediterranean.

Transport

- The average annual distance covered per tourist vehicle:
Indicative of the opportunity to develop public transport policies should there be a constant rise. It stands at 10-15,000km per year on average. Data is lacking for the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.

Tourism

- Number of overnight stays per 100 inhabitants:
Indicative of tourist pressure on society. Constantly rising in the Mediterranean. Stood on average at 95 overnight stays/100 inhabitants in 1996. May exceed 1,500 for the small countries and some islands. Spain, Italy and France alone monopolised 67% of these stays in 1996.

Environment

Freshwater, wastewater

- Index of use:
Indicative of the need to adjust policies of supply and demand as well as the economic and institutional capacity to manage water resources. Generally speaking it is above 10%. It exceeds 50% in several countries to the South and East of the Mediterranean, even 100% in Libya or Gaza.
- Non sustainable water production index:
Indicative of a country's dependency on non sustainable water sources and the opportunity to gradually bring in alternative solutions. It applies in particular to Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. It varies from 79% in Libya to 2.5% in Egypt.

Air quality

- Greenhouse gas emissions: CO₂, CH₄, N₂O:
Indicative of the level of industrialisation, energy choices, transport, importance of the agriculture and forestry sectors, and the type of waste management. Emissions

vary between more than 10 to less than 2 tonnes equivalent CO₂/inhab. They exceed 8 for the EU countries and are less than 4 in most Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.

- Consumption of substances which destroy the ozone layer:
(CFCs, Halons and others) Indicative, when falling, of respect of the Montreal protocol. There has been a significant overall reduction in consumption of these substances since 1986 in most Mediterranean countries.
- Nitrogen oxide emissions Nox:
Indicative of the level of air pollution due to cars. These emissions are increasing in virtually all Mediterranean countries. They vary from 5 to more than 35kg NOx equivalent per inhabitant. They are two times higher in the European countries, in proportion to car traffic.

- Sulphur oxide emissions SO_x:
Indicative of the introduction of energy saving programmes when falling. There is a drop in these emissions, particularly in the countries on the Northern rim, unlike those to the South and East where they are rising. SO_x emissions per inhabitant vary between 10 and 120 kgs.

Exchange and cooperation in the Mediterranean

- Net migration rate:
Indicative of demographic redistribution as a result of economic, social, environmental and political events. For the region as a whole, the rate is slightly positive (inward flow). All EU countries have a positive rate. The Balkans and most Southern and Eastern countries have a negative rate.

III . INSTRUMENTS AND REGIONAL ACTORS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Sustainable development in the Mediterranean must be “environmentally friendly, technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable, allowing the needs of present-day generations to be met without compromising the possibility for future generations to satisfy theirs”. Invoking it entails adhering to the ethical, political and methodological principles which lie behind it, and also putting across a vision of the Mediterranean which makes it possible to reshape the way in which we view and react to interaction between the environment, economy and society.

A necessary transition

Human activities exert pressure on the environment and on resources. The state of the environment and resources is the result of such pressures, but in return it also exerts pressure on human activities. Society’s response expresses its reaction to changes noted as a function of its concerns in this field.

Within the new present-day context of globalisation, the Mediterranean, which has only limited economic clout on a global level, will need regulatory mechanisms if it is to successfully penetrate the international market. Since the free trade agreement vitally affects the Mediterranean’s future development, only a regional approach based on integration and inter-institutional coordination can achieve satisfactory results.

A transition strategy would strengthen the sustainable development process step by step and would help bridge the gap between what is desirable for the region and what is feasible. This type of approach requires:

- Strong political will on the part of States to build sustainable development with the backing of donors.
- The riparian states to responsibly take Mediterranean issues on board in the long term and at all levels and in all areas.
- Clearly understood integration of the environment and development.
- A genuine partnership respecting the principle of equality and solidarity in the implementation of financial and technical means.

Sustainability is multi-dimensional

In fact the sustainable development concept integrates five fundamental dimensions of an economic, ecological and social, but also of a cultural and political nature. Assessing the process likely to lead towards sustainability will require referring to each of the dimensions of this concept, in both a systemic and holistic manner.

- The economic dimension is related to the idea of optimal economic efficiency in the use of scarce resources. Economic sustainability is generally defined at macro-economic level in terms of continued growth which creates wealth, minimising the risks of irreversibility in order to do so, and instead stressing the possibilities of technical substitution solutions. Sustainable development requires more attention to be paid to natural and human capital, if needs be at the expense of economic and industrial capital, in order to retain the capacity to renew resources.
- The ecological dimension is related to the dynamic viability of natural eco-systems, including their human component, as a guarantee of the preservation of biodiversity, far removed from purely anthropocentric or environmental activism.

- The social dimension is related to the stability of social systems and reducing conflict: the eradication of poverty, and equity, including towards women and future generations, are fundamental elements of this dimension.
- The cultural dimension is related to preserving cultural diversity, and making best use of traditional knowledge, particularly related to the sustainable practices within each community.
- The political dimension is related to freedom and democracy as well as protecting human rights, promoting pluralism, and participating in decision-taking.

An on-going assessment of the costs and advantages of the various aims pursued related to one or other of these dimensions would mean that any ground covered in the right direction could be assessed. There are some useful indicators for this purpose, such as, for example:

- Institutional adjustments as well as the economic and political strategies which they entail.
- The adoption and introduction of the sustainable development concept in official documents, legislative texts and organs of communication.
- The extent to which the environment has been integrated into development.
- The strengthening of inter-sectoral policy coordination.
- The creation of political, management, assessment and monitoring instruments for the sustainability process: environmental accounting, adoption of a system of sustainability indicators (social, economic and ecological), a regulatory and reinforcement mechanism.
- The involvement and participation of the different social groups: business community, scientific community, civil society etc.

The partners involved

Some of the most important and most active apart from MAP are:

- The Euro-Mediterranean partnership, through the MEDA support programme, and also with the support of EIB, which came out of the Barcelona Conference and which is intended to help render the Mediterranean arena for political dialogue, cultural exchange and economic, financial and environmental cooperation. To put it in a nutshell...an area of "shared prosperity".
- The METAP, a technical assistance programme for the protection of the Mediterranean environment.
- Some regional bodies such as the CEDARE and the League of Arab States are in partnership with MAP and take part in its activities.
- The United Nations, through some of its specialised agencies including the WHO, IMO, WMO, UNESCO, IAEA, UNDP and FAO, or donors such as the World Bank.
- The main groups from Society, particularly the NGOs, professional organisations, local authorities and associations are in ever-increasing cooperation with MAP.

1. A NEGOTIATED LEGAL FRAMEWORK BASED ON A CONVENTION: THE BARCELONA CONVENTION

The Convention and its Protocols

The inter-governmental meeting held in Barcelona in 1975 approved an Action Plan for the protection and development of the Mediterranean Sea within UNEP's regional seas programme, and called for a framework Convention to be prepared. The Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution was approved the following year and signed by 14 States as well as the European Union, and has since been ratified by all the Contracting Parties. It was revised in Barcelona in 1995 and has since been completed by the following six protocols:

- Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft. Barcelona 1976.
- Protocol concerning combating pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergency. Barcelona 1976.
- Protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from land-based sources. (Athens 1980, Siracusa 1996), under which a strategic action programme was launched.
- Protocol concerning specially protected areas and biological diversity in the Mediterranean (Geneva 1982, Barcelona 1995).
- Protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution resulting from exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf, the seabed and its subsoil. (Madrid 1994).
- Protocol on the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by transboundary movements of hazardous waste (Izmir, 1996).

Ambitious aims

Kept general within the Convention as such, albeit more specific in the protocols, the aims of the Barcelona Convention are as follows:

- To prevent, abate, combat and, as far as possible to eliminate pollution in the Mediterranean region;
- To protect the environment and contribute towards sustainable development
 - By applying the precautionary principle and the principle that the polluter pays
 - By carrying out environmental impact assessments and improving cooperation between coastal states;
 - By promoting the integrated management of coastal regions
- To take into account the protection of areas of ecological interest and the rational use of natural resources.
- To promote activity towards sustainable development and more dynamic in situ and ex situ conservation of biodiversity;
- To apply the Convention and its protocols
 - By adopting programmes and measures with clearly defined timetables for implementation;
 - By using the best available technology and best environmental practices.
- To prepare and adopt protocols laying down measures, procedures and regulations approved in application of the Convention.
- To promote, within specialised international agencies, measures related to the implementation of sustainable development programmes as well as environmental protection, conservation and rehabilitation.

When all is said and done, the Barcelona Convention and its protocols provide a legal framework and instruments to serve inter-governmental cooperation in the Mediterranean. It should be noted, however, that since they are as yet unratified, four of these new or amended protocols are not applicable, or if so only in their previous version, bearing witness to the laborious nature of the ratification procedures, or to a certain extent a lack of political will on the part of Member States.

2. A STRUCTURED MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Growing interest in the coastal zones

Until 1980, MAP was entirely under the aegis of UNEP; since then most responsibility has been transferred to the Contracting Parties. Since the main aim of the Barcelona Convention in 1976 was to reduce pollution in the Mediterranean and to protect the marine environment, MAP initially focused its activity on controlling marine pollution, since the lack of data added to vague knowledge often justified the lack of initiative and action.

The shake-up of MAP in 1995 made it possible to establish a growing interest in the coastal zones, a human environment par excellence. MAP II was thus called upon to propose strategies likely to solve crucial development problems and to protect our common Mediterranean heritage. These strategies more and more obviously involve greater interest on the part of all actors in Society. MAP's aims are:

- To guarantee the sustainable management of marine and land-based natural resources and to integrate the environment into socio-economic development and into land planning policies;
- To protect the marine environment and coastal regions by preventing pollution;
- To protect wildlife as well as sites and landscapes of ecological or cultural interest;
- To strengthen solidarity between Mediterranean countries in managing their resources and common heritage;
- To contribute to the improvement of living conditions.

Responsible Contracting Parties

Besides the organic links which tie it to UNEP, MAP is also enjoying the renewed political impetus of the Contracting Parties, discussing in full responsibility issues with which they are faced within a renewed convention-based context, and adopting consensus-based decisions which grant them the desired legal nature.

Commitments already entered into by the Contracting Parties concern:

- Conserving biodiversity, ecosystems and endangered plant and animal species.
- Combating pollution caused by cross-border movement and hazardous waste.
- Adopting appropriate legislation.
- Upgrading information and encouraging greater public participation.

An updated programme: MAP II

The 12 priority sectors for action selected in 1995 and to run until 2005 in relation to sustainable development under MAP II concern:

- Integrating the environment and development
- Integrated management of natural resources
- Integrated management of coastal zones
- Waste management
- Agriculture
- Energy and industry
- Transport
- Tourism
- Urban development and the environment
- Information
- Assessing and preventing marine pollution
- Conserving nature, wildlife and the protection of historic and cultural sites.

They are supposed to be viewed as a whole within a global operational approach: sectoral for combating pollution, integrated when it is a question of planning or management to do with resources and the natural heritage, and the coastal area in particular.

Multiple initiatives

MAP's main programmes have dealt with:

- Controlling pollution in the Mediterranean through:
 - building up more scientific knowledge of the basin
 - more credible information about the sources of marine pollution
 - preventing and combating pollution from ships
 - developing international legislation on marine pollution

- Assessing the future of the Mediterranean basin through:
 - evaluating the pressure of human activity on the environment
 - the systemic and prospective exploration of the links between the environment and development
 - providing objective information about sustainable development

- Preserving the natural and cultural heritage of the Mediterranean coastal and marine regions through:
 - combating the degradation of eco-systems, agrarian landscapes and historic sites
 - creating a Mediterranean network of protected areas
 - drawing up a protocol on specially protected areas and biodiversity
 - protecting cultural heritage

- Promoting the integrated management of Mediterranean coastal and marine regions through:
 - studying the littoralisation process
 - applying an integrated approach to coastal management programmes
 - using remote sensing for environmental monitoring purposes
 - studying the consequences of climate change.

- Promoting sustainable development in the Mediterranean basin through:
 - building institutional capacity and strengthening the legal framework
 - strengthening cooperation and partnership
 - promoting information, training and joint action.

Operational Structures

The MAP coordinating unit (MEDU) which was set up in Athens in 1982, is based on the Regional Activity Centres, which represent its real working instruments, providing specific content for its programmes. It has links with several of the United Nations structures. The MED Unit is responsible for planning, organisation, information, and cooperation with inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, and is striving in conjunction to bring about a shared Mediterranean approach to sustainable development. The same Coordinating Unit also acts as Secretariat to the MCSD, which was set up in 1995 as an advisory body within the MAP framework.

MED POL, which was set up in 1975 at the same time as MAP, and is based in Athens, was relaunched in 1981 and 1996. It is a scientific instrument for assessing and controlling pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and has links with the region's scientific communities. It helps build the technical capacity of the research structures in riparian states (MED POL I: 1975-1980).

It prepares national programmes for the long term monitoring of marine pollution, provides a scientific basis for the protocols to the Barcelona Convention, and seeks out sources of land-

based pollution (MED POL II 1981-1995). It assists in controlling pollution by building institutional and human capacities (MED POL III 1996-2005). With the assistance of the GEF and the FFEM, it implements the Strategic Action Programme to combat land-based pollution, adopted in 1997.

REMPEC (Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea) was set up in 1976 in Malta to build States' capacities to intervene against accidental marine pollution through exchange of information, training activities and the preparation of national contingency plans, but also to facilitate cooperation between States in case of accident, particularly through the Regional Information System. It encourages the preparation and implementation of sub-regional agreements for combating accidents affecting neighbouring countries.

The BLUE PLAN/RAC, set up in 1977 in Sophia Antipolis, develops tools for the systemic and prospective exploration of the relations between the environment and development. Three stages have marked its path:

- Firstly to understand (from 1980 to 1984) thanks to an inventory of the state of the environment and development in the Mediterranean basin
- Then to explore (from 1985 to 1988), by preparing trend scenarios and alternatives aimed at the horizon of 2025.
- Finally to propose approaches for sustainable development policies (as of 1989) and provide more specific assistance for aid in decision taking.

The Mediterranean Environment and Development Observatory was created in 1993 within the Blue Plan with European Commission backing in order to provide objective, consistent and reliable information for sustainable development strategies. Within the MAP framework it is based on a network of partners including all of MAP's structures, as well as some regional partners with national observatories.

PAP/RAC, founded in Split in 1977, promotes balanced environmental management through specific, progressive and inter-sectoral planning measures, leading to pilot projects intended to provide a rapid response to countries facing problems of degradation, and where it is essential to introduce a sustainable development process. It helps in the integrated management of coastal regions, particularly working through coastal management programmes.

SPA/RAC, set up in Tunis in 1985, assists countries in increasing their knowledge of biological resources, identifying sites to be protected and promoting the management of areas already under legal protection. It is involved in drawing up national biodiversity conservation strategies, establishes action plans for endangered species, manages documentation concerning the legal instruments related to the protection of threatened species, and organises training with the assistance of the NGOs.

The Atelier du Patrimoine de la Ville de Marseille (APVM) has been running the network of 100 historic Mediterranean sites since 1989, and provides technical assistance in terms of assessing threats, conservation plans and urban legislation.

The ERS/RAC which was set up in Palermo in 1993 encourages and assists the Mediterranean countries in the use of Remote Sensing as a source of information on the state of the sea and coastal areas, and changes thereto, for the purposes of planning and decision-taking. Multidisciplinary cooperation has been applied to observing and classifying plant cover, monitoring changes to the coastal areas, and modelling the dispersal of pollution by sea currents.

The CP/RAC, established in Barcelona in 1995, spreads the concept of clean production to industry in order to encourage the adoption of eco-technology, and the reduction of waste and of discharges, particularly the most toxic kinds.

3.THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE MEDITERRANEAN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The work of the European Union in the Mediterranean, as both a Contracting Party to MAP, one of METAP's partners, and the promoter of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, is of strategic importance; as such, it deserves particular mention.

The Mediterranean has long been an important dimension within European construction and the EU's cooperation with its external partners.

Two of the six founding countries behind European construction, France and Italy, took awareness of Mediterranean issues to its doors; the accession of Greece and Spain was later to further strengthen this component.

The effects of the single market on the development of the Mediterranean countries and regions within the EU are ambivalent: increased consumption and well-being, and the converging trend of standards of living are certainly one of the facets of this economic integration.

Conversely, as was foreseen, the single market is also producing certain critical effects for the environment in terms of goods transport, the production of domestic waste, and the generalisation of non-sustainable consumption patterns.

The structural and cohesion funds are a powerful accompanying instrument within European construction, and one from which the Mediterranean countries and regions of Europe have benefited widely, albeit once again in ambivalent fashion in terms of sustainable development. Although a large share of these funds has allowed the upgrading of public infrastructure, most specifically for the environment, transport, education and health, many infrastructures, particularly in

the road sector, seriously affected the landscape and natural habitats before the advent of measures introduced in recent years in the form of impact assessments, and in order to ensure that regional financing squares with the environmental directives.

Finally, European environmental legislation, an imposing legal construction, has played a major role in the emergence of environmental policies and capacities in the European Mediterranean countries. Despite differences in implementation, directives such as those on the quality of bathing water, large combustion plants, cleaning of urban waste water, management of household waste, and the protection of habitats have made an essential contribution to the progress of national and local environmental policies. This dimension should further crystallise out against the backdrop of the gradual inclusion of the environment within the other European policies. It is also being put across thanks to the exercise being conducted by the Mediterranean candidate countries for accession, as they examine how they conform to the acquis communautaire in the environmental field.

Despite such progress, however, it cannot be claimed that what is being constructed within the Southern European countries is a sustainable development policy as such; available indicators in terms of consumption patterns, transport, coastal use, waste production, urban sprawl and energy consumption express trends which continue to give cause for concern in this respect, which should trigger increased mobilisation towards sustainable development.

The European Union's cooperation and partnership policy with its external Mediterranean partners is already long-

standing; it has led to association agreements being concluded with the aim of developing trade, and to the introduction of the Mediterranean programmes during the 90s, which were an undeniable success before they were then broken off. The importance of instruments such as Life third countries and education and research programmes to environmental policy also needs to be stressed, which involve the Mediterranean third countries to various extents. Since 1995 it has been the Euro-Mediterranean partnership which emerged from the Barcelona Declaration which has provided the basic framework for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation; the partnership proposes the creation of an "area of shared prosperity" in peace and stability and mutual understanding between peoples through multi-dimensional cooperation and a free trade area. The partnership is shored up by a support fund known as the MEDA, endowed with around five billion Euros for the 1995-1999 period.

It has included an environmental dimension since the adoption of the SMAP in 1997, and a specific programme on water.

It should be pointed out that around 7% of MEDA I's appropriations i.e some 235 million Euros, were channelled into the environment.

The EIB's interest in protecting the environment was declared as early as 1982-83, and has been shown in the funding of projects related to water mobilisation, air pollution, the urban environment, controlling erosion, and the system for supplying natural gas; its role in Mediterranean cooperation has been substantially increased.

Thus between 1991 and 1996 the EIB granted Mediterranean countries 3,045 million ECUs in the form of long term loans and risk capital for developing partnerships and the private sector. 46% of total interventions involved bilateral loans: the remainder was used to finance infrastructure and environmental projects of regional interest within the framework of

horizontal cooperation. Under the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the EIB is expected to grant around 5 billion Euros to support horizontal projects, in the awareness that interest rates for environmental components tend to be of a soft nature. The EIB is associated with the European Union, UNDP and the World Bank as a METAP partner.

Does the Euro-Mediterranean partnership contribute to the sustainable development of the partner countries and the region? With insufficient hindsight as yet, only partial answers can be given to this question.

Evidently the partnership's environmental facet is a positive input, in spite of slow implementation here and there. For all that, the sustainable development issue cannot simply be boiled down to environmental policy, no matter how active it may be.

In this context, the partnership has encouraged the mobilisation of civil society, particularly through the organisation of "civil forums". Questions concerning the potential impact of the free trade area became more urgent as the prospect gradually took shape. The Mediterranean NGOs in particular have expressed growing concern on this front. This is reflected in the documents published by Friends of the Earth and the WWF, which in an article entitled "12 Principles for a sustainable MEDA" (March 2000) calls for an "assessment of the sustainable character of the Mediterranean free trade area". The work to be undertaken by the EU bodies in conjunction with the work which the MCSD has also begun should answer the questions which also arose on this point during the Stuttgart civil forum on the environment (April 1999) and the recent debate in the European Parliament (September 2000) on the implementation of the MEDA programme. This debate gave rise to a resolution which calls in particular for a "participation based strategic assessment process to look at the social and environmental impact of the Euro-Mediterranean free trade area".

(Report dated 19 July 2000, No. A5-0205/2000).

Apart from questions related to the impact of the Mediterranean free trade area, the entire partnership should in fact be assessed from the point of view of its contribution to sustainable development.

