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I. Introduction

The present progress report is submitted by the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development in compliance with the Terms of Reference of the MCSD. It covers progress achieved and problems encountered during the period July 1999-October 2000 in the implementation of various decisions taken during previous meetings of the Commission as well as the meetings of the Contracting Parties.

Organisation and implementation of the activities during this period were largely based on discussions and conclusions of the third and fourth meetings of the MCSD Steering Committee, focussing mainly on the preparation of the Strategic Review for the year 2000.

In conformity with its Rules of Procedure, fifteen new members representing the three Major Groups of the Society, Local Authorities, Socio-Economic Actors and NGO, were selected by the Contracting Parties at their 11th meeting (October 1999, Malta) and invited to attend this meeting; MCSD reports were sent to all new members that were also requested, if interested, to join the on-going thematic working groups.

Following proposals by the third meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee on which all MCSD members were consulted, it was decided that:

- Break-out working sessions could be held during the MCSD meetings, in place of some plenary sessions, as necessary and useful;
- Summary of conclusions will be adopted at the end of the MCSD meetings; a detailed report will be prepared shortly after the meeting.

In conformity with its Rules of Procedure, a **new Steering Committee is expected to be elected** at the beginning of the sixth meeting of the MCSD. Its mandate will run until the next MCSD meeting, expected to be held in Turkey, early October 2001 latest, not less than five weeks before the 12th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Monaco, 14-17 November 2001).

II. Brief history of the MCSD: benchmarks and decisions

The post-Rio era was an important period in the history of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) during which the Governments of the Mediterranean region and the European Community, in cooperation with concerned partners, started the process of translating and adapting UNCED principles to the Mediterranean context through the preparation of Agenda MED 21, reorientation of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its protocols and the creation of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).

The MCSD was established in 1995 within the framework of MAP, as an advisory body with the following mandate¹:

- to identify, evaluate and examine major economic, ecological and social problems set out in Agenda MED 21, make appropriate proposals thereon to the meetings of the Contracting Parties, evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of decisions taken by the Contracting Parties and facilitate the exchange of information among institutions implementing activities related to sustainable development in the Mediterranean;

¹UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/16, annex XIII (IV-a)

- to enhance regional cooperation and rationalise the inter-governmental decision-making capacity in the Mediterranean basin for the integration of environment and development issues.

At their Extraordinary Meeting (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Terms of Reference and the Composition of the Commission². According to the Terms of Reference, the Commission is composed of 36 members, sitting on equal footing, consisting of high-level representatives from each of the Contracting Parties (21), representatives of local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organisations (15), working in the fields of environment and sustainable development.

During its first meeting (Rabat, December 1996), the Commission elected its first Steering Committee with Morocco as President, EcoMediterranea as Rapporteur and ASCAME, CREE, Croatia, Egypt, European Commission and Tunisia as Vice Presidents; it agreed on a programme built on activities corresponding to some of the priority needs of the Mediterranean region: (sustainable management of coastal regions and management of water demand, sustainable development indicators, tourism, information, awareness and participation, free trade and environment, industry and sustainable development, management of urban and rural development)

The method of work consisted in organizing thematic working groups with Task Managers and Support Centres to deal with each selected theme. The MAP funds allocated to the MCSD will be considered as seed money since the task managers and support centres are expected to look for the necessary additional human and financial resources and expertise for the activities of the thematic working groups.

The second meeting of the Commission (Palma de Majorca, May 1997) has mainly reviewed progress achieved and problems encountered since its first meeting.

At their third meeting (Sophia Antipolis, October 1997) the members of the MCSD agreed upon sets of recommendations and proposals for action related to management of water demand and sustainable management of coastal zones, together with MCSD's draft rules of procedure, before presenting them to the Contracting Parties that adopted them at their tenth meeting (Tunis, November 1997).

At its fourth meeting (Monaco, October 1998) the Commission examined the progress made by the six "medium-term" thematic working groups, as well as issues related to follow-up of recommendations, new themes, method of work and cooperation with UN agencies and other partners. Moreover and in conformity with the MCSD's specific rules of procedure, a new Steering Committee was elected with Tunisia as President, Monaco as Rapporteur and EOAEN, Cyprus, MIO-ECSDE, Municipality of Silifke and Spain as Vice-Presidents.

The fifth meeting of the MCSD (Rome, July 1999) agreed on sets of recommendations and proposals for action related to "Sustainable Development Indicators" and "Information, Awareness, Environmental Education and Participation"; the ones related to "Tourism and Sustainable Development" were reviewed and finalized some weeks later; they were then all presented to the 11th meeting of the Contracting Parties (Malta, October 1999) who adopted the three sets of recommendations; moreover, the MCSD members agreed on the set of criteria to be applied for the preparation of pre-feasibility studies for and selection of possible new themes for the next programme of work of the MCSD.

²UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.8/7, annexes V and VI

The fifth Meeting of the MCSD and the 11th Meeting of the Contracting Parties have discussed aim, organisation and method of work for the preparation of the Strategic Review for the year 2000, as agreed upon in the Terms of Reference of the MCSD;

On the occasion of the fifth MCSD meeting, the Executive Director of UNEP expressed his support to MAP and its MCSD, providing a regional forum for dialogue and offering a promising framework for the definition of a genuinely Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy.

III. Strategic Review for the year 2000

In conformity with the MCSD's remit and in accordance with the discussions at and recommendations of the meetings of the 5th MCSD (July 1999, Rome) and the 11th Contracting Parties (October 1999, Malta), the Secretariat has launched the preparatory process for the Strategic Review since December 1999, resulting in the preparation of five background documents that were presented and discussed at the 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee (January 2000, Tunis). These concern:

- A framework paper;
- The methodological approach;
- The questionnaire on environmental performance;
- The terms of reference for carrying out the strategic review; and
- A draft table of contents of the report.

The members of the specific working group (or Comité de Pilotage) for the preparation of the Strategic Review, as constituted at the 5th meeting of the MCSD and composed of Tunisia, Greece, the City of Rome, EOAEN and MIO-ECSDE, were consulted on above background documents via e-mail facilities, before presenting them to the 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee that decided to include Monaco in the Comité de Pilotage.

Soon after the meeting of the Steering Committee, the process of the preparation of the national and regional studies was launched; in order to provide the MCSD members with a clear idea of the large context in which the Strategic Review is being prepared, the questionnaire was sent to all MCSD members, representative of Countries as well as other partners from the major groups of the Society, together with the framework paper, the methodological approach and the part of the terms of reference related to their tasks.

The questionnaire was sent to all MCSD members and the Regional Activity Centres between 15 and 20 February 2000 by mainly e-mail, and by fax or urgent mail to only three members, requesting them to send back the duly filled in questionnaire by the end of April latest; guidelines for the preparation of national reports were later on proposed to the MCSD members, in order to have their synthesis about main decisions and actions presented in a comparable way.

