

SUMMARY OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE XVIIIITH MEETING OF THE MED UNIT AND THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRES (RACS) ON MAP'S PROGRAMME

Participants agreed on the following:

1. State of the Ratification Process

- Given the slow progress of the ratification process for the Convention and its Protocols, each time they are in contact with the authorities of the countries where they are based or are on mission, the RAC directors and experts as well as the heads of the other MAP structures should remind them of the urgent need to push on with ratification and press them to make their respective governments aware at the highest level.

2. Revision of the Emergency Protocol (MEDU/REMPEC)

- Convene the meeting of legal and technical experts responsible for drawing up the final version of the text in September, and the conference of plenipotentiaries for its adoption in December;
- The meeting on maritime safety and the environment which was suggested by MEDMARVIS could be organised by one of the countries, such as France;
- The possibility of drawing up a new protocol rather than revising the present one should be studied.

3. Preparation of a meeting of legal experts on implementing the Barcelona Convention

- Focus this meeting on the transposition of the Barcelona Convention into national law (MEDU).

4. Reporting system

- Start to implement provisions on the reports to be sent for the new SPA Protocol which came into force in December 1999 (SPA/RAC).

5. Timetable of institutional Meetings for the forthcoming Biennium, including the meeting of focal points

Plan for the following meetings and prepare accordingly:

- New Bureau of the Contracting Parties in May 2000, Malta (MEDU);
- 4th meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee in June 2000 in Corfu, Greece (MEDU);
- Meeting of the RAC and MED POL focal points:

. REMPEC: October 2000 in Malta, possibly preceded by the technical

meeting on the Emergency Protocol in September, bearing in mind point 2 above;

.PAP/RAC, BP/RAC, ERS/RAC: joint meeting planned for 2001, the organisational details of which are to be settled shortly; the Contracting Parties have been invited to reconsider nomination of focal points in the light of the joint meeting;

. SPA/RAC: in 2001;

. MED POL: in 2001;

. organise a meeting of MAP/GEF focal points to inform them of developments with the SAP and obtain their approval for the following stages;

. Meeting planned for July (SPA/RAC) of the Biodiversity/SAP focal points;

. 6th meeting of the MCSD in Tunis, 21-25 November 2000, in conjunction with the UN-CSD regional consultation meeting.

6. Partnership with international organisations, secretariats of international conventions and IGOs

Set up or strengthen links with the following bodies, and ensure in particular that MAP attends their main meetings:

- *Convention on Biodiversity*: meeting in Nairobi in late May 2000; present in that forum the SPA Protocol which has just come into force; (MEDU/SPA/RAC);
- *Convention on desertification*: strike up relations with this convention which includes an annex on the Mediterranean, and take the desertification question on board through the dynamics of the MCSD which will no doubt adopt it as one of its new themes (feasibility study planned for); if needs be foresee the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the convention (A.Hoballah);
- take part in the workshop which the Italian Ministry for the Environment is planning to organise on *Relations between the International Conventions* (biodiversity, climate change, etc.);
- *SMAP*: meeting of focal points, 22-23 March 2000 (MEDU will establish contact);
- *World Water Conference*, The Hague, mid March; send in the MCSD's documents and the BP Water Vision as revised for this occasion;
- Euro-Med meetings in *Marseille*: conference on globalisation in July. Towns and sustainable development in October (Mr. Drocourt will create the link);
- *METAP*: wait and see how the programme develops before taking any specific steps towards co-operation;
- *WHO*: increasing involvement on the SAP's hot spots by the MAP/WHO bureau and important contribution by the Copenhagen Regional Office for Europe to various MED POL activities on the health aspects of the environment;
- *IOC, WMO*: continue ad hoc co-operation despite the cut in research funding (MED POL);
- *FAO*: no longer any institutional co-operation with MAP, but contribution foreseen for preparation of BIO SAP (SPA/RAC);
- *IAEA*: ensure that co-operation is maintained, given its essential input to MED POL, through the Monaco based MEL, on intercalibration, intercomparison, maintenance;

- *European Agencies: Eurostat (BP)*
- *EEA (contribution to a report on environment-development in 2002);*
- *CEDARE: co-operation on waste.*

7. Assessment of MAP and the RACs, including the 100 Historic Sites Programme

- Hold a meeting on the methodology to be applied in assessing the RACs, specifying the terms of the exercise compared with MAP II objectives and recommendations by the Contracting Parties, to provide the latter with a clearer idea as to how MAP and its Centres fulfil their mission, the validity of their methods, and the possible need to adjust aims, structures and methods (Mr. I. Dharat's replacement).
- For this purpose, invite experts to be sent to the methodology meeting: France, Italy, Tunisia and Turkey, with experts from UNEP/Nairobi, the IMO, and two independent experts who could be Mr. Vincemius (Andersen consulting, former Dutch minister for the environment), and Mr. Fokeladeh Faouaz (UNDP/Arab region).
- For the *100 Historic Sites Programme*, allow the Contracting Parties to give their views on its fate in relation to MAP in order to put an end to the legal and administrative uncertainty, and thus respond to the request of the Contracting Parties in Malta to assess the relevance of this programme in terms of MAP objectives. Have consultants carry out this assessment (the names of Mr. Beschaouch and Mrs. Bouche were mentioned).