The document entitled "Revitalising the Barcelona Process", which was prepared for the brainstorming meeting of the European Mediterranean Foreign Affairs Ministers (Lisbon, 25-26 May 2000) is not particularly forthcoming on this point.

In June 2000, the European Council meeting in Santa Maria da Feira (Portugal) adopted a "joint strategy on the Mediterranean region".

Although sustainable development and environmental protection are not actually mentioned as objectives as such, there are nonetheless signs of this concern in those areas of activity where there is an apparent need to integrate "environmental

concerns with the aim of ensuring the sustainability of economic development".

This somewhat limitative wording shows the predominance of the European Union's economic objectives in the Mediterranean.

Given the exceptional arena for application which the Mediterranean could provide thanks to its ecological and socio-economic characteristics for the preparation of a partnership-based sustainable development policy between Europe and the Mediterranean third countries, and given in particular the solidarity and multi-faceted exchange, and particularly the role of European tourism in the Mediterranean, which should make a more marked contribution to environmental management, and considering also the combination of proposals coming from many different quarters, civil society, and the European Parliament, it can only be hoped that in the near future sustainable development will become one of the cornerstones of this partnership.

4. METAP

Launched in 1989 at the initiative of the World Bank as an operational instrument within the Mediterranean Environment Programme (MEP) involving the EIB, UNDP and the EC, the METAP (Mediterranean Environment Technical Assistance Programme) has developed a specific strategy on sustainable development for 14 countries in the region, and provides a Mediterranean framework for the exchange of experience and expertise between actors concerned by common problems: local, national and regional communities, public and private bodies, civil society, governmental and non-governmental organisations.

The support it provides concerns:

- Identifying and preparing projects
- Building environmental management capacity
- Preparing and implementing sustainable environmental policies
- Mobilising funds for environmental investment.

During its first two stages (1990-95) METAP concentrated on the priority themes which were as follows:

- Integrated management of water resources
- Management of solid and hazardous waste
- Prevention and control of marine pollution
- Management of coastal areas, with particular attention being paid to the urban environment, capacity building and institutional development.

For its third phase, (1996-2000) and at the end of the consultation process with partners, the projects selected fall within the following three areas:

- Integrated management of water resources and coastal regions
- Prevention and control of pollution in sensitive areas
- Capacity building, promoting the participatory approach and partnership.

4.1 Activities implemented

Over the course of a decade (1990-2000) METAP will have mobilised a total of around 59 million dollars to fund its technical assistance activities. During the first two phases METAP utilised 58% of the funds mobilised for project identification activities, and 36% for capacity building. The necessary coordination of effort and the opening up towards an extended partnership to encourage the exchange of experience, knowledge and information, led METAP to develop work in workshops and seminars open to the whole gamut of regional actors in sustainable development. The CITET (Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies) is developing a regional project in this context on capacity building for impact assessments, involving 14 Mediterranean countries.

The idea of working in networks centred on priority themes for the Mediterranean basin took front stage:

- **MEDCITIES** for promoting decentralised cooperation and the institutionalised development of coastal towns
- **MEDBRANCH**, developed within the Regional Programme for Capacity Building aimed at building national water management and pollution abating capacities in sensitive areas.
- **MED POLICIES** for promoting sustainable economic growth through the integration of environmental concerns in economic and budgetary policy.
- **MED-ECOMEDIA** for awareness raising and information.

Phases I and II of METAP were based on the conclusions of the "Environment Programme for the Mediterranean" report that was prepared following a consultation process with METAP National Focal Points. Initially, METAP was conceived as a stand-in tool given the dearth of appropriate policies and institutional instruments needed in the implementation of

any sustainable development policy. For the third phase (1996-2000), a more pragmatic approach was chosen, which clarifies METAP's thrust and overall aims, as well as the methodological approach adopted to ensure the programme's effectiveness and coherence, and which upgrades the role of the partner countries as parties to technical assistance activities.

The consultation process followed made it possible to draw up and endorse a portfolio of projects per country, within the framework of common priorities corresponding to real needs. The national process of identifying priorities and real needs as applied in the partner countries was done through a series of workshops in each country concerned. However, the consultations may not have systematically taken into account all the national actors involved in sustainable development. Nonetheless the consultation process did result in the Regional Unit being set up in Cairo, which is expected to facilitate and increase possibilities of processes working between METAP and its regional partners.

4.2 METAP's ability to mobilise

There is a cause-effect relationship between METAP's ability to mobilise resources and the interest shown by the partner countries in its activities. METAP's success in the region and its ability to influence its partners' policies towards sustainable development therefore greatly depends on the financial means implemented. For the METAP I and METAP II programmes from a total of almost 31 million dollars, 28.5 % of this funding comes from both the European Union and the EIB, with 16.5% coming from both the UNDP and the World Bank, and 10% from other sources.

The METAP III programme has been affected by two limiting factors:

- the considerable mismatch between the funds actually made available for project studies and the ambitions flagged up in 1995 at the launch of the third phase, which served as a basis for mobilizing the countries (around 30 and 120 million dollars respectively).
- The programme studies produced by METAP have not always been followed by the preparation of feasibility and investment studies for related projects.

4.3 Cooperation with MAP

METAP's cooperation with MAP should be assessed in terms of the synergy established between activities and competences for promoting sustainable development throughout the Mediterranean. Since the implementation of METAP III, the Partners have recognized the need for METAP's activities to be implemented in accordance with MAP II and the other initiatives underway in the region.

The need to create new operational cooperation mechanisms between METAP and MAP was expressed anew in 1997 following the Euro-Mediterranean Conference, in order to achieve the effective implementation of its recommendations.

Thus the Strategic Actions Programme (SAP) for the elimination of marine pollution in the Mediterranean, which was launched by MAP within the framework of the Protocol on land-based pollution, will have METAP support in those sections relating to pre-investment studies in sensitive areas, national action plans and capacity building.

Similarly, METAP has cooperated with several of MAP's Regional Activity Centres (RACs); this applies in particular to the Blue Plan in the implementation of the Regional Programme of Environmental Performance Indicators, in order to increase national capacities to assess the impact of decisions adopted, policies applied and projects implemented, through the organisation of five regional and sub-regional workshops, the aim of which was to identify

indicators for the follow-up and assessment of environmental strategies in the fields of air pollution, solid waste, management of natural resources and water demand. METAP cooperation with Blue Plan/RAC is thus on-going on the "free trade and the environment theme" through its MED POLICIES programme, with PAP/RAC on the integrated planning of coastal zones, and with SPA/RAC on the biodiversity of the specially protected areas.

There is, however, as yet no genuine arena for dialogue and coordination on the implementation of regional cooperation mechanisms between MAP and its regional partners including METAP. It is clear that collective and coordinated efforts among the various regional actors concerned would prove more productive than the sum total of individual efforts. What prevails is a vision and interests, which are on occasion divergent, which causes duplication and confusion within the activities conducted, thus hampering the dovetailing of long term cooperation strategies and mechanisms.

5. OTHER MULTILATERAL ACTORS

5.1 CEDARE

Operational as of 1993, CEDARE concerns 32 Arab and European countries. It currently enjoys the support of the Egyptian government, IFAD and the IDB, usually on a project basis, as well as that of other organisations such as UNEP.

The priority programmes within CEDARE concern:

- The management of soil and water resources;
- The management of coastal zone resources;
- Urbanisation and human settlements
- The socio-economic aspects of sustainable development.

CEDARE has an environmental information and a documentation unit, both of which are operational.

CEDARE's own human resources have still not been fully established to an extent which would allow technical assistance activities to be covered, in order to prepare global strategies, and to promote participatory local governance towards sustainable development. Ten or so professionals, most of them expert advisors, make up the team which is responsible for piloting activities. The finances mobilised by CEDARE between 1992 and 1999 amounted to 9.1 million dollars. An analysis of expenditure for one year shows basically that 40% of resources went into the four priority programmes, 40% into information-documentation-education-awareness raising and 10% into technical assistance for impact assessments.

The preferred tools for supporting national institutions in terms of technical assistance are:

- Euro-Arab twinning between institutions responsible for environmental management.
- The sub-contracting of certain activities by specialised institutions, universities, local authorities, the private sector and NGOs.
- The networking of public and private national institutions as well as regional and international ones such as:
 - The Arab network against desertification
 - The regional electronic network for freshwater resources
 - The Arab and Mediterranean network of environmental economists
 - The regional network on sustainable development.

CEDARE's cooperation with the League of Arab States slots into the framework of the Joint Committee for the Environment and Development for the Arab Region (ICEDAR); this cooperation has been expressed in the form of a dozen activities. It also works alongside the METAP, contributing to some of its activities under the Regional Capacity Building Programme.

CEDARE's collaboration with MAP was the subject of a memorandum in 1997 on training activities, information and translation into Arabic of MAP publications, such as some monographs of

5.2 The League of Arab States

Created in 1945, it acts as an instrument of concertation between the 22 member states and is the European Union's interlocutor within the Euro-Arab dialogue. It works alongside various regional organisations in implementing activities related to sustainable development, although it is not easy for it to work out any real strategy of its own with its concerns being first and foremost of a political nature. In this respect, the Council of Arab Ministers for the Environment could play an important driving role towards regional cooperation and sustainable development.

5.3 The Islamic Development Bank

Set up in Jeddah in 1975, it aims at the economic development and social advancement of its 53 members, 9 of them Mediterranean. The IDB's financial and technical support essentially assists public institutions in terms of investment in all sectors of production based on techno-financial criteria. 12% of total investments have been ploughed into the private sector. Although it recognises the importance of taking account of the environmental dimension in the projects which it finances, this element is still not the object of any specifically established strategy, with the exception of certain one-off activities; It co-finances certain investments with international, regional and national development organisations. Its cooperation with the NGOs is, however, very limited, albeit destined to grow in the fields of information exchange, micro credit and technical assistance.

5.4 The bodies within the United Nations system

Over recent decades the aims of international cooperation have developed as changes have come about within the global and strategic economic and political context. Originally its aim was principally to assist in bridging the gap between national savings and investment needs, to contribute to economic growth, and to compensate for the lack of hard currency; food security, education and health along with the building of infrastructures were the prime cooperation objectives. At a later stage environmental considerations and participation by civil society were tacked onto these objectives, which have recently been completed by the search for sustainability in many forms. The driving force behind such cooperation, however, continues to be the improvement of market mechanisms and instruments within the context of market liberalisation and globalisation.

Nonetheless, the last decade proved difficult for cooperation purposes because of:

regional interest. Some workshops co-organised with MAP's structures have helped in the promotion of certain good practices. However, CEDARE's involvement in MAP's activities has still not reached desired levels.

CEDARE would benefit from using its Mediterranean anchor point to serve as a contact and to develop those activities within MAP which it feels are of particular interest throughout the rest of the Arab region, particularly since several of the Arab countries are Contracting Parties and members of the MCSA.

- The unchanging if not decreasing amounts being granted to cooperation;
- Criticism if not rejection of forms of cooperation which are not adequately focused on capacity building and technology transfer/acquisition.

Generally speaking, however, such criticism was levelled less at multilateral than at bilateral cooperation, whose political, ideological and commercial interests are more obvious. Despite the global objectives flagged up, international financial agencies continue to prefer the “project” as opposed to the “programme” approach, and much less so the sustainable development approach.

Moreover, cooperation between the multifarious United Nations agencies in their programmes and activities is still at a low ebb, leading to duplication and increased running costs.

Although the technical assistance provided by the United Nations Agencies is still important in terms of national capacity building, much still remains to be done towards the effective integration of social, economic and environmental considerations in the search for and construction of sustainable development; the Mediterranean region could well act as a pilot region.

Since Rio, the bodies within the United Nations system have been invited to act within the context of sustainable development. UNEP, the UNDP, FAO and UNESCO are members of the United Nations Inter-agency Committee for sustainable development. It is no easy task to assess their work in the Mediterranean, given that the programmes are specific to each of the countries in the region, and that the projects hail from various specialised agencies, without there being any built-in coordination between them. The same applies to the activities of the World Bank, the WHO, and other United Nations agencies. Consequently, their activities will be presented at this stage in a somewhat descriptive form (see Annex II). Nonetheless, this brief presentation should allow those activities of interest to MAP to be identified, and cooperation and synergy to be strengthened.

6. THE MAIN GROUPS FROM WITHIN SOCIETY

The role of the main groups in society, particularly the environmental NGOs, local authorities, scientists, women, and economic actors has grown in strength over the last decade. NGO participation in MAP’s work and activities, the creation of the MED networks and programmes, the Euro-Mediterranean partnership’s civil forums, and the networks set up or supported by METAP have made a major contribution to the emergence of these groups on the Mediterranean scene.

Timidly called for in 1982 in the framework of the Barcelona Convention’s Protocol on specially protected areas, the participation of Society was only explicitly recognised post Rio, with UNCED having officially adopted the concept of sustainable development, whose social dimension implies amongst other things major changes in terms of awareness raising, education and participation. The commitment and involvement of the main groups in Society was then felt to be essential to the implementation of Agenda 21. The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention decided at a very early stage to express the spirit of this change at regional level.

Thus:

- The Contracting Parties promised to involve the local, provincial and regional authorities in preparing the activity programmes for MAP II, and as far as their implementation went, to involve NGOs active in the fields of environmental protection and sustainable development as well as organisations from the economic sectors.
- The **Barcelona Resolution** (1995) calls for increased support for and involvement of international, regional and national NGOs as well as the public, and invites all the socio-economic actors concerned and in particular the local, scientific and educational communities, companies and NGOs to become involved in implementing MAP II.
- The priority activities selected for the years between 1996 and 2005 include amongst others:
 - Developing methodologies to apply the participatory approach in the decision-taking process related to sustainable development, at national and local level.
 - Promoting public awareness raising
 - Informing the public about the scientific and technical data produced by MAP
- The amended Barcelona Convention comprises a commitment by the Parties to provide the public with appropriate access to information, and the opportunity to take part in the decision-taking process coming within the scope of implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, and to accept all those NGOs whose activities are related to the Convention and to MAP to the meetings and conferences as observers.
- The protocol on specially protected areas and biodiversity in the Mediterranean (1995) specifies the very broad possibilities for involving the groups from within Society, and its association with the work of the Contracting Parties in terms of impact assessment measures, planning and management, and coordination.
- The involvement of the main groups from Society is nowadays recognised as being essential since it highlights the political process which legitimises the institutions.

Insofar as MAP is active well beyond the strictly scientific area, opportunities for the participation of the main groups in Society exist in practically all programmes. These opportunities should be grasped, as is recalled by the recommendations on MAP-NGO cooperation: competent regional NGOs shall cooperate individually or collectively (networks) in applying programmes through quality contributions to MAP's policy and research projects.

Such participation has already been seen in the areas of information, public awareness, environmental education, public participation, tourism, sea turtles, cetaceans, and marine plantlife. If MAP were to draw up standard terms of reference for participation by different categories of activity, this would facilitate future participation by introducing greater transparency and efficiency.

6.1 The three main groups in Society which are MCSD partners

Insofar as the main groups within Society embrace virtually the entire community, the question of its representation within the MCSD is not without complications. The representative nature of the three groups selected by the Contracting Parties could be cause for discussion:

- The local authorities are frequently an integral part of governmental structures. In any case, they share in the exercising of political power;
- The professional organisations are well organised and have a long history of active participation in public affairs and the defence of their common interests.

- The environmental NGOs, on the contrary, devoid of any tradition, provide the least stable and most shaky structures in terms of continuity of action and group solidarity, often reacting spontaneously to specific events.

The participation of local authorities, the NGOs, socio-economic actors and other groups in the decision-taking process related to sustainable development amounts in itself to major recognition by the Mediterranean governments and the European Union of their importance and potential contribution. This represents the legitimisation of their activities, removing the misunderstanding which affected many of their activities in the past, and created the feeling that:

- Overly go-getting local authorities could possibly be seen as a threat to national unity and central power.
- Overly active NGOs could sometimes be accused of interfering in the political decision-taking process without having the necessary legitimacy.
- Socio-economic actors taking environmental initiatives could be suspected of actually acting in their own interests.

The local authorities

The widening of the territorial scope of action of the Barcelona Convention has led MAP II to pay particular attention to the communes, provinces and coastal regions. These local authorities are destined to become powerful potential partners for the Contracting Parties at a time when decentralisation policies in several Mediterranean riparian states are ensuring the transfer to them of considerable decision-taking powers and resources, and making this type of direct contact politically acceptable. It would be fair to say that only the coastal communities have a history of direct exchange stretching back over thousands of years, through the system of twinned towns and associations of Mediterranean towns and, more recently, with the MedCities network. On the upper echelons, the provinces and regions have only recently started to use their new autonomous powers to establish contacts and exchange.

The coastal towns were involved in MAP from a very early stage, hosting inter-governmental meetings and conferences, working parties, Regional Activity Centres, Coastal Management Programmes, etc. A new development is gradually coming about with the implementation of local Agendas 21 as instruments to involve Society in all its facets in local level decision-taking, along the lines of the initiative taken by the City of Rome or Calvià Municipality. The MCSD would benefit from capitalising on the experience built up through the implementation of these local Agendas 21.

The local authorities provide their knowledge of the area, and in particular of the problems raised by the hands-on daily management of environmental problems related to their citizens; their expertise is particularly appreciated on matters of spatial planning, water management, sanitation and household waste, and transport policy.

There is no doubt that the contribution which local authorities have made to sustainable development matters, particularly through the MEDCITIES network, represents a tremendous potential, the scope of which is only just beginning to be understood. It is essential that the Contracting Parties encourage local authority participation, and ensure that their communes, provinces and coastal regions can contribute to the implementation of the commitments which national governments entered into when they adopted MAP II and the revised Barcelona Convention and its protocols.

The NGOs

The NGOs are highly active at local and national as well as regional level.

Two types of NGO networks should be mentioned at regional level:

- NGOs with specific concerns: NGOs of Mediterranean importance in this category, such as MEDWET and MEDASSET (Mediterranean Association for the protection of marine turtles) carry out public awareness raising campaigns, monitoring projects, and scientific and educational programmes. They contribute to MAP's scientific programme and provide substantial input to the planning of long term development in the region. New forms of collaboration are developing, moreover, for example between governmental organisations and the NGOs in the case of MEDWET, which is active in wetland conservation.
- NGO networks on a Mediterranean scale such as: MIO-ECSDE (Mediterranean Information Office for the Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development) which is actually a Mediterranean federation of NGOs organised for participation, international debate and consensus seeking, or MED Forum (a network of Mediterranean NGOs for the environment and sustainable development), which is a network of environmental and ecological organisations dedicated to conserving and protecting the environment.

The NGOs provide a new, critical and demanding vision which adds to the quality of the regional debate on the environment and sustainable development, as well as great knowledge- particularly scientific- of environmental problems and initiatives taken in order to solve them.

The socio-economic actors

The socio-economic sector is relatively disorganised at Mediterranean level, with the exception of the Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce (ASCAME). This is related to the complexity of the economic fabric, comprised of numerous small and medium sized enterprises, the public industrial sector which is still very much present, and multinationals which are active in the various countries in the region.

The scale of the problems generated by industry, tourism, transport and agriculture throughout the whole region would justify greater structuring by the economic sector, which would also make more appropriate representation possible within the MCSD.

Nowadays it is difficult to identify regional style initiatives by this sector towards more sustainable economic development. Obviously this does not in any way detract from the value of what can be undertaken at company level or within the local or national context to abate pollution or better manage natural resources.

6.2 Other components from Society

Particular attention should in fact be paid to all the groups specifically referred to in Agenda Med 21: Women (chapter XXIV), children and young people (chapter XXV), indigenous communities (chapter XXVI), workers and trade unions (chapter XXIX) and scientific and technical communities (chapter XXXI).

Consumer associations exert tremendous influence on family spending choices, particularly in Europe, in terms of consumption and production patterns towards a sustainable society. Communicators (the audiovisual branch in particular, which allows the active population to

be reached), should no longer be seen as mouthpieces for declarations or pre-prepared press dossiers. The MCSD provides MAP with the opportunity of drawing on the professional know-how of these communicators, involving a press group as a partner.

Children and young people represent the largest share of the population in the countries on the Southern rim and as such figure prominently in Agenda Med 21. Initiatives need to be taken in this field, such as the Mediterranean Children's Conference held in Tunis in 1997. In the countries on the Northern rim, on the contrary, there is a noticeable ageing of the population. With financial resources, experience and free time these older members of society are concerned about the world which they are expected to leave for future generations, and make up a motivated fringe of Society which could well contribute towards sustainable development. Finally, there is an obvious lack of experts from the scientific and academic world within the MCSD.