Eventhough the deadline was fixed for end of April, questionnaires and reports were received until mid-July, affecting therefore, the complete exploitation of the information submitted. It is important to note that no financial support was provided from the Secretariat for their preparation and that MCSD members have in general shown great interest in carrying out this work. By mid July 2000, questionnaires were received from all 21 Contracting Parties and 6 of the other members (out of 30).

Three regional studies were also prepared by experts on :

- “Major Groups of the Society, MAP and Sustainable Development”;
- “Regional Cooperation in the Mediterranean Region”; and
- “MAP/Barcelona System vis à vis sustainable development”.

The Secretariat was assisted by two other experts for the analysis of the information contained in questionnaires as well as national and regional reports, and the integration of the most relevant information in the draft Strategic Review.

In order to review the progress of work and as agreed upon at the third meeting of the Steering Committee, the “Comite de Pilotage” for the preparation of the Strategic Review met in Monaco on 11 May 2000, followed on 12 May by a working session between the members of the Coordinating and Drafting Team (Secretariat with concerned experts).

Some of the MCSD members seem to have invested a lot in the preparation of the questionnaire and the national report, and some of the regional studies have gone through such an in-depth analysis that it would be interesting to **consider a further exploitation of the content of these reports after the preparation of the Strategic Review**. These documents (questionnaires, national reports and regional studies) and their contents do constitute a wealthy information set that could be further analyzed and used at national and regional levels.

Progress in the preparation of the Strategic Review was further reviewed by the members of the Steering Committee at their 4th meeting (Corfu, 22-23 June 2000), together with issues related to the contents and organization of the 6th MCSD meeting (agenda, working groups, High Level Segment, Declaration, etc). Summary of Conclusions of the 3rd and 4th meetings of the Steering Committee are in annex I of this report.

Immediately after the meeting of the Steering Committee, the Coordinating and Drafting Team has worked intensively so as to have an overall draft for the Strategic Review ready by mid-July that was sent to all MCSD members during the last week of July, requesting their review and comments for early September 2000. Comments were received until the end of September 2000 when a second draft was being prepared in Tunis with concerned Tunisian counterparts.

Most of the comments were, as far as possible, given due consideration in the preparation of the last version of the Strategic Review for the year 2000, including a set of recommendations and proposals for action that was sent together with this report to all MCSD participants to the 6th MCSD meeting between 20 and 25 of October 2000 by e-mail and urgent courier (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.170/3).

IV. Summary of Intersessional Activities

During this period, two meetings of the Steering Committee were organized (January 2000 in Tunis and June 2000 in Corfu) and mainly devoted to the preparation of the Strategic Review and the organization of the 6th meeting of the MCSD. Issues related to preparatory process for possible new themes, progress of thematic working groups and cooperation, were also discussed.

Out of the eight thematic working groups of the MCSD, three are still on going. They concern “Industry and Sustainable Development”, “Free Trade and the environment in the Euro Mediterranean context” and “Management of Urban Development”, with more intensive work for the last two subjects. Experts meetings were held for “Free Trade” and “Urban Management” in April 2000 in Paris.

For "Free Trade and environment", the expert meeting focussed on the progress of studies being prepared, and the content of some of them, in view of a major workshop that was organized from 5 to 7 September 2000 in Montpellier-Mèze, based on a large number of regional, national and sectorial studies (see progress report in annex II, appendix I, of this report).

For "Management of Urban Development", the expert meeting focussed on definition of objectives, method of work and necessary studies, in view of organizing a major workshop during the second quarter of 2001. Since then, a questionnaire was prepared and sent to concerned national and urban authorities, together with the preparation of specific studies (see progress report in Annex II appendix II of this report).

In relation to the follow up of MCSD recommendations, the members of the MCSD agreed on their fifth meeting that:

- follow up measures should be envisaged by the Contracting Parties when adopting proposals for action and recommendations put forward by the MCSD;
- in this connection, the Contracting Parties should adopt a system of reports on implementation that should be communicated to the MCSD;
- communication with the Contracting Parties and other partners should be improved to ensure that the MCSD activities benefit from a multiplier effect;
- a pilot project approach should be promoted;

At the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, an ad-hoc working group discussed the issues of implementation and follow up of recommendations made by the MCSD and the following was agreed upon:

- the Contracting Parties recognize the need for follow up measures and encourage the MCSD to draw up a strategy for this purpose, so as to help in evaluating the effectiveness of the action undertaken. The Contracting Parties also undertake to adopt the necessary measures to implement and follow up the recommendations adopted;
- the Contracting Parties will endeavor to identify and involve other partners in the implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

Considering that the MCSD needs for a greater visibility and a broader circulation of its results together with demonstration/pilot cases as a testing to the implementation of the recommendations and proposals for action, the following activities have been or are being implemented by the Secretariat:

- off-prints for wider dissemination have been prepared for the adopted MCSD recommendations and proposals for action;
- with a financial support from the EC, a project on "Information, Awareness and Public participation in the Arab speaking countries" has been the case for a pilot implementation of related MCSD recommendations with relevant contributions from countries, NGOs and regional partners; to that end, a major workshop was organized in Cairo on 21-23 October 2000.

- preparation of several national studies on “Information and Participation” were induced and prepared for Algeria, Tunisia, Lebanon, Albania, Syria and Croatia; publication for wider dissemination is under consideration;
- two case studies related to recommendations on “Tourism” were prepared in Lebanon and Turkey;
- in accordance with the programme approved by the Contracting Parties in which some of the MCSD proposals were included, BP/RAC is preparing the “White Book” on Tourism and PAP/RAC has prepared a guiding note for the assessment of Tourism carrying capacity; moreover, both Centres together with RAC/ERS are actually preparing, in cooperation with MEDU, two major regional projects on “Tourism” and “Coastal Zone Management” to be submitted soon for MEDA/SMAP funding;
- as approved by the MCSD, BP/RAC has induced the Contracting Parties to work out the set of 130 indicators, providing them with framework documents, guidelines, technical assistance and if necessary and feasible some financial support;

In accordance with the decision of the Contracting Parties, **a strategy for the implementation and follow-up of recommendations will be prepared early 2001** and reviewed by the fifth meeting of the Steering Committee before submitting it to the seventh meeting of the MCSD.

In conformity with the discussions at and recommendations of the meetings of the 5th MCSD (July 1999), the 11th CP (October 1999) and the 3rd and 4th Steering Committee of the MCSD (January and June 2000), the Secretariat has launched the preparatory process for the possible new themes/issues that could be incorporated in the next programme of work of the MCSD, expected to start on January 2002.

Considering the necessity of going through a “maturing” process before deciding on whether to retain a proposed new theme, it was decided to prepare pre-feasibility studies for the already suggested new themes or other interesting ones, so as to **proceed with the prioritization of the themes at the 6th MCSD meeting** (November 2000). Then detailed feasibility studies will be prepared for at least the pre-selected ones before the final selection and their inclusion in the next work programme of the MCSD at the 7th MCSD meeting (October 2001).