8. Objectives, output, timetable and working methods of the RACs and MED POL

- Each time a Centre or one of MAP's components presents its activities ensure that the specific effects are brought out as well as possible in order to make them visible to MAP's various publics (decision-takers, NGOs), even when these are preparatory activities.
- REMPEC: besides the legal considerations mentioned in point 2 above, use the Erika shipwreck to learn lessons for if a similar accident were to occur in the Mediterranean, if needs be by holding a debriefing meeting with the French authorities on what can be learned from the shipwreck.
- CP/RAC: draw up a table along the lines of the one included in the 2000-2001 programme budget for the other RACs in order to relate activities to the corresponding figures.
- All RACs: avoid any lack of coordination or overlap between the Centres on common themes (such as waste). Use the MCSD to pool efforts under its aegis for current, planned or emerging themes, and thereby boost the credibility of

this work.

- BP/RAC: launch the programme? s ?think tank? and avoid becoming involved in operational actions; concentrate more on performance, loopholes and possible responses, and thus become the MCSD's guidance instrument (particularly through the work on indicators).
- BP/RAC: draw up an appropriate publications policy; to this end examine, and draw on if needs be, work carried out by similar institutes around the world, their policies on output and publication and on-going stimulation of the scientific community (through workshops, colloquia); maintain contact with the countries and NGOs.
- PAP/RAC and the other Centres: begin those activities on which there are recommendations and where the Contracting Parties have issued a clear remit, with a corresponding line in the budget (including external funding).
- BP/RAC, PAP/RAC, ERS/RAC and possibly MED POL: work together, in close coordination and on a mutually complementary basis on the White Paper on coastal area management, having carefully examined and assessed studies and documentation on this subject in the region, and learned from the CAMPs. The White Paper should be an inventory which, under the guidance of PAP/RAC, will put knowledge about coastal management and policies applied in this area into perspective, and will be submitted to the MCSD and the Contracting Parties.
- ERS/RAC: concentrate on past, current or future MCSD themes (coastal management, desertification) in order to flesh them out with satellite data.
- SPA/RAC: spread the word now that the SPA Protocol has come into force (e-mail messages, mobile exhibitions, distribution of documentation already prepared) and keep up the pressure on those countries which have not as yet ratified.
- SPA/RAC: work on preparing the BIO SAP, starting at national level to collect the essential information, then summarise at cross-border level- which should be the prime dimension in the document- along the lines of the work done for the L.B.S. SAP.

9. MCSD Activities

- If the RACs and the MEDU: respect the MCSD's timetable for the year 2000, the plan for drawing up the Strategic Review and the decisions as reflected in the Summary of Conclusions from the 3rd Meeting of the MCSD's Steering Committee, held in Tunis on 20 and 21 January 2000.
- For the *pre-feasibility studies* which will make it possible to rank future themes according to priority at the 6th MCSD in Tunis, they should all include 4-5 pages defining the theme and highlighting its scope for the region.

- Each study shall be attributed to one or more RACs, or to a programme; it shall be conducted on the basis of a list of common criteria, possibly distributed along the following lines for the eight themes which were proposed to the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Malta:
 - . Local management and sustainable development: PAP
 - . Sustainable management of natural resources: SPA (and PAP)
 - . Energy, transport and sustainable development: BP
 - . Agriculture and rural environment: BP (PAP and ERS)
 - . Consumption trends and waste management: BP
 - . Health and the environment: WHO (and BP)
 - . Combating poverty: UNPD (and BP)
 - . Natural disasters: BP
 - . International co-operation towards sustainable development: MEDU.

- The ERS/RAC, according to what reported in its document "Support to the thematic works of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development", distributed on the occasion of the 5th Meeting of the MCSD in Rome, July 1999, will provide its expertise and support to the feasibility studies on the following themes in the above list: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8.

- The *Strategic Review for the Year 2000* is the absolute priority, the activity which should stand out as the crowning achievement of MAP's work this year. Each component of the programme has to put in its share. It is not intended either as an assessment or as a state of the environment, but rather as an overview of what has been done to implement Agenda 21, particularly at political and institutional level, not only within the MAP framework but by all the other partners too, within the sustainable development perspective, in order to highlight the strategic objectives in the region. This document is intended to serve as a reference for development questions in the Mediterranean for several years; it is essential that it should be more than just a list of initiatives and should also have some link to reality?

10. MEDA Projects

It is currently planned to prepare and submit:

- the project on *coastal management*: under the aegis of PAP/RAC;
- the project on *biodiversity*: under the aegis of SPA/RAC;
- the project on *tourism*: under the aegis of BP/RAC;
- the projects on *port reception facilities* and the *sensitivity maps*: under the aegis of REMPEC (being conducted).

Projects taking the form of follow-up to MCSD recommendations will be coordinated by Mr. A. Hoballah.

The Centres concerned should not simply sit back and await calls for tender, but should establish contact with the Commission in Brussels, going along in person if needs be (a collective visit by the RAC directors and the MEDU could be a possibility once projects are

ready).

11. MAP Information Strategy

- The buzzwords in this field are visibility and credibility.
- The RACs and other MAP components should always remember that the MAP reference should figure first in their documentation and presentations (before the names of their Centres, associated programmes, etc.). Once the MAP logo and model cover page have been finalised they should be systematically used as symbols of recognition for the programme which in the long run will force the partners and other actors in the region to take notice.