IV. THE MCSD: SYSTEM AND ACTIVITIES

An evolving approach

The activities undertaken since 1995 by MAP's structures are largely related to the provisions of Agenda Med 21 and to the priority areas selected under MAP II. Agenda Med 21 has been an excellent exercise in dialogue between the riparian states, aware of the fact that the Mediterranean could provide an example of a pilot eco-region requiring an adapted form of Agenda 21, which was too global to be able to tackle all of the specific regional peculiarities. Some 700 recommendations related to the different subjects covered by the 41 relevant chapters of Agenda Med 21 comprise the accepted principles likely to strengthen the effect of synergy between countries, in the interests of sustainable development and the environment.

The 12 priorities selected by MAP II for the decade spanning 1995-2005 only refer to 15 of the 41 chapters in Agenda Med 21. Transport, the conservation of nature, landscapes and sites were deemed to be priorities, even though they are not covered by a specific chapter in Agenda Med 21. The eight themes tackled to date by the MCSD as activity programmes for its working groups cover the following issues:

- Water demand management
- Sustainable management of coastal regions
- Indicators for sustainable development
- Tourism
- Information, awareness raising, environmental education and participation
- Free trade and the environment
- Industry
- Urban development

It was felt to be a good idea for a working group to tackle the "free trade and the environment" issue, even though there is no reference to it either in the priorities under MAP II or in Agenda Med 21. Similarly, the theme of the "Information, awareness raising, environmental education and participation" group goes beyond the scope of the priority established in MAP II, which only refers to information, particularly as the final report also includes environmental education.

Four issues seen as priorities under MAP II- waste management, agriculture, transport and the conservation of nature, landscapes and sites- have, on the contrary, not been tackled to date. Apart from the difficulty which it presents in terms of differences of assessment between the Contracting Parties, the selection of new themes to be dealt with in the MCSD also raises the problem of criteria and procedures as well as the further- reaching issue of the very status of the MCSD and its vocation within MAP.

Most of the activities organised by the MCSD working groups have produced recommendations, which have been adopted by the Contracting Parties.

1. GENERAL CONTEXT, TRENDS AND UNCERTAINTIES

Future trends

Those of MAP's activities which are related to sustainable development can best be seen within the broader context of the socio-economic situation and the major trends which are appearing:

- Impact of the globalisation process
- Strengthening of the main groups in Society, the participatory process and the role of the NGOs.
- A rise in ecological awareness within society at all levels, and particularly as far as trade and industry are concerned.
- Free trade policies.
- Impact of new technologies, clean production and information technology.

Since sustainable development is globally accepted nowadays as the general conceptual framework for the preparation and assessment of national development policies, it is the regional, national and local peculiarities which condition its implementation in practice. In the case of MAP, the distinction between the regional, sub-regional and national levels of implementation of sustainable development will be more relevant in the future than it is today.

MAP's drive for sustainable development is strategic. It corresponds to a need, since current trends will become even more marked in the future; they will be more specifically formulated, and will be provided with tools, methods, programmes and the necessary means of action.

The setting up of the MCSD and the implementation of its programme have brought additional activities into MAP, which are being developed within a broader programming framework, and to a certain extent redirected. This will inevitably have an impact on MAP's strategy as well as on the institutional and organisational aspects of its operations, and its budget.

It is, however, unlikely that there will be any substantial change in the level of contributions paid by the Contracting Parties to finance MAP's activities. The need to seek external funding through cooperation will to some degree influence the volume of programmes as well as the institutional arrangements of the MAP system itself.

And Uncertainties

Uncertainties related to the global Mediterranean context should be taken into account. They concern the necessary political stability, a general upgrading of the level of scientific knowledge, and the long-term impact of climate change and pollution on eco-systems and health. They are also related to the lessening or, on the contrary, the widening, of the gap which separates the levels of development between North and South, with the resulting consequences for MAP's strategy, its programme, and its institutional arrangements.

Account therefore needs to be taken of:

- 2 - The possibility of greater involvement, particularly of a financial nature, in certain aspects of sustainable development at sub-regional, national and local level in relation to specific areas or activities.
- 2 - Possible changes to the status, thrust, role and workings of the MCSD, implying changes to the way in which the MAP system functions.
- Activities which would fall under the aegis of the MCSD as opposed to MED POL and the other Regional Activity Centres, by adapting their programmes.
- Possibilities for ensuring the external financing of the MCSD's operational activities.

Since 1995 MAP's basic documents have provided the legal framework for taking account of sustainable development in all of its activities: amended Barcelona Convention and Protocols, Agenda MED 21, MAP Phase II, reports from meetings of the Contracting Parties, and the MCSD terms of reference and composition. In this respect, these documents have basically:

- Set up the MCSD as a forum for open dialogue within the MAP framework, in order to provide advice on programmes and prepare recommendations for the Contracting Parties.
- Defined the activities to be undertaken by the MCSD supported by the Coordinating Unit and the appropriate Regional Activity Centres.
- Called upon the Contracting Parties to take full account of MCSD recommendations.
- Asked for correct representation of the main groups in Society within the MCSD.
- Declared that public information and participation are essential dimensions in sustainable development policies.
- Called upon the MCSD to look into the feasibility of setting up a special fund for nature conservation programmes and integrated coastal management.
- Prepared the basic programming directives related to sustainable development and the MCSD, particularly regarding:
 - Preparing and implementing a Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development
 - Preparing respective national strategies
 - Preparing and developing a regional framework and a programme for an Environmental Action Plan
 - Creating structures such as National Commissions for Sustainable Development

The MCSD: a representative think-tank

The MCSD identifies and evaluates major economic, environmental and social problems in the spirit of Agenda Med 21. It is expected to track the implementation of the proposals it forwards to the Contracting Parties, and to promote cooperation and information exchange concerning activities related to sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

Broadly open to participation from the main groups in Society, sitting on an equal footing alongside governmental representatives, the MCSD has innovated in this field by opening its doors to local authorities as well as NGOs and socio-economic actors. It is quite representative as a result.

The MCSD: detrimental flaws

The following comments can be made on the basis of an assessment of how the Commission operates:

The Commission's terms of reference and composition

Some of the activities listed in the MCSD's terms of reference are of an operational nature, not corresponding to the idea of the forum for open dialogue which it should represent. This has an effect on the way in which the system operates, since the scope and volume of its activities is thus extended. The programming guidelines approved by the 10th and 11th ordinary meetings of the Contracting Parties have strengthened the MCSD's operational activities, with the result that there is some overlap with the terms of reference and work programmes of the Regional Activity Centres, as well as institutional and staffing problems within the Coordinating Unit in particular.

The terms of reference do not deal with procedural issues and in particular make no mention of assessing and following up the decisions approved by the Contracting Parties, which has created a degree of ambiguity concerning the MCSD's role within MAP.

The basic composition of the MCSD with 21 out of 36 representatives hailing from the Contracting Parties leads to a degree of predominance of governmental representation compared with the other members representing the NGOs, Local Authorities and Socio-economic Actors. In practice, it is *often* the same representatives of the Contracting Parties in the MCSD who discuss the latter's recommendations during the meetings of MAP national focal points, and who are later involved in taking decisions at the ordinary meetings of the Contracting Parties: the same individuals advising themselves, only wearing different hats.

Although they are high ranking as is required, the representatives of the Contracting Parties in the MCSD are usually officials from the ministry of the environment. In several cases they are national focal points for MAP or the Regional Activity Centres shouldering additional responsibilities over and above their other obligations vis a vis MAP. The relations of these representatives with the national structures responsible for sustainable development, such as the NCSDs, insofar as they exist, are not always clearly defined. Due to the relatively limited number of members from the other three groups, their representativity is somewhat limited in view of the diversity of conditions and problems which prevail in the region. However, if the representatives of the 3 groups were to participate more actively in the MCSD's activities, this would no doubt help to dispel the impression of governmental

Moreover, given the different lengths of mandate, any "equal footing" treatment of members representing the Contracting Parties and those from the main groups in Society should in practice be treated with caution. The MCSD's "continuity" regarding the representatives of the three groups mentioned does not go without saying, given their short mandates. The document does not regulate the question of checking the MCSD's work, and the guidance to be provided by MAP. In the case of the MCSD, such guidance should be seen as operational, and intended to retain these activities within the established MAP framework.

The current institutional solution and the way in which the MCSD operates are on the one hand defined by MAP's status within UNEP as a specific organisation for regional cooperation at inter-governmental level, and on the other hand by a realistic approach to the limited funding available. This should be accepted as an objective framework. Other options for improving the situation are, however, not ruled out.

The programming structure

The range of themes to be dealt with by the MCSD is not restrictive, which implies consequences for the workings of the system. Although the working method is not being brought into question, it would appear that the national focal points are not fully and constantly apprised of activities within the working groups to which they do not belong. All things considered the working method has proven rather effective and inexpensive. The operational details do however need to be more clearly defined within the MCSD's terms of reference, and in particular:

- The question of what fate awaits activities once the recommendations have been approved by

The MCSD's inter-relations with the other components of MAP: roles needing to be clarified

The role of the Coordinating Unit and the Regional Activity Centres would benefit from being more clearly defined:

- The operational activities should be clearly defined as coming under the responsibility of the Regional Activity Centres and MED POL in so far as they are an integral part of the system and are well-suited to implementing them, having the knowledge required and the practical experience with preparing documents, applying procedures, drafting recommendations and assessing how feasible they are.
- Two-way communication should be improved, for example by using the meetings between the Coordinating Unit and the directors of the Regional Activity Centres to discuss with members or the MCSD's steering committee how the centres can be focused towards sustainable development.
- The responsibilities incumbent upon the Coordinating Unit should be clearly defined as concerns:
 - Providing the necessary logistical support
 - Documentary information about the structures of MAP
 - Harmonising the activities of the Regional Activity Centres in relation to the MCSD
 - Foreign relations, particularly as far as international cooperation is concerned
 - Follow-up once recommendations have been adopted
 - Providing documentary information to the MCSD on the results of such follow-up
- The Coordinating Unit and the Regional Activity Centres concerned cannot be exempted from the responsibility of preparing workable recommendations. The latter should be separate, and be presented apart from other recommendations of a general political nature to be used as guidelines. The MCSD would benefit from studying the activities of MAP's Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP) and from gravitating more heavily towards the practical aspects related to development at sub-national and local level. The questions identified by the MCSD's working groups should be dealt with at the level of new coastal areas management programmes.
- If all of these recommendations were to be taken on board, a reshuffle of roles within the Coordinating Unit would definitely be required.

MAP's internal procedures: improvements to be introduced

There are opportunities for improving the way in which the system works within the context of MCSD activities and on the general level of MAP.

The measures to be considered are related to the following aspects:

- The need for greater political involvement by governments in implementing recommendations, as well as increased financial contributions from countries.
- The need to identify more appropriate performance indicators when programme proposals are being drawn up.
- The need for an environmental monitoring, follow-up and assessment network.
- The need for the MCSD to pre-assess the sustainable development thrust of programmes.
- The need to better define respective responsibility and to harmonise the programmes of the various MAP components during joint meetings between the Coordinating Unit and the directors of the Centres to take account of the respective MCSD recommendations in preparing the biennial programmes.
- The need to change the format of the national reports to be drawn up by the Contracting Parties in order to obtain an explicit report on how the MCSD's recommendations have been implemented.
- The need to introduce explicit comments in documents for submission to the ordinary meetings of the Contracting Parties on what progress has been made, using performance indicators, and on how each Contracting Party has implemented the recommendations adopted at ordinary meetings and the MCSD.
- The need to entrust the Coordinating Unit with responsibility for follow-up. The results of this follow-up should be submitted to the MCSD and included in the progress report to be submitted to the ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties.

The national context: towards an MCSD- NCSO partnership

This concerns the national focal points, the Contracting Parties and the various segments of Society.

- The role and obligations of MAP focal points are well known. There are, however, certain weaknesses in terms of their position within governmental structures which do not have the necessary technical and other means to fulfil their obligations. An in-depth analysis of how national focal points are performing, including questions related to the countries and recommendations to the Contracting Parties would greatly contribute towards improving the efficiency of the MAP system as a whole, thereby improving the workings of the various components of the system involved in MAP's sustainable development line. An explicit report on the performance of the national focal points and the Contracting Parties in terms of their obligations vis a vis the recommendations they have adopted, using an amended format of the national reports, would put the ordinary meetings of the Contracting Parties in a better position in terms of a critical approach likely to improve the way the system operates.
- Better understanding of the relevant institutional aspects of national decision-taking and the related implementation system would allow "workable" recommendations to be prepared, and more specific approaches to be adopted in the case of commitments addressed to the Contracting Parties.

This is one of the contributions expected of the national focal points belonging to the MCSD.

- MAP and the MCSD would benefit from giving practical expression to their declarations of principle in favour of promoting and assisting the setting up of National Commissions on Sustainable Development. Cooperation should be established between the MCSD and the National Commissions for Sustainable Development or equivalent national structures. It would even be logical for representatives of the Contracting Parties to the MCSD to be selected from their respective NCSDs. It would be reasonable for consensus to be established amongst the Contracting Parties as well as formal conditions allowing national representatives to the MCSD to be appointed from these bodies, thus institutionalising a harmonised MCSD/NCSD network. At the same time, MAP's national Focal Points should have their own place and their own role to play within these national structures.
- Finally, direct cooperation with the NCSDs on programming and pilot action should greatly contribute to MAP/MCSD activities and drum up additional outside funding.

The external context: more clear-cut selection

International cooperation related to sustainable development- a point insisted upon by Contracting Parties- affects the way in which the MAP system operates. International cooperation and the involvement of structures external to MAP in sustainable development activities and the MCSD are governed by the MCSD's founding documents, and in part by MAP criteria on cooperation with NGOs.

Although MAP's current international cooperation is implemented as an established and partly institutionalised process, there are actually no specific documents on MAP's international cooperation policy. The system works, recommendations on enhancing cooperation have been approved, target partners have been listed, and the policy of a fair geographical distribution of partners is being applied. The term "enhanced" cooperation does not, however, imply either practical objectives, means of cooperation nor expected benefits. What is clearly lacking is an in-depth analysis of the policy, aims, benefits and possible improvements, including the impact on how the system operates.

Obviously any assessment of how the system is working in terms of international cooperation on sustainable development and MCSD activities is complicated by the lack of any broader, established operational and institutional context. Nonetheless there is a need:

- To define: selection criteria for the international partners to be involved, the aims and means of cooperation (active involvement, participation in meetings, exchange of information and results), and procedures.
- To take a selective approach regarding potential international partners depending on the issues to be tackled, focusing selection on the best qualified.
- To have institutionalised cooperation with the NCSDs, aimed at setting up a specific partnership within a MAP/NCSD network.
- To set up, as an initial step in this direction, a MAP/MCSD meeting with the NCSDs: MCSD Coordinating Committee, MAP Coordinating Unit, representatives of the NCSDs.
- To establish contact with the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development, to lead to on-going and formal cooperation enabling MAP to play a clearly defined role.
- To organise networking and a website with an eye to wide-ranging cooperation with the main groups in Society, but also careful selection of participants for the working groups.

The MCSD and the main groups in Society: roles to be strengthened

Within the limits of the five available seats for each of the three categories from Society, the MCSD has attempted to reconcile the need for representativity and continuity, applying selection on the one hand, and rotation on the other. Furthermore, the participation of members from Society in meetings and thematic working parties has not always been sustained. Overall, they do not appear to have always grasped the opportunity being offered them by the Contracting Parties of setting up the MCSD as a forum for discussion. However, no major differences have ever surfaced within the MCSD between governmental and non-governmental members.

The members from Society intervene in different ways at local level through the Agenda 21 process and through NGO participation in certain local authority activities, whilst the economic sector is in regular contact with local and national governments. It is, however, rare for actors from Society, particularly Civil Society, to get together and compare their positions as a group.

It is hardly surprising that during its first five years of activity the MCSD has been a cause for concern in terms of its role and its worries regarding the unequal quality of participation by representatives from Society.

The still hesitant participation of actors from Society in decision-taking to guarantee the final acceptability of these decisions by the public at large does in fact somewhat upset the legitimacy of the elected political organisations. To their credit, the Mediterranean riparian states have tackled the environmental crisis in their eco-region head-on, setting up institutions and trying out new mechanisms.

Efforts should be made to internationalise the representation and objectives of the main groups in Society. Society is structured differently in the countries on the Northern rim to what it is on the Southern rim of the Mediterranean. Women, young people and workers are well-defined categories in each country, although they do not speak through the same channels. This diversity should be recognised and reflected in Society's participation within the MCSD and in its work.

A shared vision of the Mediterranean eco-region

The risk which must be avoided is that of freezing the MCSD for too long in the same mould, with the same spokesperson and the same networks. Appropriate rotation, broad circulation of working documents and regular reports from the representatives of MAP's partners on important issues would help remedy this and guarantee its role as an open forum. The MCSD is an instrument for promoting sustainable development, and insofar as its aim is not set in stone, and is constantly being clarified and developed, the presence of suitable representatives of the groups from Society is crucial to the preparation of a model of sustainability.

Since the MCSD's essential characteristic is the presence of representative members of the groups in Society, the main responsibility for using this body to produce a shared vision of the future Mediterranean eco-region is incumbent upon them, as is the duty of clearing up the ambiguity which is still inherent in the MCSD's role. To date no shared vision of the medium term future of the Mediterranean basin has emerged to guide riparian states' actions. Would it be feasible for the members from Society to contribute to this by sketching out the general outlines for a possible future, without committing their governments politically, in order to see whether the bodies which already bring together towns, business and NGOs across political borders would be in a position to imagine a common future which would give hope to the entire Mediterranean region?

The representatives of groups from Society could use their experience and hands-on knowledge to help the MCSD put across the specifically Mediterranean traits defined in Agenda Med 21 in operational terms, bearing in mind the sense of urgency, and the need to cast off those models of development which have given rise to dramatic environmental problems.

The networks actually coordinate a large number of individual structures and filter both their experience and their information. They ensure continuity and have the human resources to allow them to take part in the MCSD's work, unlike many individual organisations, as the participation rates of members from Society in the MCSD sessions and the thematic groups clearly show. It is essential that the positions defended by the representatives of the 3 groups should be those of the members of the network following consultation, and not those of the representatives themselves. This alone can influence the Commission's official positions. This is why priority should be given to networks, in order to involve a broader segment of Society in MAP's projects.

3. THE MAIN PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED

They concern three issues:

3.1 Policy problems

Removing ambiguity

- There is a certain degree of ambiguity surrounding the nature of the MCSD: Forum or, on the contrary, operational structure. A clear option needs to be expressed one way or the other.
- The current way in which the national focal points operate concerning the transmission of MAP achievements and recommendations prepared by the MCSD and adopted by the Contracting Parties is generally seen as inadequate and as harmful to the workings of the component dealing with sustainable development. This question is part and parcel of the broader problem relating to the system as a whole.
- The need to include the National Commissions for Sustainable Development in the MAP component related to the MCSD and sustainable development. Political decisions and institutional arrangements are needed at Contracting Party level.
- International cooperation in relation to MCSD activities and the sustainable development line has only been partially defined. An extended MAP at both conceptual and practical level requires this question to be studied in depth.
- MAP's funding sources for activities relating to sustainable development are limited. Activities need to be better defined and additional outside funding needs to be sought.
- Some of MAP's statutory procedures need to be improved by amending the texts. Decisions need to be taken towards such an improvement policy.
- An improved communications/information system is required.

3.2 Problems related to the way in which the system operates

Improving procedures

- There is a lack of any detailed procedure governing the workings of the MCSD. The three relevant documents need to be improved: the best solution would be to roll them into one.
- Current practice which boils down to inadequate transfer of MAP experience and of recommendations adopted, shows that the workings of the national focal points are one of the major sticking points. If a political decision could be taken to study the current workings of the national focal points within the context of an extended MAP, the resulting changes would also impact positively on MAP's sustainable development component.
- The same applies to the NCSDs real role within the system. These bodies should become institutional partners.
- There are no procedures governing inter-relations between the MCSD and the Regional Activity Centres. Current communications are one-way. They still need to be defined for the flow moving from the MCSD towards the Regional Activity Centres.
- The harmonisation of the Regional Activity Centres' programmes needs to be improved, both amongst themselves and within the MCSD context.
- MAP's information strategy was recently defined. It needs to be implemented through an aggressive and practical information system using new instruments.
- An explicit report by the Contracting Parties concerning their contribution to the MCSD and how they have implemented the recommendations adopted is not envisaged by the relevant document on MAP's information system.

- The current make-up of the Coordinating Unit's staff responsible for the MCSD and sustainable development activities needs to be studied and reassessed in terms of the necessary capacity to fully implement the respective activities.
- The need to seek additional external funding: in this respect, political decisions need to be taken in order to amend the documents which govern the MAP system and, if needs be, that of the MCSD.