The themes/issues for which pre-feasibility studies were prepared concern:

- Local management and sustainable development;
- Desertification and soil erosion;
- Energy and transport and sustainable development;
- Agriculture and the rural environment;
- Waste management and consumption patterns;
- Health and the environment;
- Combating poverty;
- Natural disasters;
- International co-operation towards sustainable development.

These pre-feasibility studies were prepared by using the set of criteria, “importance” “assessment” “feasibility” and “methodology” agreed upon at the fifth meeting of the MCSD; for each of these criteria, due attention was given, as far as possible, to the following questions:

importance: what makes this a priority subject of importance to the MCSD and the Mediterranean? How do the countries of MAP and its partners perceive it?

assessment: what are the major stakes for the region and the countries in the short, medium and long term? How does this subject contribute to national and regional sustainable development in the Mediterranean? What added value can be expected as a result of the MCSD dealing with this subject?

feasibility: what information/knowledge is available in terms of quality, quantity, accessibility and use, and what work is already underway within MAP as well as in other national, regional or international bodies? What technical and financial means would be needed to include this subject in the MCSD's programme, with the identification of some realistic and accessible potential sources?

methodology: given the level of knowledge and the technical and financial means either available or accessible, what would be the best adapted working method, a small group of experts or a classical working group? Over what period would the work in question be done, from 1 to 4 years, including the "maturing" period if needs be?

Related pre-feasibility studies have been put together in one report (UNEP (DEC)/MED WG.170/4).

V. Cooperation with UN-CSD and other partners

Following the decisions of the 11th meeting of the Contracting Parties and the 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee of the MCSD to organize the 6th MCSD jointly with UNCSD, the Secretariat has resumed contacts with UN-CSD, relying on their previous positive commitments; practical steps for the organization of the joint meeting were worked out in February 2000 together with concerned UN-CSD staff. Unfortunately, UN-CSD's Secretariat informed us by end of March 2000 of their decision to cancel their participation, due to lack of funds.

However, considering the discussions at the CSD8 on the preparation for the **Earth Summit II**, the **MCSD** would gain a lot in visibility as an interesting regional and practical case if it **could be associated to the preparatory process** for this major event in 2002. To that end, in addition to being associated to some working groups directly or through UNEP, the MCSD could decide to **summarize the report of the Strategic Review**, for a large dissemination, notably in relation with the Earth Summit II, drawing out lessons from our regional experience and highlighting the importance of the regional level as a necessary bridge between global and national levels.

Moreover, and considering the **possible new themes** that could be integrated in the work programme of the MCSD, the Secretariat will have to **develop or strengthen cooperation with concerned international organizations and agencies**, notably UNDP, WHO, FAO, UN-CCD and OECD. Taking into account the expertise available within MAP and MCSD, close cooperation with concerned organizations will be essential to undertake relevant assessment, mainly for issues related to poverty and health, or even desertification and agriculture.

VI. Next MCSD Meeting

As already agreed upon, the **7th Meeting of the MCSD** will be held in **Turkey**, following the kind invitation of the Ministry of Environment of Turkey; considering that the 12th Meeting of the Contracting Parties will be held in Monaco from 14-17 November 2001, the 7th MCSD meeting should be organized by early October 2001, latest, so as the Secretariat would be

able to forward the MCSD outputs to the Contracting Parties some four weeks before their meeting. Concerned Turkish authorities are expected to **propose a date and a venue**;

Three major issues could already be included in the **provisional agenda** of the 7th Meeting of the MCSD:

1. recommendations and proposals for action, related to “Industry and Sustainable Development”, “Free Trade and Environment” and “Management of Urban Development”, to be adopted by the MCSD before submitting them to the 12th Meeting of the Contracting Parties;
2. selection of new themes and programme of work for the MCSD for the next biennia (2002-2003 and 2004-2005, at least, considering the necessity for having a reasonable maturing period for some subjects);
3. strategy for follow up of recommendations and proposals for action (in accordance with the decision of the 11th Meeting of the Contracting Parties); for this specific issue, a group of 4 to 6 experts to work closely with the Secretariat could be established, with the necessary financial support (some 50,000US\$ for consultant fees and two working sessions)

The 7th MCSD meeting could last for 3 or 4 days, depending on the time to be allocated for each of the above issues and the method of work (break out sessions could be very useful for these items, at least items 1 and 2 above); with the opening and the adoption of the summary of conclusions, **a 4 days meeting could correspond better to the programme.**

ANNEX I
Appendix I

**Summary of conclusions of the third meeting of the Steering Committee of the MCSD,
20-21 January 2000, Tunis**

The Steering Committee noted with interest the content of the meeting's working document on which it took the following decisions:

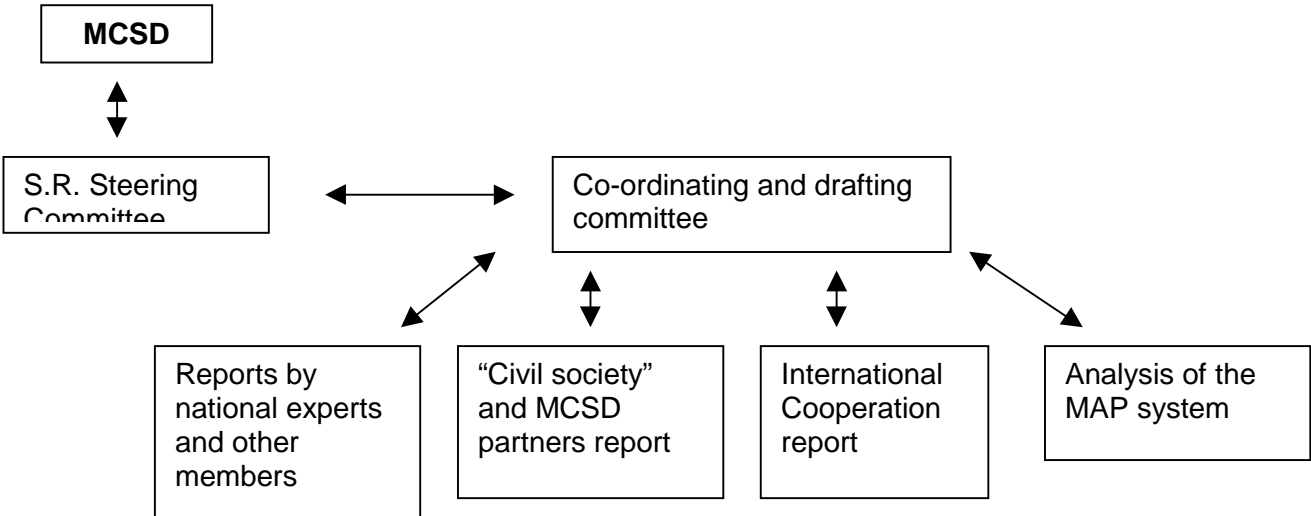
I. STRATEGIC REVIEW FOR THE YEAR 2000

1. Content of the report and questionnaire

- ◆ The Steering Committee approved the overall plan for the report and the questionnaire and agreed on the following:
 - a) to take account of the following points for completing the documents on the launch of preparatory activities:
 - to remain within a context of sustainable development without favouring the environment to the detriment of the development components;
 - to extend the list of themes to be dealt with by adding services (particularly financial ones), new communication technologies, awareness raising and education, cross-border co-operation (particularly regarding the transfer of know-how), and underscoring the role of the NGOs, local authorities and socio-economic organisations ;
 - b) to recall in the "stakes":
 - that it is the sea which links Mediterraneans and constitutes their common concern;
 - that there is still a disparity between the two banks of the Mediterranean which should be borne in mind right throughout the analysis;
 - that climate change could seriously affect the region;
 - that the Mediterranean is exposed to the risks of shipping and a quantitative reduction of its natural resources.
 - c) not to over-focus on MAP and to extend the Review to the other players in sustainable development;
 - d) to use the indicators advisedly, striving to quantify them in the future without ending up with a "Report on the state of the environment";
 - e) to focus on the institutional aspect of the implementation of decisions rather than on the technical details;
 - f) to put the Mediterranean in the global perspective, bearing in mind in particular the major international conventions to which should be added the Convention on Biodiversity;
 - g) to rightly assess the importance and impact of regional co-operation, particularly the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and bilateral, intra- and extra-Mediterranean co-operation.

2. Organisation of work

- ◆ At practical level, the Steering Committee agreed:
 - a) to inform the members of the MCSD without delay that they should immediately get ready to tackle the tasks required by the preparation of the Strategic Review, asking them to indicate within a fortnight which expert or consultant will carry out the work;
 - b) to send the questionnaire to the national delegates in the MCSD as well as the members from the three categories, asking the latter for their specific contribution, since the countries will retain responsibility for producing and validating information which relates to them;
 - c) to ensure the participation and active contribution of all players in civil society, particularly the members of the three categories of the MCSD;
 - d) as far as possible to give immediate priority to the preparation of synoptic reports of the various contributions;
 - e) to ensure that information already available within MAP as well as in the countries and international institutions is put to the best possible use;
 - f) to entrust the working party on the Strategic Review with appointing the S.R. steering committee, to add Monaco to its ranks and to take up Monaco's offer to host the forthcoming meeting of this committee;
 - g) to suggest to Mr. Batisse that he join the drafting committee which will otherwise consist of Mr. Ennabli and Mr. Hoballah, and to give positive consideration to France's offer of assistance;
 - h) to adopt a working structure which can be represented in diagram form as follows:



3. Financing

Finally, at financing level, to use as a priority the resources already available, i.e. 50 000 dollars (MAP/EU and Monaco) to support the drawing up of documents. The resources should help to finance the regional reports ("civil society", "international co-operation", "analysis of the MAP system"), and if necessary to support the national experts. The Secretariat will continue to seek additional funding.

- ◆ The model Review and the questionnaire will be reviewed in the light of comments made by the Steering Committee and sent as soon as possible to all members of the MCSD and experts.

II. INTEGRATION OF THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE MCSD

- ◆ Confirm the recommendations of the Malta meeting aimed at involving new members so requesting in the inter-session activities of the working groups, the task managers remaining unchanged;
- ◆ Invite the former active members of the working groups interested in so doing to continue to assist in the follow-up to recommendations in co-operation with the Secretariat and the relative MAP Centres;
- ◆ Encourage the MCSD members to network in order to implement the MCSD's recommendations.

III. NEW THEMES AND ISSUES

- ◆ The selection of new themes should be the fruit of a gradual maturing process; the sixth meeting of the MCSD will be asked to classify the work themes by priority, the aim being for the seventh meeting to make the final selection;
- ◆ To facilitate the work of the sixth meeting ("theme prioritisation"), the Secretariat will carry out pre-feasibility studies using the criteria established in its report;
- ◆ According to the priorities set by the sixth meeting, the Secretariat will carry out detailed feasibility studies, with an eye to the selection and launch of the new themes;
- ◆ For all of this preparatory work the Secretary will, wherever appropriate, call on the expertise of the Commission members, the RACs, or will request the assistance of the competent international organisations;
- ◆ As far as completed themes are concerned, the Steering Committee recalled that the follow-up of recommendations should be ensured by encouraging the distribution of information, by publishing relevant studies and by inviting members to launch networked pilot or demonstration projects on the implementation of some of the recommendations, with the assistance of MAP, if necessary;

IV. CO-OPERATION WITH THE UN-CSD

- ◆ Continue and strengthen co-operation with the UN-CSD, particularly in the perspective of the Rio+10 process;
- ◆ Whilst retaining the principle of holding a parallel meeting on the MCSD during a session of the UN-CSD, it was agreed that this should be delayed until after the completion of the Strategic Review, in order to heighten the impact. Consequently, the parallel meeting could be held during the 2001 session;
- ◆ Combine the regional consultation meeting planned with the UN-CSD with the 6th meeting of the MCSD, thereby adding a new dimension to the latter and giving the Strategic Review a broader impact;
- ◆ Following discussions with the UN-CSD the Secretariat will produce a letter of invitation for the ministers and representatives of the CSD and UNEP for signature by the chairperson of the MCSD's Steering Committee;

V. AGENDA OF INTER-SESSION ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Apart from the follow-up activities for the completed themes already mentioned, continue and complete the three remaining themes from the Rabat programme for the 7th meeting of the MCSD in Turkey.

VI. NEXT MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

- ◆ Given the very heavy workload for 2000- preparation of the Strategic Review, pre-feasibility studies, work on the remaining three themes and preparation of the sixth meeting of the MCSD- convene the 4th meeting of the Steering Committee in Corfu for 22 and 23 June 2000.

VII. SIXTH MEETING OF THE MCSD AND AGENDA

- ◆ invite the MCSD Secretariat to discuss with the UN-CSD the practical aspects of organising this 6th joint meeting, to be held from 21-25 November 2000 in Tunis;
- ◆ Focus the meeting on two major elements: the Strategic Review and the new themes;
- ◆ Establish the structure of the draft agenda, given that its content will be examined with the UN-CSD Secretariat before it is finalised at the next meeting of the Steering Committee in June 2000;
- ◆ Propose ways of improving MCSD meetings, particularly:

a) adopting a summary of conclusions and decisions at the end of the meeting as opposed to an *in extenso* report;

b) holding ad hoc working groups during meetings to provide substance for work in the plenaries.