3.3 Problems relating to the MCSD

Towards more balanced debate

Apart from the above-mentioned problems which influence the MCSD to a greater or lesser extent, some others are directly related to the Commission:

- The operating mode and composition of the MCSD, with a predominance of members representing the Contracting Parties.
- Limited representation of the other non-governmental members.
- The continuity of the MCSD's work, which is undermined by the short mandates of non-governmental members.
- The "equal footing" treatment of governmental members and others, which does not really come through in practice.
- Undefined if not non-existent cooperation with the **NCSOs**.
- International cooperation of an essentially circumstantial nature.
- The excessively general nature of recommendations prepared by the MCSD, which are often difficult to implement, and unrelated to the practical pilot projects which must ensue.
- Thematic approaches broader than what is allowed by real conditions, whilst certain priority issues included in MAP's priority areas of activity have not been dealt with. A more balanced approach is required.
- Review of the method for selecting the MCSD's themes, giving priority to added value and the non-sustainable nature of current management.
- Insufficient account being taken of MCSD input by the Regional Activity Centres when they plan their activities.

V THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

To what extent have States really applied themselves to implementing the principles for action adopted in Agenda Med 21 in terms of:

- Governmental support for sustainability-oriented projects and activities
- Ad hoc institutional reforms and capacity building.
- Integrating environmental concerns in development programmes.

What can objectively be said today about the performances put in and results achieved since 1990, and more particularly since 1995, at national level? In the absence of relevant indicators able to assess progress made in quantitative terms, it is in principle always possible to highlight the non-sustainability of a given development, insofar as it does not respect the principles universally accepted in Rio:

- The polluter pays principle which implies the internalisation of the external costs of economic activity.
- The principle of integration, which implies dynamic interaction between the various components of the environment and development activities.
- The subsidiarity principle, which codifies inter-dependency relationships between global and local levels.
- The precautionary principle, which advocates prevention and caution.
- The principle of intra- and inter-generation equity.

The upstream integration on a preventive basis of environmental concerns in the multi-faceted, multi-actor process of planning and development would in the long run be the best way of guaranteeing sustainability. Promoting sustainable development in the countries of the Mediterranean region will involve among other things easing the pressure of human activity on the environment, which in turn would inevitably have a positive impact on society as a whole. The legislative, statutory, fiscal or technical responses made by States, as well as the accompanying measures implemented to curb if not to remove harmful effects on sustainability will be assessed, taking into account the geographical, ecological, social, economic and structural characteristics of the various countries, as a result of which they are faced with different problems and opportunities, and are starting from levels of experience which cannot always be compared.

Any analysis of the situation prevailing in the countries, the efficiency of political decision-taking on environmental and developmental issues, and the relevance of the technical solutions applied to situations and developments deviating from the path of sustainability, depends heavily on the States' institutional capacity. It will therefore be necessary to study the extent to which since 1990 and particularly since 1995 the latter have developed their capacity to:

- prepare policies and strategies towards sustainable development.
- implement these policies and strategies in terms of ministries, bodies and specialised governmental agencies.
- involve the public, local authorities and NGOs.

An effective environmental policy will establish aims which in the long term are likely to protect the country from the stagnation which would arise in the future from the irreversible depletion of resources. Preventive action can ensure the sustainable use of resources whilst avoiding new forms of pollution. It means that economic policies need to be reformed, and that increasingly strict regulation, greater political will, and improved management is required.

Assessing a country's environmental performance boils down to assessing the results obtained by the State as well as by the actors in Society in implementing environmental policy. The assessment will look essentially at decisions taken as well as progress achieved:

- In mitigating or controlling pressure exerted on resources and surroundings.
- In integrating the environment in development.
- In implementing multi-lateral agreements.

The summary of decisions, measures and actions presented hereafter is entirely based on the information contained in the questionnaires prepared by all of the Contracting Parties as well as some of the other members of the MCSD. The fact that all the Contracting Parties responded positively to this exercise is a highly encouraging sign, reflecting their concern for the Mediterranean environment, even though generally speaking the answers tend to give a more positive impression of the real situation, which does not entirely correspond to the scale of the problems or the pertinence and effectiveness of the measures and actions taken. Moreover, several activities are not actually an integral part of a consistent sustainable development framework; finally, some of the Contracting Parties do not always have clear and consistent policies on this front.

As regards controlling pressure on the environment, most Mediterranean countries have either adopted or are preparing actions to combat pollution (from ships, offshore installations, industrial effluent, etc.), or to prevent the pollution of the sea and water resources, to protect the forests or certain important areas, etc.

The existence of international or institutional cooperation frameworks was an important catalyst towards increased awareness of the stakes involved, and a factor of encouragement towards action. For some environmental pressures, such as combating desertification or the greenhouse effect, action is still in its teething stages. Moreover, for such major stakes as controlling urbanisation, urban waste management (solid and liquid), transport, etc. which require effective administrative systems, major investment and quasi-coercive measures, progress is thin on the ground.

As far as the integration of the environment and development is concerned, political declarations have rarely been followed by specific action. Recently, certain initiatives towards such integration were launched, particularly through the setting up of new consultation and coordination structures or mechanisms (National Commissions for Sustainable Development, Observatories), or the preparation of policy frameworks (national or local Agendas 21). The priority, however, still lies with development or growth- economic in most countries- as well as administrative inertia regarding the changes demanded by a strategic approach to sustainable development.

Finally, regarding multilateral agreements, most Mediterranean countries have ratified the main International Conventions (climate change, biodiversity, desertification, etc., as well as the 1976 Barcelona Convention and its Protocols). However, given the lack of any clear and relevant system for preparing reports by the Contracting Parties, the extent and quality of implementation of the recommendations and proposals for action decided on in the MAP framework cannot be assessed.

1. CONTROLLING PRESSURES ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES

1.1 Pollution of the marine environment

Combating pollution by ships

Most countries have within their legislation provisions or laws on preventing and combating pollution by ships, adopting international conventions such as the Barcelona Convention and its protocols and MARPOL. Moreover, Spain, Monaco, Turkey, Croatia, Slovenia, Algeria, Israel, Egypt, Cyprus and Malta have specific national structures which are responsible for enforcing legislation along their coasts. In France, Italy and Greece, the port authorities are responsible for the appropriate measures to be taken in case of pollution.

Specific provisions to prevent pollution or contingency plans for marine pollution incidents have been set up in most countries. Similar plans are being prepared in Lebanon, Syria and Turkey. Ballast removing equipment is available in ports in most countries. Lebanon, Syria and Libya are currently setting up ballast removal points.

Combating pollution from offshore oil installations

The EU countries as well as Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Cyprus and Malta have drawn up regulations to cover discharged material, collection of technical data, authorisation procedures, and liability in case of pollution. For the time being only Egypt regularly monitors the performance of offshore installations. France, Italy, Turkey, Croatia and Malta are introducing monitoring activities, as well as contingency plans.

Institutions responsible by name for checking installations and handling accidents have been appointed at national level in Italy, Turkey, Tunisia and Malta, and at national, regional and local level (Port Authorities) in Greece.

1.2 The pollution of coastal waters

Preventing and combating pollution from industrial sources.

Almost all countries have introduced laws on preventing and controlling pollution from industrial sources in coastal areas. Monaco has set up a Technical Commission which checks and regulates all industrial installations. In Greece, a series of preventive activities have been undertaken at local level.

In Spain, various national programmes for implementing the strategic Mediterranean action programme have been applied to combat land-based pollution. In Italy, Lebanon and Syria programmes for re-examining authorisation for industrial plants are to be implemented, in order to bring them into line with the latest regulations. In Algeria, aid is extended to industries using clean technology. In Tunisia the "Blue Hand" programme has been running since 1990, whilst Lebanon has begun implementing its relevant legal instruments.

Responsibility lies at regional level in Italy and Bosnia-Herzegovina, at national level in Greece. In France and Egypt, national structures are responsible for promoting clean industry, whilst responsibility for checking that rules are respected lies at regional level. Similarly in Cyprus, dumping authorisation is granted by the central authorities. The EU countries, Croatia, Slovenia, Tunisia and Israel encourage eco-labelling. Taxes and penalties under the polluter pays principle apply in some countries: France, Monaco, Italy, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Tunisia and Algeria. Programmes or priority actions aimed at eliminating black spots exist in France, Slovenia, Greece and Tunisia, whilst in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Israel and Algeria clean-up programmes are in the pipeline.

Preventing pollution from urban sources

National legislation regulates this type of prevention in the EU countries, Croatia, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and Malta, largely by limiting the amount of effluent released into the aquatic

environment (seas and rivers). In Italy, responsibility for following-up checks lies with the regions, whilst in Libya it is at local level and in Greece lies at national level.

The implementation of prevention programmes is reflected particularly in the construction of wastewater treatment plants. The different countries have reached various levels of progress on this front. Plans for extending and improving the purification levels achieved by treatment plants are being developed in the countries of the EU, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slovenia, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Algeria and Tunisia.

1.3 Monitoring the quality of the marine environment

Several countries regulate the monitoring of the quality of the marine environment. Monaco intends to draw on the European directives, whilst Malta and Cyprus are preparing to transpose them into their own national legislation. Most countries have action programmes for monitoring the marine environment.

Bathing water is monitored virtually across the board for health reasons or in implementation of the European Blue Flag Campaign. National institutions are responsible for monitoring in France, Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Cyprus and Malta. In Spain, Croatia and Italy responsibility lies at two levels- national and regional. In Bosnia-Herzegovina it is at both regional and local level.

1.4 Regulating maritime activities

Most countries regulate maritime activities in order to preserve marine resources and protect the environment. In Spain, Cyprus and Italy, for example, the number of fishing vessels is limited, whilst in Spain, France and Greece authorisation is required for setting up water-based activities. Monaco, Albania, Slovenia, Algeria, Croatia and Tunisia regulate exploration and exploitation activities in the marine environment, whereas in Spain a Master Plan on fisheries has been implemented. Research activities for the protection of the marine environment are conducted by national institutions in most countries.

1.5 Air Pollution

Monitoring the air

Only a handful of countries have legislation covering the monitoring of air quality, although most of them have a monitoring and alarm network. In some cases, monitoring activities are limited to the main urban centres and to industrial zones, as in Greece, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus and Tunisia. In Greece, Lebanon, Algeria, Tunisia and Cyprus a national network is going to be set up in the near future. There are many monitoring centres in Italy, but they are poorly distributed. Responsibility for monitoring lies at regional and local level in Italy. It is at national level in France, Turkey and Tunisia. It is at local level in Slovenia and at national and regional level in Greece.

Combating air pollution

Legislation controlling industrial emissions into the air applies in the EU countries, Monaco, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Israel, Cyprus, Egypt, Algeria, Libya and Tunisia. Albania and Morocco are working on similar legislation, whilst Malta has completed its own version, which includes standards for release into the atmosphere. In most cases, actions and programmes are being implemented.

Incentives for promoting clean technology have been used in Greece and Cyprus in order to reduce air pollution. In Lebanon and Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia, rehabilitation programmes

are underway to reduce emissions from cement works. In Tunisia, many steps aimed at reducing air pollution have targeted industrial centres. Legislation on controlling pollution from exhaust fumes requires vehicles in the EU countries, Monaco, and Malta as well as in Libya and Tunisia to undergo regular checks. This is being planned in Algeria. In Israel and Tunisia there are plans to reduce exhaust fumes (including LPG), to bring in new standards, test procedures, and educational and training measures.

Energy saving plans which also deal with the development of renewable sources of energy are being implemented in France and Tunisia, whilst they are being prepared in Croatia, Slovenia, Albania, Greece and Malta. Research and promotional activities for renewable energies are also being conducted in Libya, Cyprus, and Algeria.

Proposals for giving priority to the use of natural gas have been made in Spain, France, Slovenia, Croatia, Libya, Lebanon, Israel and Malta. There is support for extending the natural gas network in Greece and Tunisia. In Egypt, and Tunisia an advertising programme targets the use of natural gas to drive buses and private cars, whilst in Italy, Turkey and Algeria the use of natural gas for heating has caught on. Taxes on air pollution and fines have been introduced in Italy and Croatia in order to change the behaviour of producers and consumers, whilst taxes are imposed in Bosnia-Herzegovina each time release standards are overshot.

1.6 Mainland waters

Rational water management

The legislative framework in many countries recognises that water is a public or patrimonial asset. Networks for the quantitative and qualitative monitoring of water resources in order to ensure integrated and sustainable management exist in the EU countries, as well as in Slovenia, Croatia, Turkey, Israel, Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon, Cyprus and Malta. National monitoring of water quality is underway in Egypt and Tunisia. In several cases, a national structure is responsible for water management.

There has been institutional restructuring in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, whilst in Slovenia responsibility lies at river basin level, and in Algeria at national and regional level. A Master Plan for water management has been approved in Lebanon and is to be implemented. Decisions have been implemented in some countries on the integrated and sustainable management of water resources. For example, different charge rates are applied in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Greece, Algeria and Malta depending on the level of consumption, whilst other economic instruments are used in France, Tunisia and Croatia to improve water management. Strategies on the sustainable management of water resources have been drawn up in Israel and Tunisia. In Cyprus, a new law is under preparation, which will pool responsibility for water management within one single public entity. The EU countries plan to adopt a Directive on water resource management per river basin.

Water pollution

Laws aimed at combating water pollution exist in most countries. Documents which limit the release of pollutants and define the conditions for water treatment are applied in Spain, France, Italy, Croatia, Israel, Tunisia, Turkey and Cyprus. Measures to combat water pollution apply in several countries. They largely concern making treatment plants for industrial and urban effluent more widespread, and improving their treatment levels. In Egypt incentives have been provided to encourage the adaptation of out-dated, dirty technology to legislation, whilst steps have been taken to reduce agricultural pollution in Spain, France, Greece, Tunisia, Israel and Cyprus, whilst in Slovenia a tax on wastewater has been introduced. In Algeria a project for artificially resupplying the watertable is planned, whilst in

Tunisia action is being taken to protect a dam against eutrophication caused by the use of fertilisers and pesticides in agriculture.

1.7 Soil management and conservation

Combating erosion

With the exception of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, all the other countries in the Mediterranean basin have ratified or approved the United Nations Convention on combating desertification. National Action Plans for combating desertification exist in Italy, Greece, Algeria and Morocco. Lebanon will have one in the year 2000, whilst Spain is working on hers. Tunisia, Italy and Israel have set up National Committees to Combat Desertification.

Programmes for mapping and monitoring soil erosion are being conducted in Spain, Italy, Croatia and Malta. In Syria and Tunisia a programme to combat erosion has been planned within the framework of coastal management activities. Soil preservation measures are applied in several countries, such as forest conservation activities or environmentally friendly agricultural practices in Greece, wide-scale reforestation programmes in Slovenia, Lebanon, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, and the restoration of sand dunes and mountain soil in France, and land improvement schemes in Cyprus. In Albania, action to prevent erosion is taken at local level.

Rehabilitating degraded land

The soil is protected by law in Spain, France, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece, Tunisia, Morocco and Malta. Legislation is in the pipeline in Turkey. Various water and soil conservation programmes are being implemented in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Cyprus and Malta. Several research projects on rehabilitating degraded land are being conducted in Morocco. Regional programmes for the rehabilitation of salinated land are underway in Greece, Syria, Israel, Tunisia and Cyprus. Greece, Israel and Croatia are endeavouring to combat soil contamination.

1.8 Solid waste management

Household waste

In most cases the institution responsible for managing household waste is designated at local level. In France, responsibility lies with a national structure. Plans for reducing waste have been adopted in Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Slovenia, Albania, Cyprus and Tunisia. In Algeria, Egypt and Lebanon, a national strategy for solid waste management is to be implemented, whilst regional level management plans are being prepared in Turkey.

Local initiatives on selective collection have been taken in Italy, Greece, Tunisia, Israel, Lebanon, Egypt, Malta and Cyprus. In France, Croatia, Tunisia and Monaco, the law defines the measures to be taken and the commitments to be respected in collective selection. In Spain, recycling is part of the national strategy. Feasibility studies on management of hospital waste are being conducted in Lebanon. Plans for the management of hospital waste exist in Greece, Syria and Tunisia. A similar plan is up and running in Monaco. Development plans for regulated dumps are being worked on in Albania, Greece, Tunisia, Croatia and Malta.

Reuse of organic waste

There are not many activities for the reuse of organic waste. In most cases, they are run at local level as a result of voluntary initiatives rather than within the framework of a planned national strategy. In Egypt, Lebanon and Malta there are national programmes for composting and the agricultural reuse of compost. In Cyprus, compost is used to improve the

soil. In Turkey composting plants are under construction in several towns. In Bosnia-Herzegovina there is a plan for the reuse of organic waste. In France, the number of initiatives for reusing organic waste is rising. Local compost producing initiatives have sprung up in Tunisia, Algeria, Albania and Slovenia. In Spain, household waste is partially composted. Israel subsidises individual composting plants. In Greece, Tunisia and also in Israel under certain conditions, activities involving the reuse of treatment plant sludge have been organised. The treatment and reuse of such residues comes under national responsibility in Egypt.

Industrial waste

In France, Slovenia, Israel and Cyprus, the management and disposal of industrial waste is governed by law. Lebanon is developing plans to reduce solid and liquid waste. In Croatia, responsibility for the management of hazardous industrial waste lies with the government. In Egypt, a project on the rational management and treatment of industrial and hazardous waste is underway.

National action plans on the sustainable management of such kinds of waste have been prepared in Spain, Turkey, Israel, Tunisia, Algeria, Monaco and Malta, whilst they are on the drawing board in Slovenia, Greece, Italy, Cyprus and Croatia. In Greece, hazardous waste is stored and transported to other EU countries for processing, whilst in Croatia it is either left incomplete or processed in other European countries. In Italy, the recent introduction of a standard verified environmental declaration for companies has proved to be an effective tool in drawing up registers of special industrial waste and waste for disposal. In Tunisia, a storage and treatment centre for industrial and special waste is to be set up in the near future.

Legislative and statutory measures

With the exception of Libya, all the countries in the Mediterranean basin have ratified and approved the Basel Convention, whilst only Cyprus, Spain and Tunisia have ratified the BAN amendment. Bosnia-Herzegovina is on the verge of ratifying the Basel Convention. France, Slovenia, Albania, Syria and Tunisia all have national laws on waste management. In Croatia and Malta, legislation has been drawn up on the prevention and reduction of waste production as well as release standards, whilst it is currently being prepared in Italy, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Greece, Algeria and Morocco.

Measures for preventing or reducing the production of harmful waste are introduced on a one-off basis in Lebanon. In Monaco, a special commission is responsible for regularly inspecting industries which produce hazardous waste. In Tunisia, the National Agency for the Protection of the Environment (ANPE) is responsible for drawing up agreements with bodies and industry on the disposal of hazardous waste.

Awareness raising campaigns and seminars have been run in Greece, Lebanon, Tunisia, Croatia and Malta for the promotion of clean technology. Further action towards reducing harmful waste and encouraging clean production has been taken in France, Israel, Cyprus, Greece, Algeria, Tunisia and Monaco.

The reuse and recycling of waste depends on the local level in Malta, whilst in Spain it is part of the national strategy. In France, Italy, Turkey and Tunisia specific measures on reuse and recycling are governed by national legislation. In Turkey, economic instruments are used to promote reuse and recycling. In Greece, a committee is to be set up to shape the national recycling policy, and several local authorities are organising various activities.

1.9 Forests

Land and plant-health protection

Legislation on the protection of the forests exists in Croatia, Cyprus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Greece, Turkey, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Malta. In France a law on the sustainable use of the forests has been drawn up.

National inventories of forests exist in the EU countries as well as in Slovenia, Croatia, Cyprus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Egypt, Israel, Tunisia, Algeria and Malta. Libya is at present organising its national inventory. In the case of Italy, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Turkey and Lebanon, the inventories need updating, and will therefore be re-worked. Scientific observation and monitoring of the forests is ensured at local level and on a non-permanent basis in Greece and Lebanon, whilst in Spain, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Israel, Algeria, Tunisia, Cyprus and Malta the forests are regularly monitored.

Forest conservation and the sustainable use of resources is the cornerstone of forest management in France, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Tunisia. In Italy, certification of the sustainable use of forests is currently being encouraged, whilst some activities aimed at the sustainable management of productive forests have been supported in Greece. In Albania, sustainable forest management is applied in the protected areas. A project on sustainable forest management is being implemented in Lebanon. France, Tunisia and Israel have developed national strategies on forests, whilst Spain is in the process of doing so. In Cyprus, the sustainable forest management criterion was recently introduced, and an appropriate strategy prepared.