ANNEX I
Appendix II

**SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS FROM THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE MCSD
STEERING COMMITTEE, 22-23 JUNE 2000, CORFU.**

The Steering Committee noted with interest the importance and content of the meeting's working documents, which were prepared with very limited time and means and which, independent of their being summarised for the Strategic Review, provide an important source of information for all Mediterranean partners.

Following the presentation of the documents by the Secretariat and relevant experts, as well as a discussion of the most salient aspects, the Steering Committee adopted the following conclusions and decisions:

I. PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES FOR THE STRATEGIC REVIEW FOR THE YEAR 2000, INCLUDING A DRAFT DECLARATION

a) for the continued preparation of the Review, the following points should be borne in mind:

1. The strategic vision and approach should be better presented to make them entirely visible and useable.
2. Insularity and its specific related issues should be dealt with, possibly within a special inset in the report.
3. As far as possible the local authorities should be disassociated from civil society with which they are all too often associated under the same heading in the report. For this purpose the necessary adjustments should be made to the text on civil society
4. Greater emphasis should be placed on climate change and the need for clearer political will in this field;
5. More account should be taken of the issues concerning the "deterioration of the quality of life" and "water pollution problems", particularly within the framework of sustainable urban development;
6. In the chapter on development issues, macro-economic trends and their consequences in the region need to be introduced;
7. Chapter III is to be restructured in four chapters in the interests of legibility and coherence; some elements in chapter III pre-empt the content of chapters IV and V, and should be switched into the latter;
8. In its current form the report provides scant information on capacity creation and building for the purposes of environmental management and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region; when the reworked Review is sent to the members of the MCSD attention should be drawn to this shortcoming by requesting additional data;
9. For the "recommendations" section, policy and technique should be clearly taken into account, with the emphasis on the former and the drive towards sustainable development;
10. The matter of funding sustainable development activities should be highlighted, with the various options available in the region, the role of sponsors and bilateral cooperation;
11. Wherever possible straightforward terminology should be used to describe structures and mechanisms; the final message should be forceful and accessible to a wide audience;

b) As far as the practical details of consultation, cooperation and circulation related to the Strategic Review are concerned, the Steering Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. The question of visibility, particularly through a more dynamic information and communication policy is as essential to the MCSD as it is for MAP as a whole; no effort should be spared in making this aspect a priority, particularly when the Strategic Review is circulated, and then at all subsequent stages of Mediterranean cooperation towards sustainable development;
2. In the summary of information provided by the members of the MCSD, countries should be mentioned by name in the descriptive part, as is the case in the current version, pending verification on their part when the reworked report is sent to them, asking them to provide figures for actions undertaken and concerning the staff working in the environment and sustainable development field, if needs be;
3. Sustainable development is an issue which should prompt MAP and the MCSD to question their role and competences, and those of the Regional Activity Centres and programmes, and possibly to envisage restructuring to open the door to other partners and outside sources of expertise;
4. Priority should be given to the "network" approach for the three MCSD categories (local authorities, socio-economic actors and NGOs);
5. Close collaboration and follow-up should be encouraged between the national CSDs and the MCSD, as well as between the UN-CSD and the MCSD, particularly after analysis of the type of link to be developed and the useful and necessary ways and means for setting up a cooperation strategy;
6. The Review should be used as an opportunity to question the Contracting Parties about the MCSD's working method: either to continue with the current system, or to bring in new players such as international organisations on questions where MAP does not have the requisite expertise;
7. The modus operandi chosen for drafting recommendations is as follows: the Secretariat and two experts from the Review preparation team shall prepare draft recommendations which will be sent out to the members of the Commission around July 15th 2000; on the basis of members' comments, the Secretariat and relevant experts as well as other possible members shall meet as soon as possible around September 20th at the invitation of Tunisia, in order to prepare the final version of the recommendations as well as an outline for the Declaration.

II. 6TH MEETING IN TUNIS AND ITS AGENDA

- a. The dates chosen are Tuesday 14th – Friday 17th November 2000;
- b. The agenda initially proposed has been revised as follows to take account of the possible adoption of a Declaration by the ministerial segment:
 1. The first two days, largely taken up by the Strategic Review, will comprise a plenary followed by ad hoc working sessions on performance, regional cooperation, recommendations and the Declaration; they will be rounded off by a further plenary;
 2. The ministerial segment will meet on Thursday 16th with the aim of adopting the Declaration, once Ministers have presented their vision for the Mediterranean and a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, based on guidelines to be provided by the Secretariat;
 3. Following the ministerial segment, the MCSD will meet again in plenary to deal with the remaining agenda items until the closure of the meeting on Friday, 17th November 2000.

III. WORK PROGRESS IN THE THEMATIC GROUPS

The Steering Committee noted the progress made in the groups dealing with the three continuing themes: "industry and sustainable development", "free trade and the environment", and "urban management". It requests and encourages dynamic participation in the preparatory activities for these themes in order to produce realistic and practical recommendations.

IV. FOLLOW-UP TO MCSD RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The Steering Committee approves and encourages the conducting of pilot studies, particularly twinned ones, for the implementation and follow-up of MCSD recommendations;
- b. These pilot studies should also assist in the preparation of guidelines to be submitted to the next MAP focal points meeting, on the implementation and follow-up of MCSD recommendations in accordance with a decision taken by the Eleventh ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties.

V. PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEW THEMES

- a. The Steering Committee confirms the method chosen for the choice of possible new themes: pre-feasibility studies according to the four criteria previously established, allowing an initial list of priorities to be drawn up at the 6th meeting in Tunis, and a final one at the 7th meeting planned for Turkey;
- b. In choosing themes, the recommendations from the Strategic Review and the Declaration to be adopted in Tunis will also be taken into account.

VI. COOPERATION WITH THE UN-CSD

- a. The Steering Committee noted that the UN-CSD had backed out of jointly organising the 6th MCSD and participating in the Tunis meeting;
- b. The opportunity offered by the preparation of Rio + 10 (Earth Summit II) should be grasped for continued cooperation with the UN-CSD, particularly with the results of the Strategic Review, and possibly to set up cooperation with other bodies such as the regional economic commissions.
- c. The 6th meeting in Tunis should provide the opportunity to remind all members of the MCSD that they should generally adopt a strategy of the Commission being present and actively participating in all relevant international forums and processes.
- d. The Steering Committee requests that the Secretariat invite all actors and organisations active in the environment-development field in the Mediterranean and elsewhere in the world to the Tunis meeting from 14-17 November 2000.

ANNEX II
Appendix I

FREE TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT

REPORT OF THE TASK MANAGERS AND THE SUPPORT CENTRE

A/ CONTEXT AND APPROACH

1/ European integration (4 Mediterranean riparian countries are European Union members and membership discussions have been initiated with 4 other countries) and the Euro-Mediterranean partnership that at this stage brings together the 15 countries of the European Union with 12 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (SEMCs) are the main structuring processes foreseeable for the relationship between free trade and the environment in the Mediterranean region.

A customs union agreement between Turkey and the European Union came into force at the start of 1996 and partnership agreements have already been signed between the Union and 5 Mediterranean non member states. These agreements, in parallel with national and regional MEDA programs gradually lead to the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area (target date: 2010), but may also include several other measures, including the protection of the environment. The Barcelona declaration has in particular acknowledged that it is important to "reconcile economic development with the protection of the environment, to integrate environmental concerns with the relevant aspects of economic policy and to lessen the negative results which might arise from development at environmental level".

2/ The will to integrate the economy and the environment seems all the more vital for the Mediterranean since:

- The quality of the environment is a major asset for current and future development, which has little competitive advantage for classical industrial and agricultural development. The development of tourism (the number one destination world-wide), of high technology services and industry, and quality agriculture depend directly from it and largely determine the future of the region.
- Natural resources (water, land, coastline, ...) are precious and very fragile, but also restrictive for development and the Mediterranean area is a global "hot-spot" for bio-diversity.
- Environmental deterioration and the requirement to upgrade the environment already represent significant costs, which weigh heavily on societies and governments.

In this overall context, to favour a curative approach to correct negative effects could turn out to be very costly and lead to irreversible situations, which are already frequent in the region. On the contrary, the challenge consists of steering development upstream into a pathway with little social and environmental degradation by avoiding approaches with very high costs observed today in several countries and transforming the environment as much as possible from a constraint to a valuable opportunity.

The Euro-Mediterranean partnership that is in the course of being built has therefore an essential guiding role in allowing the creation of a regional space for sustainable development.

3/ In this overall context, MCSD, during its 5th meeting (Rome, 1st-3rd July 1999) adopted a working programme whose goal, at this stage, was to draw useful lessons from certain regional and national experience and to deepen analysis in some key areas for the Mediterranean by focussing the investigation on the possible impacts of free trade on the environment and integrating environmental concerns in the partnership agreements.

This approach is complementary to the more classical one of studying the impact of environmental standards on trade. But, of its very nature, it is more complex and difficult to address because:

- The impact of free trade on the environment is of an indirect type; the effects of free trade are circulating through the economic system, especially by changing the macro-economic balance (balance of trade, government budgets) and the relative pricing of products and services. This change, very large for certain products, leads to a transformation in volumes and the composition of production and consumption, which then has repercussions on society and the environment.
- The field involved is extensive and requires a focus on some aspects that appear to have a higher priority.
- There is currently very little work, little data and even few methods for assessing changes brought about by free trade.
- For the most part of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries, this has to do with changes that will occur in the future, as the first partnership agreements signed (Tunisia, Morocco) are currently coming into force.
- Future impacts also depend heavily on policies that are and will be applied, the stake being precisely one of enlightening public decisions on the desirable developments in those policies.
- The process of regional construction is intersecting with the overall process of globalisation.

Despite these difficulties, the approach adopted by the MCSD to favour the analysis of the impacts of free trade on the environment, rather than the impact of environmental regulations on free trade, seems inescapable for assisting with public decision-making. Furthermore, this approach is also applied in the context of the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) under the aegis of the Environmental Co-operation Commission (ECC) since an initial analysis of this kind has been carried out on three major production sectors (maize, electricity and cattle farming).

4/ In order to successfully complete this work, a number of experts from various disciplines from the North and South of the Mediterranean were mobilised. Their work and proposals have been presented and discussed during a regional workshop which was held in Montpellier and Mèze from the 5th to the 8th October 2000, and which brought together 12 countries and several international and non governmental organisations.

This expert working represents a considerable contribution to Euro-Mediterranean deliberations. The analyses carried out have dealt with the following fields:

- Changes in commerce and trade between Mediterranean countries and in the multilateral trade/environment framework;
- Lessons from other regional experience: NAFTA and Spain, Greece, Portugal and Poland's joining the European Union. The experience in South East Asia was also approached in the study on industry;

- Regional forecasting considerations in the fields of industry and farming focussed on the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries and on the possible impacts of free trade;
- Environmental aspects of partnership agreements (Tunisia, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Turkey, Egypt and Israel) made with the European Union;
- Sectoral analyses on consumption patterns at the national level (Morocco, the Lebanon and Syria) and on industrial sub-sectors (the Lebanon, Tunisia, Turkey, Syria and Bosnia-Herzegovina).

5/ The experts' work focused on the changes observed or conceivable as well as on the possible integration of environmental aspects in the negotiations' process. This work allowed initial shared findings on the possible environmental and social impacts of trade liberalisation and on the institutional set up of the partnership process.

The experts were also asked, in view of the analyses carried out, to make proposals that, in their view, were worth putting forward for debate. These were the subject of discussions, in small groups and in plenary sessions, during the Montpellier-Mèze workshop, which allows certain directions to be outlined. These, and the measures to be put forward require deeper analyses overall, especially on agricultural and social issues, as well as on the mechanisms of actions to be put forward at regional level and bilateral level for an improved integration of the environment / sustainable development dimension.

In this respect, the European Commission expressed its desire to rapidly commence a second stage of assessment work. This new phase could thus benefit from the initial MCSD work and would provide a valuable contribution to the continuation of the essential investigations.

B/ MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDIES

1/ At present, virtually all Mediterranean non member countries of the European Union have high levels of protection (the European Union share in customs duty income represents for example 28.80 % of tax income in Lebanon, 19.21 % in Algeria and 15.86 % in Tunisia as against 0.66 % in Israel) and have major trade deficits.

One of the main stakes in the project for Euro-Mediterranean free trade is accelerating the liberalisation of countries and improving the competitiveness of production, which is currently too weak or too concentrated on non-dynamic sectors or ones with little value added (if the Mediterranean position is compared with other world regions).

But, in the short term, the risk for SEMCs is that this kind of liberalisation will lead to increasing trade deficits and to increasing imports to the detriment of local production. This is in contrast with the main stake for the European Union, which cannot be to gain short term market share in the Mediterranean basin, but rather to favour the development of its Southern neighbours in order to give the Euro-Mediterranean region greater global competitiveness, stability and shared prosperity.

In this context, free trade is a tool, which must necessarily be accompanied with other measures in order to allow the success of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

2/ Various regional experiences (NAFTA, EU, South-East Asia ...) show the scale of the possible impacts of free trade at economic, social, environmental and territorial levels. In particular, one can observe in less developed countries that join regional free trade areas:

- A major growth in imports and in the trade balance deficit (e.g.: Greece, Spain, Portugal, Turkey and Mexico ...);
- An effect of scale with the growth of certain production, consumption, imports and exports. This growth effect has a very major impact on international (7-fold multiplication forecast in NAFTA) national and urban transport, on growth in packaging and on the environment (emissions, pollution ...);
- Changes in the composition of production (the proportion of manufactured products in Mexico's exports went from 25% to 90%) with positive and negative effects on the environment;
- Heavy impact on traditional farming and fragile rural areas. Thus in the maize sector in Mexico, one has observed concomitantly: increased poverty, rural depopulation and emigration; replacement of traditional varieties with genetically manipulated varieties and the loss of genetic diversity; increased pressure on water and soil resources and increased inputs and pollution without there being any significant progress recorded in other farm production sectors.
- Deepened regional imbalances between urban and coastal areas on the one hand and rural areas on the other (Spain, Greece, Mexico ...).