Protection against fires

Measures for the regular monitoring and equipping of the forest regions are organised under the responsibility of national structures in France, Italy, Greece, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Israel and Tunisia. Protection against fires is an integral part of the national forest plans in Spain, Italy, Tunisia and Turkey. In Greece and Syria, the law prohibits the use of forests after a fire. Reafforestation programmes exist in certain countries such as France, Greece, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. In Greece and Israel, similar programmes cover areas which have been burnt, whilst in Tunisia and Algeria extensive reafforestation plans aim at controlling erosion and the desertification process. Reafforestation is ensured in Bosnia-Herzegovina in case of damage or over-felling. In Albania, the reafforestation programme was followed until the 90s. Awareness-raising activities are conducted in France, Italy, Cyprus, Slovenia, Croatia, Albania, Greece, Algeria, Tunisia, Israel, Lebanon and Malta.

1.10 Biotopes

Protection of eco-systems

Most countries have legislation aimed at protecting eco-systems and setting up national parks and other protected areas. In some cases, this is the direct outcome of the implementation of international conventions and, for the EU countries, of the Habitat Directive. In the Mediterranean basin, all countries have ratified the Convention on biodiversity, whilst Bosnia-Herzegovina and Malta are on the point of so-doing. With the exception of Cyprus, all the other countries are members of the RAMSAR Convention on the protection of wetlands.

Only a handful of countries have finalised their National Biodiversity Action Plans: they are Greece, Croatia, Lebanon, Egypt and Tunisia, whilst Spain and Algeria are preparing

national biodiversity strategies. In Italy, the number of protected areas has increased rapidly over recent years, whilst in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Tunisia several initiatives for the protection of eco-systems are underway. Inventories of natural sites and the related fauna and flora have been drawn up in the Mediterranean countries from Spain to Greece, and in Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia. In the EU countries, this inventory has also been integrated in the Natura 2000 European network. In Libya, the inventory is not up to date and several studies have been undertaken, whilst in Bosnia-Herzegovina the inventory has been partially completed, and is under preparation in Cyprus.

Protection of threatened species

In virtually all Mediterranean countries legal measures exist for the protection of threatened species. With the exception of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Lebanon, all the other countries have joined the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Special monitoring and management activities for aquatic, land and coastal eco-systems are being run on a wide scale, apart from on the coast of North Africa with the exception of Tunisia. In particular, a multi-lateral agreement has been signed by France, Monaco, and Italy on setting up an International Cetaceans Sanctuary in the North-West Mediterranean. Moreover, programmes aimed at reintroducing species which had disappeared are being run in France, Italy, Israel, Croatia, Algeria, Tunisia, and Malta.

In France, Italy, Croatia, Albania, Israel, Greece, Monaco, Cyprus, Algeria and Malta national botanical conservatories exist as a way of preserving rare species, and providing a biogenetic reserve for their possible reintroduction. In Tunisia there is a national programme for creating botanical gardens spanning the period from 1997- 2001. Specific measures for migratory species have been adopted in France, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Monaco and Malta. Land purchasing particularly along the coasts for nature protection purposes is not widespread. Some countries such as Spain, France, Croatia and Malta have followed this line. Spain, moreover, has prepared a National Catalogue of Threatened Species.

1.11 Controlling town planning

Instruments for urban control

Apart from Lebanon, which is working on its own version, all the other countries have legislation on land planning and the control of urbanisation. Master Plans, land use and urbanisation plans are operational in all countries. In several cases these are drawn up at regional or local level. Environmental impact assessment is compulsory in all Mediterranean countries with only a handful of exceptions.

Controlling coastal development

In Spain the coastal law is the main legislative initiative for protecting and managing the marine and coastal environment. In France, Greece, Egypt, Tunisia and Monaco there is also a legal framework for the protection of the coastal seas and the coast. Several activities have been undertaken to protect the coastal environment. Coastal area management plans have been developed in Italy, Albania and Syria under current legislation, whilst Master Plans for the use and development of coastal land have been drawn up in Algeria and Israel. In Tunisia, a Special Agency for the Protection and Planning of the Coast has been created. Coastal surveillance and monitoring exists in Italy, Tunisia and Turkey. A framework plan for the Adriatic is under preparation.

Laws govern tourist development in France, Croatia, Cyprus and Greece. In Greece, economic instruments have been used to promote alternative forms of tourism. National plans for sustainable tourism exist in Spain and Israel. Measures to develop sustainable tourism have been adopted in Tunisia, and are being prepared in Cyprus.

Sustainable towns

There is legislation on the sustainable development of towns and human settlements within the French, Greek, Tunisian and Italian legal frameworks. It is being prepared in Monaco and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Israel has drawn up a document on sustainable urban development. Only Greece, Turkey and Tunisia have designated national institutional structures responsible for the sustainable development of towns. Conversely, in Spain and Italy it is the regional authorities in particular which play the main role in promoting sustainable development programmes, focusing on Agenda 21.

Local agendas 21 and urban policies for sustainable development are implemented at local level in Spain, France, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece, Tunisia and Lebanon. In Turkey, the promotion and development of local agendas 21 has been conducted in coordination with the International Union of Local Authorities. Monaco has adopted an Agenda 21 for the Principality. Plans for urban green spaces are implemented at local level in France, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Greece and Tunisia.

Noise pollution

Specific legislation on combating noise exists in France, Italy, Croatia, Greece, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Monaco. It is being drawn up in Morocco. Some countries are implementing action and plans to combat noise, particularly at local level. Institutions for monitoring noise pollution levels have been designated at national level in Tunisia, and Monaco, at regional and local level in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and at local level in Italy, at national, regional and local level in Greece.

2 INTEGRATING THE ENVIRONMENT INTO DEVELOPMENT

2.1 At institutional and legislative level

From a legislative point of view, a code on the environment was adopted in France in 1998. Lebanon has drafted one, which is still being studied. There are national laws on environmental protection under the legislative systems of Slovenia, Albania, Croatia, Greece, Egypt, Algeria and Malta. Similar laws have not yet been approved in Monaco, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Syria, Cyprus and Morocco.

As far as the setting up of an inter-ministerial coordination structure is concerned, along the lines of the National Commission for Sustainable Development, the situation varies from country to country. In France, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Tunisia and Algeria, a special committee or an institution for sustainable development is responsible for defining and coordinating national environmental policy. Responsibility for inter-ministerial coordination lies with the Ministry of the Environment in Cyprus, Tunisia, Spain and Morocco. A Committee for Environmental Coordination orchestrates activities in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In Greece several inter-ministerial committees have been set up. In Lebanon and Malta it is planned to create a national sustainable development institution.

The preparation of a national Agenda 21 has been completed in Lebanon and in Tunisia, whilst it is under preparation in Turkey, Syria, Algeria and Malta. In Italy, a National Plan for Sustainable Development has been prepared according to the Agenda 21 criteria. In Israel, documents on sustainable development include several of the principles from Agenda 21.

National environment and development observatories or other structures with similar roles have been set up in Spain, France, Italy, Slovenia, Turkey, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Lebanon which benefited from the LIFE programme's contribution. In Malta, an Authority for the Protection of the Environment is to be set up, which will also be responsible for monitoring the state of the environment. In Israel, data on environmental quality indicators has started to be collected, whilst Morocco has set up an environmental information system. Finally, a National Institute for Sustainable Development is to be set up in Greece.

2.2 In terms of governmental planning

In Monaco, Slovenia, Croatia, Malta, Tunisia, Israel and the EU countries, environmental concerns are gradually being integrated into national economic and social development policies. In Lebanon, these concerns are starting to be integrated into the country's development programme. In Tunisia, the main actors in Agenda 21 are integrated into the five-year plans for economic and social development. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Turkey, Syria, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco and Cyprus, the drawing up of the national Environmental Action Plan aims at integrating the environment into economic and social development. Algeria has made quite some progress in environmental matters in legislative and statutory terms, passing several laws on the protection of natural resources and the environment, and setting up commissions and other institutional structures to implement them.

The principles of sustainable development are partially reflected in land planning programmes in Monaco, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Cyprus, Israel and Tunisia. As far as the role of public administration in promoting sustainable development is concerned, action undertaken in certain countries has set an example of the type of behaviour to adopt: Monaco is developing a public transport policy using electricity, whilst in Greece, an energy saving programme for private and public buildings has been initiated. In France, a "Green Public Authorities" campaign has been conducted by the ministry of the environment. Environmental promotion policies are used as a way of creating jobs in France, Greece and Tunisia.

2.3 Implementation

Statutory instruments used

Administrative authorisation includes environmental protection provisions in several Mediterranean countries. The preventive approach is part and parcel of the provisions advocated during checks on classified plants in the EU countries, Israel, Croatia, Cyprus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Monaco, Algeria, Tunisia and Malta. The environmental impact assessment is compulsory in the Mediterranean countries on the Northern rim, and also in Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon, Cyprus and Malta.

In Algeria, provisions are currently being studied which would extend the impact assessment to all other works and infrastructure. Regulations apply to all socio-economic actors, both public and private, in Monaco, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Greece and Tunisia.

Sites likely to pose technological risks are required to have contingency plans in France, Slovenia, Croatia, Israel, Cyprus, Greece, Algeria and Monaco. Similar provisions will soon apply in Malta. Fines are imposed in Spain, France, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Greece, Tunisia and Algeria for failing to respect the environment. In Spain, there is a special police force to repress environmentally unfriendly behaviour. Inspections are carried out regularly in Monaco, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Israel, Cyprus, Algeria and Tunisia. In Greece, administrative checks are carried out by an appropriate public structure. Limited resources mean that it is not possible to guarantee regular administrative checks in

Lebanon. In Bosnia-Herzegovina the relevant ministerial department is responsible for regular inspections.

Economic instruments used

In Italy, France, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Greece, Tunisia and Algeria, taxes and fines are used to deter infringement of environmental regulations and to collect funds to be channelled into clean-up action and other environmental projects. In Algeria, special taxes on pollution and fines for failing to respect environmental regulations feed into the national environment fund.

Environmental subsidies and tax incentives are used in Spain, France, Greece, Slovenia, and Tunisia. In Croatia, this practice is limited to the water sector. Greece and Tunisia withdraw or reduce subsidies to sectors of the economy which harm the environment. Accidental pollution, including clean-up costs, is covered by special funds in Croatia, Greece and Algeria. In Italy, clean-up costs are covered by some insurance companies. Insurance systems in cases of accidental pollution are compulsory in France. In Tunisia and Morocco, a fund has been set up for industrial de-pollution purposes.

Private sector initiatives

Voluntary agreements for environmental purposes such as ISO or EMAS certification exist between the public authorities and some sectors of industry in the EU countries, Croatia, Turkey, Israel, Tunisia and Malta. Greece and Turkey are endeavouring to promote them on a wide scale. In Italy, the National Environment Agency is running a project to bring in an integrated production policy, and provides technical backing to the EMAS Italian section. Similarly, ISO certification promotion programmes have been implemented in Monaco, Cyprus and Tunisia. Similar agreements are being worked on in Syria, Morocco, Algeria and Cyprus.

Eco-labelling and Green Plans enjoy the interest of major companies in the EU countries, Croatia and Israel. In Italy and Slovenia there is growing interest in eco-labelling amongst companies and consumers, and it is expected to become widespread. Encouragement for delegated management is growing in France for water distribution and wastewater treatment plants, whilst in Tunisia sub-contracting initiatives for having the private sector run wastewater networks were recently introduced. The private sector supports sponsorship initiatives for the environment and sustainable development in France, Israel, Monaco, Algeria and Malta. In Croatia a Board for Sustainable Development Matters backs various projects on the environment and sustainable development.

Bilateral cooperation initiatives

Croatia cooperates with a number of neighbouring countries and the EU in the environmental protection field. Tunisia receives technical support and funding for various environment-related activities from several European countries, Japan and North America. Bilateral cooperation exists between Monaco and the countries of North Africa. Greece is working to develop bilateral cooperation with the Balkan countries, the Southern Mediterranean and Black Sea countries, as well as other developing countries. It should be noted, however, that most European states as well as the EC contribute to bilateral assistance programmes in the legislative, institutional and technical fields in most Mediterranean countries.

Decentralised initiatives

Decentralised cooperation between local authorities, particularly through their networks, primarily MEDCITIES, would benefit by widening the implementation of ad hoc action towards sustainable development.

Initiatives directed towards the public

Measures to promote environmental information have been taken in France, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Tunisia and Malta. Access to information is guaranteed by law in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Cyprus. In Greece and Algeria national environmental institutions are responsible for promoting information, education and awareness raising activities. The public is often involved in the decision-taking process in Lebanon, although not at local level. In Spain, Israel and Bosnia-Herzegovina such involvement is guaranteed by law, whereas in Albania legislation is in the pipeline. In Croatia, Syria and Malta, it is achieved through the impact assessment procedure, and in Tunisia largely through the NGOs and local authorities. In France, public involvement in decision-taking takes place at local level in particular.

Measures to promote the system of associations and cooperation with the associations have been adopted in France, Israel, Cyprus and Tunisia. In Algeria, the National Environment Fund subsidises ecological associations for environmental activities. The NGOs work closely with national institutions in Lebanon. A special bureau has been set up in Croatia to provide backing for the NGOs.

Promoting the role of environmental research

In Algeria, the National Environment Fund finances environmental studies and research. National research institutions conduct environmental research in the EU countries, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Turkey, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon and Malta. Due to the lack of human resources resulting from the lengthy war, it has not been possible to conduct research projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In France, Croatia, Albania, Greece, Cyprus and Tunisia, environmental research is implemented through sectoral programmes.

In Algeria, a National Committee is responsible for implementing several initiatives related to various environmental problems. Environmental data bases have been set up in France, Croatia, Greece, Turkey and Tunisia. Eco-technologies are being developed in many countries, such as Spain, Slovenia, Greece, Israel and Tunisia, whilst in Italy, the handful of initiatives taken on the use and distribution of clean technology have not been part of an overall programme or strategy.

Strengthening environmental education

In the primary and secondary sectors, environmental issues are part of the curriculum in Spain, France, Italy, Turkey, Croatia, Albania, Slovenia, Monaco, Lebanon, Cyprus and Malta, whilst in Tunisia a strategic plan for environmental education stipulates the inclusion of environmental questions in the education system. Greece and Tunisia have implemented several programmes on environmental education at school. In Bosnia-Herzegovina environmental education is optional in primary and secondary schools. Syria, Algeria and Morocco have plans to boost environmental education.

University courses on the environment exist in France, Italy, Croatia, Greece, Israel, Turkey, Tunisia and Lebanon. University exchanges are being developed. Participation in sustainable development programmes in the Mediterranean region is recorded in France, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece and Algeria.

Continuous training

The development and building up of human capacity related to environmental protection and management is the main aim of the Tunis-based International Environmental Technology Centre. A la carte but irregular training courses exist in Croatia. Training courses are run in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Lebanon with the technical and financial assistance of the international community (UNDP, EU, USAID, etc.). In France, Slovenia and Israel a large number of training courses in environmental professions are programmed each year. Training activities are run by Environmental Education Centres in Spain, Greece and Cyprus. In Albania this training is provided by national and regional environmental agencies and the NGOs.

Awareness-raising activities

Environment days and environmental clean-up campaigns are frequently organised in several countries such as Spain, France, Monaco, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Greece, Turkey, Lebanon and Tunisia. The NGOs play a major role in environment-related activities, and in many countries they are supported and encouraged by the State, such as in Monaco, Croatia, Albania, Greece, Lebanon, Algeria, Tunisia, Cyprus and Malta.

The media also plays a public awareness-raising role vis a vis the environment in Monaco, Cyprus, Israel, Croatia, Greece, Lebanon, Algeria and Tunisia. The promotion of environmental films is a further awareness-raising tool used in Monaco, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slovenia, Croatia and Tunisia.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTI-LATERAL AGREEMENTS AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES

3.1 At Mediterranean level

All countries have ratified the 1975 Barcelona Convention, although only seven countries (Croatia, Egypt, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Spain and Tunisia) and the European Union have ratified the amendments adopted in 1995 (situation as of 27 September 2000), which has meant that the amended Convention has not yet come into force; this state of affairs is obviously a cause for concern, particularly as many of these amendments are related to the principles of sustainable development.

From a legal point of view, countries implement the Convention and its Protocols either by applying them directly, or by transposing them into their own national legislation. At a seminar organised in Tunis in June 2000 the legal provisions for applying the Barcelona Convention were studied.

The results achieved in the Mediterranean where protocols actually exist, and particularly regarding the tight restrictions on dumping, controlling land based- particularly urban- sources of pollution, controlling oil-related accidents at sea and their consequences, and protecting areas of ecological interest, show the interest of having a joint legal basis for all countries.

From this point of view, the poor results achieved in the sustainable management of coastal areas, and the continued urbanisation of the coasts, as well as experiments conducted in the countries, particularly the Coastal Areas Management Programmes, show the interest of preparing a regional legal instrument aimed at implementing sustainable development in the coastal areas.

3.2 At Euro-Mediterranean and regional level

As members of the European Community France, Spain, Italy and Greece take part in the EU's environmental programmes, and are therefore involved in LIFE and other assistance programmes. These programmes are also being funded and run in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tunisia, Israel, Syria, Cyprus and Lebanon; Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Albania have also been supported through the PHARE programme in the implementation of various water, agricultural and environmental programmes. Several METAP projects and other regional programmes are being conducted in virtually all the Mediterranean non-member countries of the EU.

3.3 At global level

The Mediterranean countries have ratified and implemented other environmental protection instruments:

The Convention on climate change: Apart from Turkey and Bosnia-Herzegovina all countries have approved or ratified the Convention. The ratification procedure is underway in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Kyoto Protocol: It has been signed or ratified by the EU countries, Croatia, Israel, Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria as well as Monaco and Malta. The ratification procedure is underway in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Basel Convention: Apart from Libya and Malta, all the countries in the Mediterranean basin have ratified or adopted the Convention, whilst the BAN amendment has only been ratified by Spain, Cyprus and Tunisia. Malta and Bosnia-Herzegovina are on the verge of ratifying the Convention.

The Convention on the protection of the ozone layer and the Montreal Protocol. All countries have ratified the Convention.

The Convention on combating desertification. With the exception of Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina all the other countries in the Mediterranean basin have ratified or approved the Convention.

The MARPOL Convention: all Mediterranean countries have ratified with the exception of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Libya;

Finally, other Conventions such as RAMSAR had already been given Mediterranean country backing

VI. THE PERFORMANCE, FLAWS AND WEAKNESSES OF POLICIES IMPLEMENTED

Progress recorded....

The performance of policies implemented should be assessed in the light of the general socio-economic conditions which prevail in the region, the fruit of its environmental characteristics, its resources, and its socio-cultural heritage as well as of the choices made by society and Mediterranean priorities:

- Scarce resources which have always been exploited, with precious little scope for further development.
- What are still essentially rural Mediterranean societies despite a particularly rich heritage of urban civilisation.
- Economies which are still growing and being shaped.
- Lack of institutional capacity and financial resources needed to tackle the current problems of economic and social development.
- Dominant role of the public sector as a service provider, with no sharing of responsibilities with the other socio-economic actors or participatory approach towards social action.

The way in which policies have performed should also be weighed up as a function of the specific context of the environment and development issue in the region, a reflection of recent experiences and the main trends affecting some Mediterranean countries, under the effect of various factors (geo-political change, cooperation and regional conflict, demography, socio-economic conditions and pressures):

- Major differences between North and South, mainly in terms of population dynamics, income and job opportunities, and economic structure and growth, which determine policy options.
- Recent regional conflicts affecting population movement, economic performance, socio-cultural progress and, finally, policy direction.
- Different priorities on the part of socio-economic actors and sub-regional groupings depending on the degree of difficulty in accessing resources.
- Major diversity of institutional structures affecting the performance of each Mediterranean country.

Performance depends first and foremost, however, on the task of setting priorities and the institutional framework at national level, which is the most important for the countries in the region. Generally speaking, performance is more obvious in terms of the adoption of appropriate policies which respect the principles of sustainable development, rather than in terms of their implementation. This is probably due to the necessary delays inherent in the difficulty of moving from the conceptual to the operational level, but also to institutional inertia when means of action need to be changed.

1. PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CONDITIONS

Performance depends on the conditions of economic and social development.
Three groups of countries can be identified:

- The Northern Mediterranean countries, members of or candidates to the EU, characterised by stagnant if not falling demography, moderate economic growth and relatively developed institutional capacity, have expressed interest in the concept of

sustainable development which would answer many of the questions they face; indeed, their very development raises ever more serious questions of sustainability in terms of urban sprawl, transport, tourism, waste, and the quality of freshwater. They are assisted by the socio-economic and institutional mechanisms which already exist, which rapidly embrace new concepts, as well as relevant EU initiatives on sustainable development. Furthermore, these countries have better access to the human and financial resources needed to implement actions under this policy.