All these regional experiences show the need for preventive policies for the environment and for sustainable development.

3/ Overall, the less dynamic and more protected economies in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries, in addition to the level of social development and the scarcer availability of resources in comparison with Mexico makes these countries find themselves in a trickier position than Mexico with regard to trade liberalisation and less able to handle a brutal adjustment in their economies.

The risks of negative social (increased poverty, rural depopulation ...) and environmental (loss of biodiversity, deteriorating landscapes ...) impacts, on **traditional farming sectors** (cereals and livestock) which make up most of the jobs in several countries, are certainly very high if the Euro-Mediterranean free trade area is to be widened to farm produce without any precautions nor suitable policies. In the other direction, it is not certain that trade liberalisation will be of much benefit to the export sector in these countries (fruit and vegetables) whose development would also have negative environmental impact (increased pressure on water resources and pollution) besides positive aspects (complying with environmental standards for certain products).

In the **industrial sector**, one positive effect of free trade will be easier access to clean technologies, at lower prices. Amongst the main risks, one can note the multiplication of critical sites (hot spots) along the coastline (today, 90% of industries are concentrated along the coastline in Tunisia), a powerful increase in the overall volumes of energy consumption, transport and pollution (from 144 M toe in 1990 to 377 M toe in 2010) and impacts on SMEs which are not very able to internalize the extra environmental costs and face up to competition (whilst they make up the majority of companies). Accompanying policies to assist in this upgrading, to avoid the risk of polluting industry delocation, to create suitable transport systems and to improve energy efficiency should be promoted.

Another major impact of free trade will be the changes in **consumption patterns** with a powerful increase in packaging consumption due to the increased consumption of consumer goods and cars which will increase at a higher speed than incomes. This will be accompanied by major environmental costs if measures are not taken (waste treatment and recycling, development of public transport, taxation and regulations ...).

The growth of road transport and hypermarket retailing will contribute to increasing gas emissions and the risks of urban congestion, whilst countries and towns have little space and resources available overall to handle this.

4/ NAFTA represents an initial experience of a free trade agreement which was accompanied by parallel agreements on the environment and labour. The separation of the agreements led to a certain subordination of the social and environmental agreements to trade objectives, especially in the field of investments, which seems to contradict the statement that each party could set out its own environmental standards.

However, the multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEA) and the principle of precaution were taken into account in the trade agreement itself (NAFTA). In particular, an importing party may set up trade restrictions based on certain specific clauses of SPS type (sanitary and phyto-sanitary), the burden of proof of the lack of risk being incumbent upon the exporting party (contrary to the WTO rules). NAFTA was also accompanied by the creating of an "Environmental Co-operation Commission" (ECC), which applied assessment procedures for impacts and before which civil society has the option of initiating proceedings.

Most experts that have made analyses assess that at the present stage of the Barcelona process, the integration of environmental concerns into the partnership agreements and the various economic and sectoral policies is inadequate, when not altogether absent, despite the spirit and the wording of the Barcelona Declaration. The environmental issue in the first agreements signed has been referred to only as an appendix and has been separated from the adjustment targets of macro-economic balances and the movement of investments. The change of standards towards European norms has sometimes been referred to with the risks of too speedy efficiency demands, and without the agreements including precise targets and criteria for reaching them, as has been done for free trade goals.

At regional level, the operational arrangements for integrating the Rio principles (for example the principle of precaution) and for ensuring continual assessment of impacts and responses remain for example, to be set up.

5/ Studies carried out in these countries show the extent to which it is necessary and useful to develop transverse initiatives between the authorities in charge of the environment, the authorities in charge of trade and economic development, local authorities and actors from the civil society (especially companies, Chambers of Commerce and Industry and NGOs). This type of initiative may assist for example in including environmental mechanisms and goals in efforts towards economic upgrading.

They also show the great diversity in positions, the value of exchanges on practises between the North and the South of the Mediterranean and the need to continue in the gradual implementation of an expert and assessment network.

ANNEX II
Appendix II

**MCS D WORKING GROUP ON URBAN MANAGEMENT
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

PROGRESS REPORT COVERING THE PERIOD JULY 1999 – OCTOBER 2000

1. At the consolidation meeting of the Group, held in Sophia Antipolis in early June 1999, it was decided that the Steering Committee of the Group would be established. The aim of the Committee is to guide the Group's work by defining its priorities and concrete actions to be carried out. Because of the budgetary constraints, the first meeting of the Steering Committee could not be organised before the start of the biennium 2000-2001.
2. The first Committee meeting was held in Paris on April 11 – 12, 2000. The meeting was attended by 16 participants (task managers, supporting centres, and renowned experts in the field). Valuable support to the organisation of the meeting was provided by the United Towns Organisation, a member of Medcities.
3. Main activities of the group for 2000-2001 will be the following:
 - preparation of a brief working paper to be sent to municipal and national authorities, presenting a first regional vision of urban development/environment issues in the Mediterranean region;
 - prepare a questionnaire to be sent to almost 100 Mediterranean cities and to national authorities concerned with urban policies, so as to raise interest in the region towards the MCS D work on urban management;
 - "in-depth" analysis of 15 selected Mediterranean cities;
 - preparation of 5 sub-regional studies in order to complete the assessment of main environmental, spatial, institutional and social impacts of urban growth in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean, and to improve knowledge on governance issues (administrative, technical and financial capabilities at the municipal and metropolitan levels);
 - thematic studies on some priority issues (globalisation and towns, and de-centralised co-operation);
 - preparation of two regional synthesis studies: on urbanisation trends and impacts on the environment and quality of life, and on responses to urban growth; and
 - organisation of a major regional workshop to be held in Barcelona by the end of April 2001.
4. All these actions should lead to proposal of recommendations for the MCS D and the Contracting Parties. The recommendations should stress the need for an enhanced role of cities in sustainable development, for reinforcement of local capacities for urban management in the region, and for the improvement of regional co-operation in urban management .
5. The meeting also took decisions on the timetable, as well as on the financial issues of the Group's work. All the activities will have to be carefully planned in order to conform to the dates of the MCS D meeting in Turkey and the Contracting Parties Meeting in Monaco, both in 2001. The participants asked the countries to provide financing for the Group's work, in addition to the one provided by the Contracting Parties.
6. In May and June 2000, the supporting centres started the implementation of the Steering Committee decisions. The Blue Plan prepared a short introductory paper "Cities and Sustainable Development". The purpose of that note was to provide background information on the urban issues in the Mediterranean, and a rationale for the relevant

MCSD activity. PAP and BP have jointly developed a questionnaire for the Mediterranean cities. The note and the questionnaire were sent separately to the mayors of approximately 100 Mediterranean cities. The purpose of this action was to sensitise the cities and make responsible city officials aware of the project, as well as to seek their comments and suggestions.