- Compared with the rest of the Mediterranean there is no doubt that these countries are more advanced in terms of the policies applied, but sometimes lag behind in relation to other European countries compared with societies which have longer and stronger traditions of environmental awareness, institutional mechanisms for cooperation, responsibility sharing and participation in decision-taking and priority setting, which are conditions for sustainable development.
- The emerging economies to the South and East of the Mediterranean, which are developing and facing demographic transition, rural exodus and migration, whose institutional structures are somewhat lacking. The progressive modernisation of rural societies and administrative systems and the opening up of their economies allow them to innovate to a certain extent and to adopt new concepts as steps towards sustainable development policies.
- These trends have not really taken root, however, and are driven by modern socio-economic actors in contact with the outside world, whilst most of society remains virtually unaffected by new concepts and attitudes. Furthermore, the effort needed for development and economic restructuring places greater emphasis on economic performance and sectoral priorities at the expense of the principles of sustainable development. Added to social inflexibility, the available administrative and financial resources act as substantial obstacles to the implementation of sustainable development policies.
- The economies undergoing transition, sometimes emerging from internal or regional conflict and struggling to establish the conditions for economic and social development with shaky political and administrative systems. These systems do not allow for prompt action in taking on board the new concepts which, however, represent major potential for change and revising priorities from the initial stages. Often their past experience in a context of highly centralised planned economies does not predispose them to the innovative concepts of responsibility sharing and mobilisation of the social actors, although social progress is improving the conditions of acceptability of sustainable development policies.

2. PERFORMANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES

Developed and decentralised institutional structures mean that the best can be made of opportunities for action towards sustainable development. Thus:

- Most Northern Mediterranean countries with well-developed institutions and clearly established political responsibilities have taken several initiatives towards sustainable development. The provisions governing the drafting as well as the implementation of policy have been improved. Clearly defined responsibilities also provide for better opportunities for coordination and dialogue, which are essential tools in the implementation of sustainable development policies.

- Several countries to the South and East of the Mediterranean which have relatively undeveloped administrative systems and shaky institutional partners have met with less success in their sustainable development policies. It is central administration which is sectoralised and often far removed which bears the full weight and usually tends to be rather inefficient as a result. Partners who are not up to the mark mean that there is no possibility of sharing the burden and taking an active part in implementing the sustainable development policy. This creates a vicious circle which dulls objectives and slows intentions.

3. REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Despite the promotion of and support for sustainable development policies at international level (UN-CSD, donors) and the active participation of Mediterranean countries in activities related thereto, there is little concrete evidence of sustainable development policies. Some Mediterranean partners have shown their commitment to the principles of sustainable development.

- MAP plays an important role in making governments aware of the new concepts. It has been innovative at regional level, taking initiatives in support of the sustainable development process such as the setting up of the MCSD as a complementary mechanism. Through the MCSD's activities, MAP's structures have become involved in thinking and action towards sustainable development, the effects of which benefit the Contracting Parties themselves in the long run. The MCSD thus provides a good platform for initiating and supporting regional actors other than the Contracting Parties, such as the NGOs, for example.
- The European Union which, in many respects, has forged ahead and which also influences the policies of its member states, long since set up its action programme "towards sustainability", and is working on a new action programme. The Amsterdam Treaty established sustainable development as an objective. In spite of the progress achieved in terms of the environmental protection section, the lack of influence on the rest of community policy is highly regrettable, with it still being excessively sectoral and driven by concerns about the single market and economic development, a flaw which the Cardiff Council of Ministers (1998) endeavoured to correct in its conclusions.

At regional level, the EU has initiated the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership with its MEDA instrument, and the PHARE programme to assist Mediterranean countries. The SMAP (Short and Medium Term Environmental Action Programme) is the environmental component of MEDA, but any specific activities to emerge are few and far between. Furthermore, the PHARE programme, which aims at economic development, has no environmental facet.

Generally speaking, regional groups and networks are better prepared than individual actors to introduce sustainable development policies. Sharing concerns and resources means that new concepts can more easily be circulated and initiatives towards sustainable development launched. Sustainable development means that social values and economic development policies need to be restructured, which places a heavy burden on individual actors, particularly if the main tasks fall on central administration.

4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONAL POLICIES

Sustainable development appears to exert no influence on the policies of many partners in the Mediterranean, apart from its environmental protection component. Sectoral visions and priorities still predominate heavily, and environmental policies have precious little impact on development policies.

Economic efficiency continues to be the driving force behind policy for most Mediterranean countries, an aim towards which they move along the shortest possible route, using existing tools. The current international situation in terms of globalisation and competitiveness exerts pressure towards the adoption of such an aim.

Social equity is also an aim with which the Mediterranean has some experience. The interpretation of social equity has recently changed dramatically, however, therefore also demanding a change in values, attitudes and policies. This type of change is difficult to implement given the global restructuring of the economy and limited financial resources, but also in the absence of a broad consensus within society, and of institutional mechanisms developed in the Mediterranean, which could promote social action and responsibility.

Environmental conservation as an aim has largely been adopted at national policy level, although Mediterranean societies are still somewhat behindhand in terms of specific behaviour. Moreover, environmental policies are often too sectoral to deal with questions and themes falling into the realm of integrated policy. Protecting nature and controlling pollution tend to dominate in environmental policy, probably reflecting the first stage in the development of priorities for action.

Inter-generational equity which implies a long term view of development- despite having been widely practised on an everyday basis over past centuries- is often lost sight of, because of the short term profit and speculation which come with the rapid accumulation of wealth and accelerated change which are visible across the board.

Echoing growing global concern towards sustainable development, several Mediterranean countries are preparing to adopt the necessary measures to revise their national policies, and the priorities and actions which stem from them; some of them have already taken important decisions to this end, with some substantial action being involved; these initiatives are summarised in Annex III, based on information provided in the national reports prepared for this Strategic Review.

Generally speaking, the Contracting Parties and some other members of the MCSDD feel that practically all action aimed at protecting the environment has its place within the sustainable development approach. Relevant action towards integrating environmental concerns within sectoral policies in particular, and development in general, tend to be few and far between; however, sustainable development stakes are being included or even integrated in development plans on an increasingly frequent basis, at least as far as the objectives are concerned.

But much still remains to be done....

Positive as well as negative elements simultaneously condition future progress towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

5. FACING THE CHALLENGES

The human presence stretching back thousands of years, the traditions and wise practices of development and adapting human activities to the conditions imposed by scarcity, the predominance of activities which exploit and depend on local resources (breeding, agriculture, fisheries, and more recently tourism), and the long tradition of balanced urban and rural development provide a positive basis for the introduction of sustainable development policies in the Mediterranean. Moreover, the powerful impetus and support provided by the International Community for the adoption of sustainable development aims, as well as initiatives taken at regional level by MAP, the MCSDD and the EU, provide further

encouragement for Mediterranean policies to persevere on the path towards sustainable development.

At the same time, the Mediterranean partners are facing increasing challenges in terms of wider economic, technological and socio-cultural change such as the globalisation of world markets, increased competitiveness, geo-political restructuring, the growth of tourism, and technological progress in telecommunications and information distribution, in transport and travel. This in turn affects the opportunities for development and employment, population migration, and rural exodus, changing the long term results of balanced development and accelerating change.

Moreover, institutional capacity and financial resources at regional and local level are not really in a position to bring about change nor to take up the challenges.

The economic and social capacity to innovate which is essential to competitiveness in the modern world, is also limited with many countries in the region still being in the first throes of development in their national economies, most of them faced with the problems of marked population growth, economic inefficiency, rising unemployment, and rampant urbanisation, which demand an immediate response, giving priority to short term action rather than long term strategies. Efforts towards sustainable development are thus stifled despite the positive signs from past experience stemming from a balanced view of development, the environment and human existence.

6. WEAKNESSES TO BE OVERCOME

Although MAP II has extended its environmental concerns to include questions related to the land-based coastal areas, it is still limited on 2 points:

- The Contracting Parties are largely represented within it by the Ministers of the environment who do not necessarily have all the prerogatives when it comes to national sustainable development policies.
- The framework and the organisation of the means which it mobilises- including financial ones- are still marked by sectoral or thematic priorities.

The role which the MCSD should play vis a vis MAP is a highly important issue, given the huge demands of sustainable development activities in the region in terms of initiatives and support. The MCSD was introduced as an advisory body within MAP, without any consequences being drawn from a budgetary point of view, in terms of its terms of reference and its structures, and regarding the fate of recommendations.

The sectoral nature of environmental policies continues to dominate, whilst their impact on development policy is limited due to relatively unfavourable circumstances, and in particular the lack of any clear will to implement decisions. Sustainable development policies depend too exclusively on the public sector, hardly allowing partnership to develop between the public and private sectors. The financial commitment of the Contracting Parties to MAP activities and the MCSD is too limited to allow the implementation of programmes adopted. There is a blatant need for awareness raising and mobilisation among the main groups in Society in most of the countries of the region.

The diversity of existing agreements reflects on the one hand the lack of any Mediterranean approach, strategy and policy and, on the other, means that several of the Mediterranean basin's main problems cannot be tackled at the requisite level, including those related to financial assistance, technology transfer, population movements, environmental issues, general aid and cooperation. In the absence of technology transfer in particular, in order to

improve the capacity of Mediterranean countries to overcome low productivity and competitiveness on the international market, it will be virtually impossible to solve the Mediterranean's most pressing environmental problems.

Despite the progress achieved over recent years in terms of political reform, Mediterranean countries still live in fear of the hazards of liberalisation.

The problem does not boil down to adopting trade policies facilitating integration into the world economy (European to begin with), but also involves the need to have institutions which make this type of policy credible, through a clear understanding of the pertinent role they should play within the sustainable development process, in terms of institutional adjustment and building the capacity to regulate the private sector in the new areas of activity such as protecting the environment and strengthening the social components inherent to sustainable development.

Whilst environmental policies exist in practically all Mediterranean countries and in the regional organisations, they tend to have fragmentary perceptions of sustainable development.

Cross-board links are hardly taken account of, and under the best of circumstances environmental concerns are incorporated in development policies in an unsuitable manner.

In terms of content, most relevant sustainable development policies in the Mediterranean have not managed to face up to 3 important problems:

- Reforming policies in the key sectors, particularly agriculture and tourism.
- Controlling urbanisation and littoralisation.
- Developing infrastructure whilst respecting local resources and heritage.

7. EXPECTATIONS

It is expected of MAP:

- That the adoption of its new legal instruments take place under the best possible conditions; Legal assistance should be assured in the future.
- That a review and assessment of Mediterranean countries' environmental performance be periodically conducted under its coordination, in order to assess the effectiveness of legislation and regulation at regional level, to promote the integration of the environment and sustainable development policies through national legislation and regional agreements as well as the implementation of national action plans.
- That it conduct projects under SMAP on the integrated management of coastal areas, combating desertification, waste management, and sustainable water management.
- That it further develop the Strategic Actions Programme approach in order to enhance what its activities have achieved, that it speed up completion of the regional programmes and, in order to do so, that it set up a more efficient financing mechanism.
- That it develop a new strategy for seeking external funding.
- That its Coordinating Unit play a more incisive role in the face of the donors in the international or multilateral development programmes, public or private, to the benefit of the least favoured countries in the Mediterranean basin.
- That it permit greater understanding of the negative impact of the activities of non-Mediterranean countries on the quality of the environment and natural resources.
- That it facilitate country involvement in the sustainable development process by shaping specific actions to be implemented in the main sectors of development, and by building technological capacity in the countries.
- That it manage to provide decision-takers with information on the sustainability concept, adapted to the needs of each country and each culture, and that it increase the exchange of experience at all levels.
- That the terms of reference of the Regional Activity Centres be revised to take better account of sustainable development questions and the needs of the activities which stem from them.

8. PROPOSALS FOR INCREASED INVOLVEMENT BY ACTORS FROM SOCIETY

8.1 Providing quantitative information

The systematic collection at regional level and under MAP's responsibility of information related to projects and action which contribute towards sustainable development conducted by thousands of actors from Society, as well as their analyses would prove a useful exercise now that the importance of the main actors in Society has been fully recognised, and the main actors clearly identified.

Information could be collected on a contractual basis within the three groups identified: local authorities, NGOs and socio-economic actors.

In certain cases the entities to be taken into account are clearly identified: towns with over 100,000 inhabitants for sewage works, and coastal towns for port reception structures, for example.

8.2 Highlighting good examples

At the present stage, any indication relating to useful initiatives or any success is necessarily subjective, influenced as it is by the publicity efforts made by the various actors.

There is no direct relation between the value of a given initiative and the quantity of information produced about it, since this depends on the information-awareness policies of various organisations, the receptiveness of the local media, and other factors which are hardly linked to the intrinsic quality of the initiatives themselves.

As a general rule, the NGOs and their networks have been better at publicising their efforts than the local authorities or the socio-economic actors.

Consequently, when good examples or successful initiatives need to be highlighted in order to encourage others to follow suit, it is the NGO initiatives which first spring to mind.

Promoting public awareness-raising

By raising public awareness, the NGOs are playing the role of guardians of the environment at local level, and spurring the local and national authorities into action.

Their initiatives for involving the general public and young people in particular in beach clean-ups and other coastal management activities have introduced an element of concrete commitment into the latter's theoretical interest in the environment.

Environmental education

Young people's interest and enthusiasm as well as the positive response received from many teachers have helped break down the resistance of those who see nothing new in the environment which is not already covered by existing disciplines.

Interest in the environment means, on the contrary, that the importance of the scientific tools needed to study the environment in quantitative terms and to initiate effective rehabilitation steps can be stressed.

Consumer action

In the past, initiatives taken by many consumer associations against the use of environmentally harmful products have met with success; such initiatives will achieve their aims if supported by the media, particularly when clean alternative products exist on the market.

Local Agenda 21 exercises

The implementation of local Agendas 21 ensures the promotion of the participatory process. They should be seen as a useful tool for sustainable development in the region. They force all actors in Society to take part together, breaking down the barriers which divide them into different categories.

8.3 Creating a hierarchy of categories in Society

To be of use to the MCSD any hierarchy must respect totally transparent criteria:

- If the criterion is effective involvement in promoting MAP's aims in the Mediterranean, it is the NGOs who play the main role, followed by the local authorities still in a minority, and some economic actors.
- If the criterion is long term sustainable development in the region, it is most important to mobilise the socio-economic actors since all the activities and initiatives depend on the autonomous decisions of the economic actors and governments, over which the MCSD holds only limited sway.

Their participation will require further effort and time and must be sought for in a bottom-up approach as a function of their selective involvement in specific initiatives, rather than on a top-down basis through general commitments.

Such general commitments have already been made at global level, and the major world producers have already integrated respect for the environment into their directives.

If the criterion is the immediate potential for promoting the sustainable development of the region, there is no doubt that it is the local authorities that will need to be mobilised.

They possess the resources, the specific knowledge and the legal authority to be involved and will benefit directly from any visible improvement in the environment.

The local authorities are the essential partners in sustainable development, since international and national efforts only acquire any sort of specific dimension at local level.

8.4 Taking a few steps in the right direction

- The adoption by the Contracting Parties of a formal resolution calling for the more effective involvement of the main groups in Society in all questions related to MAP would dissipate the current interpretation according to which the NGOs are apparently only concerned by awareness raising and environmental education, the local authorities by specific programmes for coastal management, and industry only by specific problems related to combating pollution. Moreover, more effective involvement of the socio-economic actors should be encouraged, by making more appropriate choices for their representatives from the national or regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
- The launching by the MCSD of a draft quantitative and analytical inventory at regional level involving the components of Civil Society in programmes which are relevant to MAP's objectives. This could be done using a questionnaire, and calling on structures representative of all sectors in Society
- The reform of procedures for approving MAP's projects in order to allow the effective participation of the main groups in Society and their effective and specific contributions.
- The contribution expected of the main groups in Society in the implementation of MAP II projects could come about on the basis of the twelve themes and sixty one priorities

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

The regional review clearly shows the progress which has been made towards sustainable development and environmental protection as well as the flaws which continue to exist, since the Mediterranean Action Plan and Barcelona Convention and its Protocols were revised in 1995.

New types of growth and development which take greater account of the social well-being of the entire population and of environmental concerns need to be sought.

The environmental, economic and social cost to be borne in the short term by certain countries within a context of integration and liberalization which favors market mechanisms can only be acceptable if serious accompanying measures are adopted in order to cushion the impact on the least privileged sectors of society, and which will guarantee more long-term sustainability.

At national level, the difficulty of giving concrete expression to measures towards sustainable development decided upon by the Mediterranean community shows, on the one hand, that the new concept has not as yet managed to mobilize all spheres of Society and, on the other, that States have been slow in implementing some of the decisions taken.

Although it is highly active, co-operation in the Mediterranean is, on the one hand, affected by a lack of common vision and inadequate co-ordination between the main partners currently or potentially involved and, on the other, by a mismatch between resources available for development and investments, given the scale of the tasks to be accomplished.

This is exacerbated by the fact that the short-term effects of the Uruguay Round's decisions have not produced the expected results for the developing Mediterranean countries, judging by the worsening foreign trade deficit faced by most countries.

Apart from a clear political impetus, any shift towards sustainable development also requires reference models which identify and put across a shared vision, which takes account of the Mediterranean peculiarities, as well as a coherent strategy capable of guiding the various stages of its implementation.

To this end the MCSD proposes the following steps:

A common vision and a regional strategy

- 1 The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are invited to define a common vision of the region's future along with all of the partners concerned. For this purpose, they are invited within the framework of MAP and with all the partners concerned, to adopt a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development at their Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting (2003). This Strategy should reflect a responsible acceptance of the medium and long-term stakes and clear commitment and solidarity at all levels (regional, national, local) and in all sectors (economic, social, environmental); this strategy should:
 - Take account of the diversity of existing political, social, economic, cultural and environmental systems;
 - Allow States and Local Authorities to play their full role
 - Respect the multiple values of Mediterranean societies;
 - Draw on all elements of Society;
 - Promote social equity;
 - Ensure respect for the integrity of eco-systems;
 - Apply a participatory approach;
 - Identify and promote adequate methodologies and tools;
 - Promote the transfer and mastery of cleaner technologies;
 - Promote bilateral and regional cooperation;
 - Take due account of the principle of common but differentiated responsibility;
 - Encourage complementarity and synergies with other relevant programmes;
 - Express at the Mediterranean level the aims and proposals for action laid down by major global conventions, particularly on climate change, biodiversity, desertification etc., as well as the UN-CSD's recommendations;
 - Facilitate implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its protocols and MAP recommendations;
 - Build the required capacities to meet the above-mentioned objectives effectively.

2. The Regional Strategy should pay particular attention to the implementation of recommendations and proposals for action adopted or to be adopted within the MCSD framework, establishing clear objectives and adequate means, inter alia in the following areas: water demand management, tourism, industry, agriculture, energy, transport, waste, free trade and the environment, information and awareness raising, indicators for sustainable development, land use planning, coastal management and urban development.

National Strategies towards impetus and implementation

The Contracting Parties are invited to draw up or revise their sustainable development strategies as soon as possible, depending on their circumstances:

3. National sustainable development strategies should be drawn up or revised- whichever applies- in accordance with national specificities and priorities, in order to take account of any movement towards globalization in the Mediterranean region. The preparation/revision of national strategies and their implementation should be conducted according to a participatory approach, involving all actors and at all levels of responsibility concerned, and should square with other similar exercises.

4. National sustainable development strategies should be prepared within the framework of their respective national Agenda 21 and should define ambitious objectives regarding the uncoupling of production on the one hand from energy consumption and the use of resources and natural areas on the other. International commitments on cleaner production as well as the internationally accepted aims for limiting polluting emissions should find their expression in national strategies. National objectives should be established for sustainable consumption aimed at controlling the impact of structural changes on consumption patterns (private transport, renewable energy, solid waste and packaging, etc.).
5. National strategies should endeavour to translate the recommendations and proposals for action adopted or to be adopted within the MCS D context into specific objectives and means. In this respect, the MCS D could prepare guidelines for drawing up national strategies.
6. The Contracting Parties are invited to set up as soon as possible National Commissions on Sustainable Development or other types of participation structures which should be representative of the forces active within the country, in order to strengthen coherence and convergence in action.
7. The Contracting Parties are invited to carry out any necessary legislative, budgetary, financial, trade or economic reforms likely to assist in implementing national sustainable development strategies, including the following elements:
 - Rationalization of economic activity by integrating the environmental dimension;
 - Ensuring social equity;
 - Preserving and managing natural resources on a sustainable basis.
8. As regards the legal framework for sustainable development, the Contracting Parties are invited to:
 - Update and implement their national legal framework in line with environment-related international agreements they have ratified;
 - Complete the organization of the national and local institutional structures concerned;
 - Ensure and render the rules on governance as flexible as possible by promoting the principle of subsidiarity, transparency and the participatory approach;
 - Facilitate access to justice at national level in order to ensure that environmental law is respected.
9. Since the rapid urbanization of the coastal areas in particular, as well as regional imbalances, are both crucial sustainable development issues, the Contracting Parties are invited as far as possible to entrust the Local Authorities with greater responsibility for decentralized environmental management as well as for urban and rural development, particularly within the framework of local Agendas 21, guaranteeing good governance and the involvement of the main groups in Society.
10. Given the strategic importance of the coasts, and the necessary implementation of the principles of integrated coastal management, the study of regional policy guidance and methodological tools for the integrated management and monitoring of coastal areas should be further pursued and encouraged within MAP, in order to facilitate implementation, including guidance for the development of national legislation.