7. Although the questionnaire is limited in size and relatively easy to complete, since it does not require quantified answers, the response so far has been rather limited. In order to speed up the process PAP/RAC sent reminder notes to the cities who had not responded, as well as asked its National Focal Points to intervene with the cities to respond.
8. BP/RAC sent a project proposal to the EU asking it to finance a part of the activities envisaged by the Group's workplan. The EU's answer is expected soon. However, no significant progress has been made so far in soliciting extra funds from some countries, particularly those that pledged themselves at the Paris meeting.
9. During September, a second questionnaire for the national authorities has been prepared, and is to be sent to all Mediterranean countries by early October. This questionnaire is similar in size and scope to the one sent to the cities. It will provide an interesting opportunity to compare the views on some of the common issues and topics as seen by different levels of government, from local to national. In addition, the two questionnaires will enable a better understanding of what are the common issues and potential areas for intervention in different regions of the Mediterranean. The target date for the second questionnaire to be returned is November 15, 2000.
10. On September 22, 2000, an *ad-hoc* meeting was held in Barcelona with the participation of the task manager (Medcities) and supporting centres (PAP and BP). The progress of the Group's work was reviewed, and some changes to the workplan and timetable proposed, in order to reflect better the current situation. It was decided that the next meeting of the Steering Committee be held as soon as possible. In order to cut costs, it is proposed that the meeting be held on the fringes of another meeting, possibly the Euro-Mediterranean meeting on Civil Society to be held in Marseilles on November 10-12, 2000.

ANNEX II
Appendix III

Report of the Thematic Group
“Industry and sustainable development”¹
(Cultural, economic, technical and financial aspects of progressive
elimination of land-based pollution)

(Tunis, November 14th-17th, 2000)

Summary report prepared by Mr Giovanni Guerrieri - Task Manager

Since the fifth Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development, held in Rome on July 1999, the Thematic Group, under the co-ordination of Algeria, Morocco (FID) and Italy, and with the support of the MEDPOL Programme, CP/RAC and ICS/UNIDO, has been carrying out the agreed work plan according to the schedule and with only minor delays.

As agreed, since the very beginning, the Group has considered as priority the making some practical tools available. This approach was in fact considered essential for the implementation and the use of the guidelines and the inventories being prepared, and also it was considered that practical tools may be instrumental for the preparation of the basis for the modernisation of the industrial sector in a sustainable development context, particularly for the SMEs.

In consideration of the little resources available, the Group has agreed in making full use of the existing activities. To this end, the activities of MEDPOL and CP/RAC were therefore taken into consideration from the very beginning, and in particular those involving direct relations with the industrial sector (CP/RAC and ICS/UNIDO), and those related to the implementation of the SAP and the LBS Protocol (MED POL).

In addition to the specific achievements of the above mentioned activities, the Group has decided to consider the development of actions aiming at sensitizing SMEs on the importance of the integration between enterprise and environment as a tool of competitiveness, and at promoting capacity building and “industry outreach” activities through specialised institutions operating in the Mediterranean Region.

Some steps concerning a closer contact with the industrial sector have been successfully made including exchange of information to industrial associations and the involvement of the latter in specific activities. On this purpose CP/RAC, ICS/UNIDO and CEFIC/EUROCLOR have already included in their regular work plan some actions such as studies, seminars, workshops and training courses. This approach will allow to

¹ Report received on 25th of October 2000, only in English

test, from now, the practical tools being developed before presenting them to the MCSD and to the Contracting Parties. .

In relation to the above, the most important initiatives carried out are:

by ICS/UNIDO:

- Workshop on the Analysis of the Industrial Component the Coastal Areas of the Adriatic Sea Environment
- Workshop on Planning Rehabilitation of Degraded Industrial Areas in the Mediterranean by DSS
- Workshop on Tools for Understanding Landscape Patterns in Coastal Areas Induced by Industrialisation
- Workshop on Agro-Industry Development in Coastal Areas (to be carried out next December)

by CP/RAC

- Study on the recycling possibilities and potential uses of used oils (including oils of vegetable and mineral origin), in order to include information on the present measures adopted in MAP countries related to this theme.
- Training Workshop on the Objectives and Methodology to carry out a Minimisation Opportunities Environmental Diagnosis (MOED): a tool aimed at assessing an industrial activity to detect potential opportunities for preventing and reducing pollution at source, and for providing the business with sufficient data for it to orientate its policy towards cleaner practices and technology that are technically and economically viable.

The work carried out at MED POL, concerning the preparation of an assessment of industrial pollution in the region by category of activities is expected to be completed within the current year.

Moreover, through a very substantial contribution of ICS/UNIDO, a first version of a regional internet information system, ICSnet, has been prepared. It is a network that provides a pathway to experts, technologies, trends, links, events and news. It is a key tool for contacts and information sources regarding industrial pollution prevention, eco-efficiency and energy saving, but also some specific issues on existing opportunities in training, incentives, financial support and access to available technologies. It allows regional experts and stakeholders to remotely access available information and provides world-wide visitors with up-to-date information. The system started with the existing ICS database and will be extended through a membership registration to external users who will provide additional data and information that can be of interest to ICSnet. The maintenance and the updating of the information system will be assured by ICS/UNIDO.

A first review of the different outputs has been done until now by virtual meetings, using electronic means. The final overhaul of the results of the work carried out during the running year is planned to be made through a Thematic Group Meeting scheduled in Como (Italy) during the second half of the year 2000 hosted by ENICHEM and

EUROCHLOR. Some difficulties faced by the supporting organizations are now suggesting a postponement of the Meeting to a later date.

ICS/UNIDO is actively seeking additional sponsors to organise next year a training workshop on Industry and Sustainable Development related to the Mediterranean Basin.

Finally, the Group is very pleased to inform the MCSD that:

1. Some Cleaner Production Centres have been established in the Mediterranean Region: Croatia (Croatian CP Centre), Greece (CP Centre), Malta (Cleaner Technology Centre), Morocco (CP Centre), Spain (CEMA-CP/RAC), Tunisia (CP3) and Turkey (TUBITAK).

Bosnia and Herzegovina and Israel are planning to establish a Centre in a few months.

2. the CP/RAC has changed the company name from Centre d'Iniciatives per a la Producció Neta (CIPN) to in Centre per a l'Empresa i el Medi Ambient –CEMA- (“Centre for the enterprises and the environment”) and won the III Spanish Prize “Company and Environment”.