Effective Regional Coordination

- 11 In appointing/selecting their representatives to the MCSD, the Contracting Parties, local authorities, NGOs and socio-economic actors should take full account of the need to maintain the open, autonomous, advisory, and representative nature of this body. Through appropriate networking, they should draw on the experience of past members and ensure input from the wider groups they represent. The members appointed by the local authorities, NGOs and socio-economic actors should allow the broadest possible representation of the major groups in society, and should participate more actively in the work of the MCSD.
- 12 In order to strengthen the exemplary nature of State mobilization, and to support the unique character of the Mediterranean eco-region, the Contracting Parties and the other members of the MCSD are invited to improve their communications in order to guarantee the effective circulation of information between the MAP structures and national focal structures in particular, making MAP activities and output more visible to Mediterranean public opinion and to the interested international community.

Monitoring and Assessment Tools

- 13 Since the preparation of prospective analyses at the Mediterranean level as well as the production of useful information for public decision-taking and sectoral policies require updated data on all areas of human activity, it is proposed that the Contracting Parties develop and network national environment and development observatories or other similar and appropriate functions.
- 14 Since sustainable development and environmental protection are medium to long-term processes, it is proposed that the Contracting Parties:
 - Utilize appropriate measurement tools, as well as performance and response indicators which can assess progress;
 - Adopt measures to enable the regular follow-up and assessment of the state of the Mediterranean environment (inter alia, land, marine and coastal).

Follow-up of Proposals for Action

- 15 Since the revised Barcelona Convention lays down the requirement to take full account of MCSD/MAP recommendations and to take the necessary measures to adopt them during their ordinary meetings, it is proposed that the Contracting Parties:
 - Make concrete provisions to ensure that proposals are disseminated to the institutional structures, authorities and other actors concerned;
 - Report on them in the national reports for submission to MAP.
- 16 In order to give concrete expression to the MCSD's and MAP's proposals for action through effective implementing activities, both within the MAP context and in interaction with the countries the Contracting Parties are invited to agree on the preparation of projects for submission to financing institutions. In this respect, the MAP components should strengthen their capacity for preparing and managing projects related to MAP priorities.

- 17 The Contracting Parties are invited to promote the emergence of regional strategic action programmes or projects, particularly within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership on priority issues dealt with by MAP/MCSD in application of decisions taken by the Contracting Parties, and to assist fully in their implementation at the national level with the participation of all the actors concerned.

Broader Regional Cooperation

- 18 Given that the Mediterranean eco-region is the appropriate framework for dialogue and interdependence, the Euro-Mediterranean partners and other cooperation programmes in the region are invited to set the aim of Sustainable Development at the very heart of the implementation of their activities at regional and national level, aiming at equity, shared responsibility and solidarity.

- 19 With the aim of rationalizing means and increasing synergy the Contracting Parties are invited to:

- Promote greater cooperation between MAP, the United Nations agencies, the World Bank and other appropriate institutions in the region and encourage them to take account of the priorities defined by the Contracting Parties;
- Encourage official cooperation between MAP and their respective regional programmes;
- Take account of, exchange information on and promote the coherence and complementary nature of the objectives of their respective programmes of activities;
- Allow competent ad hoc intergovernmental actors to better participate in the management of certain thematic activities or to entrust them with the task;
- Strengthen, or even institutionalize cooperation with the UN-CSD.

- 20 The Contracting Parties are invited to promote a closer North-South partnership by strengthening the voluntary contributions made by countries at the regional and bilateral level in order to better support MAP activities towards sustainable development, particularly pilot projects and capacity building at national and regional level.

- 21 The Contracting Parties, regional NGO networks, local authorities and socio-economic actors as well as the MAP Secretariat are invited to actively contribute to preparations for the Earth Summit II. For this purpose, at its next meeting the MCSD Steering Committee should adopt a work programme for 2001-2002.

MAJOR NATURAL HAZARDS

The Mediterranean is a North-South meeting point of physical environments:

- It is the point where the Eurasian and African tectonic plates meet, causing major earthquakes and volcanic activity.
- The oceanic and continental air masses produce fronts which result in storms, even minor cyclones, and heavy “Mediterranean” downpours;
- Global warming is producing a South-North advancing front, at the point where the Mediterranean and Alpine zones meet, encouraging drought, desertification and the forest fires which ravage the shores of the basin throughout the summer.

Vulnerability in the face of major natural hazards is becoming increasingly evident in the urban areas as a result of the following key factors:

- The ageing of Mediterranean urban centres- with buildings and infrastructure which are not adapted to the “pressures” currently being exerted by rapidly increasing urban populations.
- The increased complexity of the vital urban infrastructure and basic public services- which allow a town to work- is gradually weakening the urban system in the face of even the most minor demands;
- The growing concentration of functions and resources- economic, cultural and social- in limited areas can lead to great losses in case of a major emergency, with side effects being felt at national or regional level.
- There are often major industrial accidents (explosions, leakage of hazardous material) in urban areas affected by a natural disaster, giving rise to major secondary risks.

The following list contains some of the objectives to be reached if Sustainable Urban Safety is to be achieved in the Mediterranean:

- Ensuring that hazards are taken account of in town Development Plans (both urban and industrial), as well as the essential mechanisms for democratic participation in land planning choices- viewing the right to safety as an important element in the quality of life in the urban environment;
- Ensuring the preparation and effective workings of Local Plans on risk prevention and preparing communities for them;
- Ensuring the upkeep of urban structures and infrastructure, as well as their development and strengthening in areas of increased demographic pressure;
- Ensuring the cooperation, communication and information exchange needed for the local authorities to take decisions;
- Ensuring that knowledge and capacity is built up amongst those responsible for managing urban safety, through adequate training. Ensuring widespread knowledge about hazards and safe behaviour, through safety education programmes conducted from school;
- Creating effective decentralised international cooperation, aimed not only at technology transfer, but rather at the transfer of approaches and methodologies based on local resources, within a framework which recognises that although the hazards in the Mediterranean are common, solutions must be adapted to the local situation.

TABLE 6 Implementation of Actions and Programs: planning or implementation of actions, projects or programs at national, regional or local level, regarding the defined topics

ACTIONS/PROGRAMS	Lebanon			Libya			Malta			Monaco			Morocco			Slovenia			Spain			Syria			Tunisia			Turkey		
	N	R	L	N	R	L	N	R	L	N	R	L	N	R	L	N	R	L	N	R	L	N	R	L	N	R	L	N	R	L
	Ex.	Pl.		Ex.	Pl.		Ex.	Pl.		Ex.	Pl.		Ex.	Pl.		Ex.	Pl.		Ex.	Pl.		Ex.	Pl.		Ex.	Pl.		Ex.	Pl.	
A CONTROL OF ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURE																														
1 Pollution of the marine environment																														
1.1 Ships	X	X			X		X		X		X				X	X		X	X		X	X			X	X			X	X
1.2 Off-shore oil					X				X									X	X										X	X
2 Pollution of the coastal waters																														
2.1 Industrial	X			X					X		X				X			X	X		X	X			X			X	X	X
2.2 Urban	X	X			X				X		X				X	X		X	X		X	X						X	X	X
3 Monitoring the quality of the marine environment									X	X					X	X					X							X		X
4 Regulation of maritime activities	X						X		X						X			X			X									
5 Air Pollution																														
5.1 Monitoring the air	X	X		X	X			X	X					X			X				X	X			X	X		X	X	X
5.2 Combating air pollution	X	X		X	X			X	X					X			X	X		X				X	X		X	X	X	X
6 Continental waters																														
6.1 Rational water management	X	X							X						X			X	X		X	X						X	X	X
6.2 Water pollution	X	X							X						X			X	X		X	X						X	X	X
7 Soil management and conservation																														
7.1 Erosion control	X	X							X						X			X			X	X						X	X	X
7.2 Rehabilitation of deteriorated land	X	X							X				X		X			X	X		X	X						X	X	X
8 Management of solid waste																														
8.1 Household waste	X	X		X				X	X					X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
8.2 Reuse of organic waste				X				X	X						X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X
8.3 Industrial waste	X	X		X				X	X						X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X
8.4 Legislative and statutory measures	X	X		X				X	X					X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
9 Forests																														
9.1 Land and plants health protection	X	X		X				X	X					X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
9.2 Fire protection	X	X		X				X	X					X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
10 Biotopes																														
10.1 Ecosystems protection	X	X		X	X			X	X					X	X	X		X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X
10.2 Species protection	X	X		X	X			X	X		X			X	X	X		X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X
11 Urbanization control																														
11.1 Instruments for urban control	X	X		X				X	X					X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
11.2 Control of coastal development	X	X		X				X	X					X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
12 Other																														
12.1 Noise																														
12.2 Sustainable cities										X					X		X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
B INTEGRATING THE ENVIRONMENT IN DEVELOPMENT																														
1 Institutional and legislation	X	X		X				X	X					X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
2 Government planning	X	X		X				X	X					X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
3 Implementation																														
3.1 Statutory instruments										X				X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
3.2 Economic instruments										X				X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
3.3 Private sector actions				X				X	X					X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
3.4 Bilateral cooperation									X	X				X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
3.5 Public initiatives	X	X		X				X	X					X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
3.6 Research	X	X		X				X	X					X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
3.7 Education	X	X		X				X	X					X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
3.8 Training	X	X		X				X	X					X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
3.9 Awareness raising	X	X		X				X	X					X			X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
C INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS																														
1 Mediterranean level	X	X												X			X			X					X	X		X	X	X
2 Euro-Mediterranean level	X	X						X						X			X			X				X	X		X	X	X	X
3 Worldwide	X	X												X			X			X				X	X		X	X	X	X

N = National level
R = Regional Level
L = Local level
Ex = Existing
Pl = Planned

Annex II

BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MEDITERRANEAN: a brief run-down

1 The UNDP

The UNDP has expressed a clear commitment to the environment and sustainable development, both directly through its own programmes at regional and national level, and indirectly by subsidising specific activities implemented by other agencies within the United Nations system.

The UNDP's Capacity 21 Initiative

Following the Rio Conference in 1992, the UNDP launched the Capacity 21 initiative with the aim of helping developing countries to shape their own capacity to integrate the principles of Agenda 21 in their national planning and development. The programmes were supposed to be developed and prepared by the countries themselves depending on their aims and priorities, with emphasis being placed on the mobilisation of local resources and the need to build up existing national capacity. The UNDP provides advice and support as well as a relatively modest financial contribution through a fund.

Participation and information are two aspects of the Capacity 21 programme, based on the idea of an integrated approach, which requires trans-sectoral coordination and the integration of environmental dimensions in all aspects of the development process; Integration also involves the decentralisation process. This is why the Capacity 21 initiative aims at creating a partnership between governments, NGOs, community organisations, universities and research institutions.

Capacity 21 is expected to help countries create links between the decision-taking structures at governmental and local level, to develop their own observation and monitoring strategies, and to share with others the important lessons they have learned from all their experiences.

With the aim of strengthening existing national strategies and plans, and pooling them in a coordinated and consistent development programme, the UNDP seeks:

- To incorporate the principles of sustainable development in national plans and programmes.
- To involve all authorising agents in environmental planning and management.
- To create an inventory of experience and expertise on sustainable development to assist developing countries, the UNDP, the specialised agencies, the NGOs, and the other partners.

Since it was launched, Capacity 21 has developed various activities in most non-European Mediterranean countries, contributing to varying degrees in:

- Coordinating efforts to draw up national Agendas 21,
- Institutional integration,
- Reform and governance strategies,
- Boosting Civil Society's involvement in the decision-taking process,
- Quantifying the components of sustainability, particularly through the use of indicators.

Although Capacity 21 has effectively brought about an appreciable improvement in the national context in the areas targeted, these results are however on a par with its limited ambitions. In effect, the institutional and technical capacities needed for the introduction of local and national sustainable development still far from match requirements.

The sustainable development programme network

The network involves 39 developing countries drawing up their own programmes. It provides points of view, experience and information about sustainable development policies and questions. It constitutes a multi-lingual source of information about sustainable development. The programme assists countries in setting up networks, training users, and granting them access to international sources of information, by improving their communications and connecting them to the Internet.

It has made it possible to provide economic partners with specific, relevant information about sustainable development in each country, and has created new jobs for sustainable development leaders responsible for assisting countries in integrating environmental considerations in activities backed by the UNDP, and encouraging and supporting initiatives such as Capacity 21 or the GEF.

The UNDP and globalisation

The “Globalisation, Liberalisation and Sustainable Human Development” programme which the UNDP launched in conjunction with the UNCED in 1998 aims at helping countries to minimise the cost of globalisation and to use it to its best potential. It is expected to provide low-income countries with the opportunity of following discussions on the creation of an operational framework allowing economic integration and its effects on human development to be analysed, within the WTO context.

The UNDP and governance

In 1997 the UNDP organised the workshop on governance for social development in the Arab region in Beirut, the main recommendation of which was that social development policies and programmes need to place man at the focal point of development efforts, and that the State should evolve from being the main provider of social services to being the guardian of social justice. Administrative reform towards decentralisation should go hand in hand with major efforts to train Civil Society so that both national and local responsibilities may be fully shouldered without risk.

The UNDP’s Urban Management Programme conducted by the United Nations’ Centre for Human Settlements concerns good urban governance in terms of reducing poverty, environmental management, and participation. It develops various questions specific to each country, drawing mainly on the town-level consultation process.

The UNDP and Poverty

The UNDP’s contribution to reducing poverty has been expressed, for one, through the publication of its reports on human development based on the principles of Agenda 21, which began in 1990. The UNDP supports countries’ efforts under their specific strategies for combating poverty: the economic growth of the poor, access to the means of production, equality between the sexes, the status of women, sustainable food provision for the poor, and governance in favour of the poor.

The UNDP helps countries to respect the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development in 1995, whose Action Plan calls, for one, for:

- Methods for measuring all forms of poverty to be worked out.
- National strategies to substantially reduce poverty to be established.
- Specific deadlines to be set for each country to totally eradicate extreme poverty.

The UNDP has listed the lack of information related to these three aspects of the action programme for Algeria, Egypt, the Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Albania: scale of poverty, plans to combat poverty, and objectives being targeted. The main objectives are related to access to basic social services, the creation of new job opportunities, the creation of sources of income, the conservation of natural resources, and the promotion of community participation. Four Mediterranean countries aim to reduce extreme poverty.

The Poverty Strategy Initiative (PSI), the UNDP's programme to combat poverty, which is co-financed by Denmark, Finland, Norway and the Netherlands, has supported activities in the Mediterranean based on national proposals: public forums on poverty, debates on the nature of poverty particularly in relation to the gender issue, national conferences and strategies for eradicating poverty.

Based on the Tunisian experience the UNDP has also contributed to drawing up a strategy for reducing poverty in the Arab states, targeting three major objectives:

- Improving access for the poor to the means of production
- Investing in human and social capital in order to promote jobs which generate income above the poverty threshold.
- Providing social protection to vulnerable groups through various public and private solidarity networks.

On the operational front, the strategy is based on promoting synergy between the State, the market and Civil Society, a new social contract based on their complementarity, in terms of capacity shaping, cooperation, association, social networks and civil commitment, particularly in cases of social dysfunction and marginalisation as a result of structural adjustment policies and more highly intensified integration into the global market.

The UNDP and the Social Funds

Set up in order to provide temporary and urgent assistance to communities affected by structural adjustment policies, these funds have often taken on a longer term development role, providing an institutional counterpart to national poverty reduction strategies. More flexible, rapid and efficient than governmental services, the mechanisms in place can better adapt to the complexity of poverty-related problems, although they run the risk of slowing down its sustainable reduction.

The UNDP and environmental issues

The UNDP supports environmental programmes such as METAP in cooperation with various governmental partners, NGOs, United Nations agencies, and academic and research institutes.

The UNDP- World Bank programme on Water and Sanitation is a spin off from the "international decade for drinking water and sanitation", which endeavours to back up national and local efforts to improve access of the poor to drinking water and sanitation. It has benefited various Mediterranean countries. The question of treating and reusing wastewater is one which has been widely examined in conjunction with FAO and the WHO, giving rise to various activities and also to the preparation of a health guide on the use of wastewater in agriculture and aquaculture. The UNDP gave substantial backing to the preparation of the process for the Convention on combating desertification. Along with the World Bank and UNEP it is involved in the GEF, ensuring that projects financed respect national aims and strategies towards sustainability. It administers the GEF's small loans programme, which aims at showing the effectiveness of a decentralised funding mechanism,

based on the participatory approach and local decision-taking in preparing, implementing, monitoring and assessing projects. The MedWet Coast programme illustrates this approach.

2 FAO

As the focal point of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development for soil, forests, mountains and agriculture, FAO has conducted many activities in the Mediterranean. In the forests sector the 1992 Action Plan for forests in the Mediterranean integrated the aims of Agenda 21 into previous forestry programmes. It proposed a conceptual framework intended to allow each country to draw up and implement its progress, strategies and forestry plans. For 50 years *Silva Mediterranea* has been running activities on sustainable forest management, assessment of forestry resources, forest fire management, agro-forestry, combating desertification, river basin planning, and managing wildlife and protected areas.

Some of the programmes conducted are:

- The regional cooperation project on research and development and training in the use of agricultural residues.
- The agricultural policy network for the Near East and North Africa
- The association of agricultural research institutes in the Near East and North Africa.
- The information and mapping system on food supply and vulnerability.
- The regional network for the reuse of wastewater in agriculture.

As far as the marine environment and fisheries are concerned, FAO has set up the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, and has developed a code of conduct for responsible fishing in the Mediterranean region. The GESAMP is composed of a group of experts from all the United Nations agencies on the scientific aspects of protecting the marine environment. Its work is related to studying the impact of coastal aquaculture on the environment, developing guides for aquaculture, detecting ecological change, monitoring and benchmark studies. FAO cooperated in the MED POL programme related to the effects of pollution on marine organisms, and is the leading agency for assessing the state of the Mediterranean Sea in terms of mercury, cadmium, copper and zinc pollution, as well as organohalogens and eutrophication.

The following have been set up under the FAO's auspices:

- The international code of conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides.
- The genetic resource base for plants
- The code of conduct for responsible fishing
- The international convention for the conservation of the Atlantic tuna.

FAO runs the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) which meets the specific funding requirements of certain countries; and finally, it advises governments on their planning and environmental protection policies in various fields such as:

- Management of water resources and soil
- Agricultural production systems
- Genetic resources
- Irrigation systems
- Combating disease on an integrated basis
- Integrated plant nutrition
- River basin management

3. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

The IFAD's aims are essentially related to:

- The needs of the poorest rural communities: small farmers, landless country dwellers, fishermen, breeders and women in need.
- Innovative approaches based on local participation and the preservation of natural resources.

The IFAD finances projects for improving food production systems, strengthening policies and institutions for increasing food production, and mobilising additional resources under soft conditions for developing agriculture and reducing rural poverty. The IFAD's aims as well as its operational mechanisms and approach all respect the concept and objectives of sustainable human development.

In the Mediterranean basin, the IFAD has played a key role in combating the New World Screw Worm in North Africa, by co-financing the biological control programme aimed at eradicating the fly. At regional level, the IFAD has also conducted training in agricultural management for the Near East and North Africa, aimed at strengthening the regional and national training institutes. The IFAD's post-crisis assistance programme covers the Mediterranean basin (Palestinian Authority, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Lebanon).

The IFAD supports certain inter-governmental cooperation projects towards sustainable development in shared river basins: improving the control of erosion, plant and animal production, and diversification of pluvial crops. It has also conducted a food aid programme to support environmental conservation and to develop certain agricultural activities.

4. The UNCED

Mediterranean 2000

The Mediterranean 2000 programme is a three year capacity building programme which aims to assist economic and social development by strengthening institutional capacity for SMEs, by stimulating their growth and competitiveness in six developing countries around the Mediterranean basin. In each of the countries involved it comes in the guise of the creation of an active and effective coalition of public institutions, private business associations, national and foreign companies and multi-lateral mutual support organisations. The programme is jointly run with other UN agencies such as UNIDO, the ILO, and the International Trade Centre, and with private international organisations such as the international standardisation organisation (ISO).

It is funded by the Italian government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' General Directorate for Cooperation Development. Mediterranean 2000 however makes no reference to the concept of sustainability, and the environmental aspect is missing. Supported by the EU countries, it would seem to square better with the spirit of the Renewed Mediterranean Policy than with the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

Globalisation and sustainable human development

The "Globalisation, Liberalisation and Sustainable Development" programme which is run jointly with the UNDP in order to build the capacity of developing countries to trade and become involved in the global economy, has not attracted the Mediterranean countries in its first stage. Tunisia will join the programme in its second stage. It would not appear, however, that this UNCED programme has fully integrated the concept of sustainable development or sustainable human development. Environmental issues have been tacked onto the programme rather than incorporated in it.

5. The UNPF

The projects financed by the UNPF respect the principles and objectives of the Action Programme from the International Population and Development Conference. The programme's priorities are reproductive health including family planning, reducing maternal and infant mortality, reducing the gender gap in terms of education, equality and equity, strengthening the power of women, and building the capacity of countries to develop and implement holistic population and development strategies.

Many initiatives have been taken in these areas at both national and regional level, such as the global initiative on management of the reproductive health system. The UNPF supports work in the region related to child health, indicators of maternal mortality and morbidity, the setting up of maternity units, and the analysis of factors which determine women's health. Through projects the UNPF works to facilitate access to family planning, making childbirth safer, and combating discriminatory practices towards women, including genital mutilation.

6. UNESCO

UNESCO has a Mediterranean component in all its programmes, particularly the MAB programme with the international network of biosphere reserves and the BRIM (biosphere reserves integrated monitoring) as well as the PHI. The INSULA programme is endeavouring to facilitate the creation and inter-linkage of Mediterranean biosphere reserves and is developing programmes related to energy issues in the islands.

Through the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC), UNESCO works to build up knowledge concerning the links which exist between the oceans and climate change, between the ocean environment and the biological components which make up the food chain and, finally, fisheries resources. The International Oceanographic Commission's global investigation programme on pollution of the marine environment prepares manuals and guides to marine pollution, studies and analyses the effect of pollution on marine ecosystems, as well as researching the transport and distribution of contaminants, modelling, bio-geo-chemical cycles and the uses of remote sensing.

One of its specific activities in the Mediterranean is related to MED-GOOS, which is a component of the International Oceanographic Commission's, UNEP's and the WMO's Global Observation System, which collects, analyses and circulates data on environmental degradation, climate change and coastal area management. The IOC is also actively involved in various of MAP's pollution assessment activities: using remote sensing to monitor water quality parameters, hydrocarbonated components and organohalogenes, as well as non-degradable synthetic substances.

7. The IMO

The IMO is the depository for several international conventions, including the London Convention on the prevention of marine pollution through the dumping of waste and other substances. It also acts as Secretariat to the International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). It also bears some responsibility for the protection of the marine environment and for defining sensitive marine areas. The IMO is active in the Mediterranean through close collaboration with MAP in terms of supporting and supervising the REMPEC in Malta.

8. The WMO

The WMO's main activities in the Mediterranean take place within the framework of the Global Atmospheric Observatory and the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). Thus the WMO was able to work with MAP on monitoring, modelling and assessing pollution

in the Mediterranean Sea from the atmosphere. It has also contributed to assessing long term changes to the marine and coastal environment resulting from climate change.

9. The IAEA

The IAEA works in the Mediterranean through its Laboratory for the Marine Environment in Monaco. The latter works alongside MAP in evaluating radioactive substances, organic organohalogenics, and organo-phosphorus compounds, and provides reference standards for analysing the main contaminants.

10. The WHO

Within the MAP framework the WHO participates directly in MEDPOL activities as well as in the preparation and implementation of the Strategic Actions Programme; other WHO programmes also affect the Mediterranean region:

The towns and health programme

It aims at improving health in the urban environment, particularly in the least favoured districts of towns in the Eastern Mediterranean. As a result of the second regional conference on sustainable cities (Tunis 1994) a regional development plan for viable cities has been prepared and a Maghrebian network of viable cities set up, which is coordinated by Tunisia.

The programme for zoonosis control in the Mediterranean

Both at national and inter-regional level it encourages the prevention, monitoring and control of zoonosis and food-related illnesses as a contribution to national health programmes for strengthening collaboration between the national departments for animal and public health, and in order to facilitate cooperation between the countries concerned.

11. The World Bank

The World Bank's Participatory Approach to Development

Over the last few decades the World Bank has introduced environmental considerations into all its activities. Environment-related policies and research are currently underway in the areas of energy, industry, urban infrastructure and agriculture. The 1989 Operational Directive on environmental assessment was a crucial step towards the inclusion of environmental issues.

For the past ten years or so, the Bank's essential aim has been to assist developing countries in controlling pollution and protecting the urban environment, managing natural resources, protecting the rural environment and capacity building. Challenges concern: health and education, development infrastructure, and the urgent need to reduce poverty.

Four strategic areas for intervention have been defined:

- Structural: including governance, justice, the financial system, the social security and protection system.
- Human: essentially education and health.
- Physical: including water and decontamination, energy, transport and telecommunications systems, preserving the environment and cultural heritage.
- Specific: problems related to urban and rural development and the private sector.

The new approach places more responsibility on countries for the running of projects, at central, provincial and local level, and calls for participation from Civil Society, the NGOs and the private sector. It also stresses the idea of partnership and the involvement of actors from

outside, since no one cooperation agency can on its own cover the whole spectrum of assistance needed for development.

Over recent decades the World Bank has gradually begun to integrate the environment into its large project portfolio, applying the environmental impact assessment procedure; thus between 1990 and 1999, 12% of all Bank projects were covered by sound EIAs; moreover, the Bank has also built up a large environmental portfolio, 50% of which concerns the management of pollution and the urban environment.

From 1990-1999, the Middle East and North Africa region (MNA) received 5% of GEF's projects and 1% of loans concerning Ozone; in 1999, almost 40% of investment projects included environmental components.

The World Bank and the Mediterranean

The initiatives of the World Bank have targeted five major problems in the region:

- Overuse of water resources
- The desertification of arable land
- Uncontrolled urbanisation
- Air pollution in the most densely populated areas
- Threatened marine and coastal resources,

largely based on the results of MAP activity, particularly for the launch of METAP.

- These initiatives involve: preparing and implementing policies and strategies for the sustainable management of scarce water resources in the region: long term vision and alternative policies with EC and EIB collaboration.
- Collaboration with an eye to controlling the depletion of natural resources in the arid lands of the Middle East: exchange of experience and expertise in the management of desert areas.
- Programme to prepare national environmental action plans for each country in the Near East and North Africa.
- "Strategic compact" programme to include environmental components in all development projects: classification of development projects into three categories based on their degree of impact on the environment.
- National capacity building for conducting environmental impact assessments in order to encourage investment without harming the environment.
- Mediterranean Development Forum (1997) alongside the UNDP and the World Bank Institute. The aim of the Forum is to promote economic growth in the region, to improve integration into the economic world, and to reduce poverty and inequality by supporting development professionals, training researchers, and setting up networks in the region. To date, three conferences have been held.
- The Public-Private Partnership (PPP) run jointly with the UNDP is a pilot activity, which encourages collaboration between governments, and business groups in order to create environmental management companies.

12. The GEF

Set up by the World Bank in 1991 with UNEP and the UNDP as a means of international cooperation, it targets global environment issues: climate change, biodiversity, international

waters and the protection of the ozone layer. As such, in the Mediterranean it has funded global studies on biodiversity, the conservation of wetlands and coastal eco-systems.

It has also financed the preparation of National Strategies on Biodiversity as well as of national Action Plans. It has also extended financial support to other projects in the field of biodiversity in Egypt, the Lebanon, Turkey and Algeria. In the area of climate change, the GEF has supported the regional capacity building programme in the Maghreb, and numerous projects at national level on controlling greenhouse gases or those which threaten the ozone layer. As far as international waters are concerned, some projects in the Mediterranean region have enjoyed GEF backing (in Albania, the Maghreb and Egypt, as well as MAP's SAP). Since it was set up, the GEF has assisted the countries in the region to a tune of 76 million dollars.

Annex III

AN OVERVIEW OF SOME INITIATIVES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A non-exhaustive assessment of the main steps taken by most of the countries and other members of the MCSD towards sustainable development will be attempted; this assessment is largely the result of the specific national reports prepared for this Strategic Review by the members concerned.

Albania

As yet Albania does not have a national strategy for sustainable development, although much effort has been put into ensuring political and economic stability, following the experience of other countries in so doing. The new Albanian constitution, which was approved in 1998, lays down for the first time the principles of sustainable development, in demanding the rational management of the forests, water, pasture land and other natural resources.

In response to the MCSD's recommendations and proposals on indicators for sustainable development in the Mediterranean, in 1999 the National Environment Agency drew up a series of environmental indicators, in order to establish the state of the environment as well as the impact and pressure to which it is exposed. Moreover, the National Action Plan for the Environment defines the following areas: implementation of new policies giving concrete expression to the principles of environmental protection and sustainable development; the periodic updating of sectoral policies to take account of change and information related to the principles of sustainable development and its protection.

Algeria

The setting up of a supreme council for the environment and sustainable development in 1994, which has powers of decision-taking, monitoring and advice, and aims to implement a policy based on the criteria for sustainable development was an important step in this direction. Thereafter, the Algerian government decided to adopt a national strategy for sustainable development, which is at the heart of the National Environmental Action Plan (PANE).

Bosnia and Herzegovina

For the time being, growth and sustainable development essentially depend on internal organisation, adequate institutional development, the adoption of legislation, and coordination within and between the various bodies. Assistance from the international community is the essential element in terms of institutional development and economic reform.

Over recent years, contributions from the international community in the form of emergency programmes have been replaced by programmes to reform legislation and to bring in new institutional structures in most areas. The main aim was to introduce effective management throughout the country, likely to bring about sustainable development in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly through increased cooperation between all actors.

Cyprus

The country's main sustainable development aims are already included in the Strategic Development Plan for 1994-98, prepared under the coordination of the Planning Office,

whilst an Action Plan for the Protection of the Environment was adopted in 1996. Its main thrust was the inclusion of sustainability in economic and social development policies, stressing the social aspects of development, and a genuine improvement in the quality of life, including protection of the environment; A similar approach was followed for the 1999-2003 Plan which is currently on the drawing board. Cyprus is currently focusing on adopting EU legislation and environmental policy.

Croatia

Bearing past experience in mind, the development strategy built up over the last 5 years in Croatia takes into consideration the integration of the environmental and economic aspects of growth. The land planning strategy adopted in 1997 as well as the National Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Croat islands reflect this approach.

In order to give the environment a high priority within economic and social activities in Croatia, the Ministry for Planning and the Environment was set up during the latest government reshuffle, opening the way for future institutional back up for the environment.

Spain

At all levels- central, regional and local- the administration is implementing plans and adopting measures to correct the imbalances of the past and to try to open up new paths towards sustainability. Although Spain has still not adopted any national strategy towards sustainability based on Agenda 21, the environment and sustainability are taken into account under Spanish development policies, whilst several municipalities and regions in Spain already have local Agendas 21, with others in the pipeline.

The Ministry of the Environment is endeavouring to involve the socio-economic actors in all the administration's policies, initiatives and activities. In 1997, the network of environmental authorities was set up as an instrument for taking the environment into account in the planning, monitoring and implementation of activities supported by the European Structural Fund.

France

The importance of sustainable development has been stated on many occasions. No activity is undertaken in the main areas such as energy, agriculture or forests unless it incorporates the principles of sustainable development, usually in application of decrees or laws. In order to promote this development, in the year 2000 the Ministry for the Environment and Land Planning set up a directorate for economic studies and environmental assessment.

The introduction of the principles of sustainable development into the tax systems, and the creation of a general tax on polluting activities, as well as the introduction of sustainability criteria into contracts drawn up between the State and the Regions illustrate the approach.

Greece

An integrated policy towards sustainable development is being set up.

The concept of sustainability has been introduced into the country's development policies, and major efforts are being undertaken to incorporate sustainable practices in the energy, tourism, transport, agriculture and environment sectors.

Furthermore, the effective implementation of environmental legislation, the strengthening of inspection mechanisms and the fulfilment of Greece's obligations vis a vis the international

and European communities through the ratification of international conventions, as well as the account which is being taken of European legislation, represent major headway.

Israel

In implementing its sustainable development strategy, Israel is drawing on experience built up in other countries and regions. The approach adopted, which is largely based on the participation of decision-takers, setting objectives, consensus and public backing, illustrates the ways in which all segments of society and the economy are involved in shaping sustainable development policy. The programme undertaken in 1996 was based on a current and forecast assessment of environmental resources and waste, which meant that a vast range of providers could be targeted.

Although sustainable development still does not attract a consensus on several issues, dramatic changes are sometimes proposed in Israel's development policy. One of the recommendations being made is to scrap obsolete technology and to promote eco-technologies which preserve resources, and reduce pollution and waste. Israel is beginning to move from an environmental paradigm based on control and de-pollution to one based on the efficient use of limited resources and the prevention of environmental risk.

Italy

An important step was taken towards sustainable development in 1999 when a law was passed to reorganise the Italian government, granting the new Ministry for the Environment and Land Protection all necessary legal powers. This new approach seems to be capable of increasing prevention and reducing natural risks (floods, landslides), and avoiding the over-exploitation of resources.

In 1999 in accordance with the European Commission's directives, the Ministry of the Environment and the National Agency for the Protection of the Environment produced the first "guides" for drawing up the "National Sustainable Development Plan", which should provide a standard reference framework for managing activities, to be shared and implemented by all actors.

Lebanon

The Lebanon has conducted several activities towards sustainable development. In 1997 the Ministry for the Environment set up an Environmental Code which has been approved by the Council of Ministers but not as yet by the Parliament; the Code contains provisions on environmental planning and management, financial instruments for protecting the environment, eco-auditing, environmental impact assessments, etc. It also stipulates the setting up of a supreme council for the environment, to be comprised of representatives from several ministries as well as the private sector and NGOs, which will act as a National Sustainable Development Committee.

Moreover, under the UNDP's Capacity 21 project, it has prepared a national Agenda 21 which was piloted at local authority level. Finally, some Observatories for the environment and development were set up in 1998, and came on stream in May 2000.

Malta

The adoption of Agenda 21 at UNCED in 1992 provided the impetus for the systematic scrutiny, monitoring and reporting on the state of the local environment. In 1993, the Environmental Protection Department financed an internal environmental audit into the governmental structures, as well as a report on the state of the environment.

In 1997, the Department for health policy and planning prepared a National Action Plan for the Environment and Health in cooperation with the department for the protection of the environment.

The Action Plan stresses de-pollution and specifically focuses on sustainability and improving public health.

A huge step was taken in 1999 with the publication of the first state of the environment in Malta, which contains the most reliable data on the environmental situation and the measures best suited to correcting non-sustainable practices.

Morocco

The protection of water and air quality, reducing waste and improving its management, the preservation of the urban environment, and the conservation of soil and the natural and coastal surroundings are the priorities set by the National Strategy for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development. The Strategy plans to achieve its objectives by implementing several actions within the framework of the Action Plan for the protection of the environment.

Slovenia

In 1997 a National Commission for Sustainable Development was set up in Slovenia within the framework of implementation of a policy based on the criteria for sustainable development. Slovenia also has a Council for the Protection of the Environment, which was set up in 1993 under the Law on the protection of the environment. The Council monitors the quality and protection of the environment in Slovenia, supports cooperation under global environmental action, and brings influence to bear on public opinion and the government by issuing declarations, recommendations and making proposals.

Moreover, a National action plan for the environment (approved by the Parliament) defines a series of measures aimed at solving the most pressing problems in Slovenia for all sectoral activities and main environmental questions. The important "polluter pays" principle has been adopted. In accordance with the regulations, a polluter is liable for the full cost of damage which he has caused to the environment.

Tunisia

Commitment to sustainable development first began in the late 80s through growing interest in environmental protection. Tunisia's project since 1987 has been to introduce protection of the environment as an essential element in all economic and social development policies. The passing of the environment law which created the National Agency for the Protection of the Environment in 1988 and led to the setting up of the Ministry of the Environment and Land Planning in 1994 were the main sectoral reforms for giving specific shape to the new project for Tunisian society.

Moreover, the preparation process for the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development provided the opportunity to adopt the concept and initiate the principles of sustainability in the drawing up of the 8th economic and social development plan (1992-1996), as well as of its successor (1997-2001). The setting up of the National Commission for Sustainable Development and the preparation of the national Agenda 21 strengthened the sustainable development process in the country and facilitated the implementation of the main measures adopted.

Turkey

The National Action Plan for the Environment which was completed in 1998 in response to the requirements expressed in the 7th five year development plan is the cornerstone of the current preparation of the national Agenda 21, supported by the UNDP. The main aims of the Action Plan are to improve the quality of life, to strengthen environmental management, and to integrate it into economic and social development.

Many projects on eradicating poverty, the gender issue, regional development, and good governance were initiated between 1990 and 2000 with UNDP backing. The project to promote and develop the local Agenda 21 in Turkey is endeavouring to attract the participation of local communities in the project's preparation, based on environmental considerations.

European Union

The EC has a wealth of experience in the environmental field. The Rio Earth Summit in 1992 profoundly influenced community environmental protection policy in general, and more specifically the 5th five- year Environmental Action Programme.

The Amsterdam Treaty (1997) requires that sustainable development and environmental protection be integrated into all community policies, programmes and strategies. Moreover, in their conclusions the European Summits in Cardiff, Vienna and Helsinki gave priority to the increasingly far-reaching updating of the EC's sectoral policies in a sustainable and integrated perspective (on-going).

Within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, the SMAP opens up new main-line possibilities in the environmental field in the Mediterranean region, using an integrated approach, as well as important financing prospects for the five areas of priority action.

Towns- Local Authorities

Several towns are currently taking various steps towards sustainable development. For example, they have plans for extending green areas, supporting public transport and rehabilitating historic centres. Some of these initiatives are being organised by the municipal authorities, such as the plans to support public transport in Tetouan and Aleppo, whilst others are conducted by central government, as for example the rehabilitation of the old town of Zarka.

Virtually all the towns have conducted eco-audits, and introduced ecological strategies. Some of them, like Aleppo, Zarka, Rome and Calvià, are implementing a local Agenda 21. In Calvià, for example, at municipality level, the local Agenda 21 has been integrated into all of the town's society aspects; thus, the principles of sustainable development are completely integrated within the urban masterplan.

Other partners

Our age has recognised the role of civil society- particularly the NGOs and local and regional authorities- as far as environmental protection and sustainability are concerned. Thus, MedWet's strategy for the Mediterranean wetlands, adopted by the governments, inter-governmental organisations and major governmental agencies in the region, provides an environment and sustainability code. The strategy will be completed over coming years by detailed guidelines on the sustainable use of all production activities related to the wetlands or impacting on them. Efforts are also underway to include the "sustainability" dimension in national policies or action plans on the wetlands which are currently being prepared.

AFESD Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development

APVM 100 Historic sites (l'Atelier du Patrimoine de la Ville de Marseille)

ASCAME Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce

CAMP Coastal Areas Management Programme

CEDARE Centre for Environment and Development for Arab Region & Europe

CITES Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

CITET Tunisian International Centre of Environmental Technologies

CSD Commission on Sustainable Development

EIB European Investment Bank

EOAN Chambers Group for the Development of Greek isles

EU European Union

FAO Food and Agricultural Organisation

FGEF French Global Environment Fund

GEF Global Environment Fund

GESAMP Group of experts on the scientific aspects of marine pollution from ships

IAEA International Atomic Energy Agency

IMO International Maritime Organisation

IOC International Oceanographic Commission

ITO International Telecommunications Organisation

MAP Mediterranean Action Plan

MARPOL Convention on the prevention of Marine Pollution from ships

MCSD Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

MEDA Accompanying measures (Euro Mediterranean partnership)

MEDASSET Mediterranean Association to save the Sea Turtle

MEDCITES Members of Mediterranean Cities

MEDFORUM Forum for the Mediterranean for the Environment and Sustainable Development

MEDPOL Programme for the assessment and control of pollution in the

MEDU Coordinating Unit for MAP

MEDWET Mediterranean Wetlands

MEP Mediterranean Environment Programme

METAP Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme

MIO-ECSDE Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development

NCS National Commission on Sustainable Development

NGO Non Governmental Organisation

NGOS Non Governmental Organisations

RAC Regional Activity Centre

..... **RACIBP** Blue Plan

RACICP Cleaner Production

RACIERS Environment Remote Sensing

RACIPAP Priority Action Programmes

RACIREMPEC Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Centre

RAC/SPA Specially Protected Areas, Regional Activity Centre

SAP Strategic Action Plan

SMAP Short & medium term Action Plans

TCP Technical Cooperation Programme

UN United Nations

UNCED United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organisation

WHO World Health Organisation

WMO World meteorological Organisation

WWF World Wide Fun