

UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/Inf.5  
10 August 1989

Original: ENGLISH

---

## **MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting  
Parties to the Convention for the Protection  
of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution  
and its Related Protocols

Athens, 3-6 October 1989

List of Commitments by the Contracting Parties  
and proposed Outline of National Reports

## Introduction

1. The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are required to transmit to the Secretariat reports on measures adopted in the implementation of the Convention and of the Protocols to which they are Parties (art. 20).
2. Such information is the basis for the review to be carried out by the Parties of the implementation of the Convention, for amendments to the Convention and protocols, or their annexes, and for the adoption of additional protocols, as spelt out in art. 14 of the Convention. Regular reporting is, therefore, essential for the Parties to discharge their obligations and for UNEP to carry out its role as the Secretariat to the Convention.
3. Since the entry into force of the Convention and Protocols, several decisions were taken by the Parties concerning the transmittal of reports to the Secretariat. However, the Joint Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Socio-Economic Committee was informed that insufficient information had been received from governments giving data of their performance under the Convention and its protocols. The meeting, therefore, requested the Secretariat to prepare "a statement of the commitments accepted by the Contracting Parties under the Barcelona Convention, the Protocols, the Genoa Declaration, and other decisions as a basis for national reports to be prepared annually" (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.3/4 para. 147).
4. The present note has been prepared in response to that request. Reporting commitments have been recorded in the order of the legal document on which they are based, and following the sequence of the articles therein.

## National Annual Reports

5. It is proposed that the Parties adopt 30 April of each year as the deadline for submission of a National Annual Report on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols.
6. It is further recommended that those coastal States that are not parties to a given protocol, accept to provide the relevant information, not as a matter of treaty obligation, but as a voluntary contribution to the Mediterranean Action Plan, and in order to ensure that the fullest, official and most accurate information is available to the Contracting Parties.
7. The Annual National Reports should contain information on each of the items listed in the outline below, including an entry "no developments to report" whenever applicable.
8. The National Focal Points or Co-ordinators for MED POL, ROCC, PAP, Blue Plan and SPA should be fully involved in the gathering and checking of information.

9. It is felt that annual reports would be of value to the Contracting Parties not only as a regular occasion to reflect on progress made and difficulties still to be overcome, but also as a source of ready information on the protection of marine and coastal areas to be used as an input to national reports on the State of the Environment that many coastal States are required to publish or submit to their legislative bodies.

#### Consolidated Annual Report on MAP

10. It is recommended that the Secretariat analyzes and consolidates the information received, within a period of three months, and circulates its consolidated report on the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan to the Contracting Parties.

11. The Consolidated Report would make full use of data processing and visual presentation capabilities of the Secretariat. It would identify, in particular, gaps in information, and progress achieved in the application of agreed environmental quality criteria, emission standards, agreed measures, and the 1995 targets of the Genoa Declaration.

12. In order to provide the basis for the review of the implementation of the Convention and protocols in terms of art. 14 of the Convention, the Consolidated Report would not only contain the new information received (e.g. on newly established specially protected areas), but would combine it with the information already available (i.e. revised list of SPAs would be included). The Consolidated Report would therefore serve as an authoritative document on the protection of the Mediterranean and confirm the Meetings of Contracting Parties as the principal mechanism for Mediterranean co-operation.

Outline

of National Reports on the Implementation of the  
Barcelona Convention and its Protocols  
to be submitted to the Secretariat by 30 April of each year

Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution
---

Regional and Subregional Agreements

- To communicate to the Secretariat copies of regional or sub-regional agreements for the protection of the marine environment of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution, entered into between Contracting Parties (art. 3.1)

Discharges from ships

- To inform the Secretariat about national measures to reduce discharges from ships (art. 6).

Monitoring data

- To transmit to the Secretariat monitoring data in conformity with the signed National Monitoring Programme or otherwise agreed monitoring programme (art. 10).

Financial participation

- To inform the Secretariat about the payment (not later than 30 April of each year) of their agreed contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (art. 18).

Reports

- To transmit to the Secretariat reports on the measures adopted in the implementation of the Convention and Protocols to which they are parties (art. 20). A subsequent decision indicated that the reports should be submitted annually. The submission of the Annual National Report using the present outline would satisfy the requirement of Art. 20.

Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the  
Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft

Dumping Permits

- To transmit to the Secretariat records of permits issued for the dumping of wastes or other matter listed in Annex II to the protocol or inform the secretariat that no permits have been issued (Nil Report) (art. 7).

Dumping in Case of Force Majeure

- To report to the secretariat, immediately, on dumpings carried out in case of force majeure (art. 8).

Designation of Competent Authorities

- To inform the secretariat of the designation, or change, in the authority competent to issue dumping permits (art. 10).

Information on Dumping

- To inform the secretariat about the dumping that has taken place (art. 14).

Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution  
of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful  
Substances in cases of Emergency

Designation of Competent National Organization

- To communicate to the Regional Oil Combating Centre the competent national organization or authorities responsible for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances (art. 6).

Information on Accidents

- To communicate to the Centre information on accidents and spillages of oil or other harmful substances (art. 8).

Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea  
against Pollution from Land-Based Sources

- To inform the Secretariat on measures taken, results achieved, difficulties encountered (art. 13).
- To transmit to the Secretariat statistical data on authorizations granted under art. 6 to discharge substances listed in Annex II of the Protocol.
- To transmit to the Secretariat data resulting from monitoring.
- To transmit to the Secretariat information on quantities of pollutants discharged from their territories.
- With respect to the interim environmental quality criterion for mercury (UNEP/IG.56/5, Recommendation F.5) to provide the Secretariat with the fullest information possible on:
  - . present legislation and administrative measures on existing national criteria for levels of mercury in seafood;
  - . measures taken on national standards;
  - . measures taken on methods used for determining total mercury in seafood;
  - . monitoring data on species of seafood known to accumulate mercury.
- With respect to the interim environmental quality criteria for bathing waters (UNEP/IG.56/5, Recommendation F.6), to provide the Secretariat with the fullest information possible on:
  - . present legislation and administrative measures on existing national criteria for coastal recreational waters;
  - . measures taken to ensure, during a transitional period, that the quality of bathing waters will conform with the interim environmental quality criteria described in the table forming part of the recommendation and, in particular, newly established sewage treatment plants in coastal cities over 100,000 population and marine outfalls in coastal cities over 10,000 population (target 17.b of the Genoa Declaration);

- . measures taken to include all public coastal recreational beaches in their national monitoring programmes;
- . monitoring data from such beaches.
- With respect to approved measures to prevent pollution by mercury (UNEP/IG. 74/5, Recommendation K.2), to provide the Secretariat with the fullest information possible on:
  - . legislation and administrative measures on existing national standards and criteria on mercury emissions into the marine environment and water quality regarding mercury;
  - . measures taken to ensure a maximum concentration (calculated as a monthly average) of 5 µg mercury per litre (expressed as total mercury) for all effluent discharges before dilution into the Mediterranean Sea;
  - . measures taken to enforce compulsory monitoring requirement and procedures;
  - . measures taken for new discharges and existing discharges;
  - . relevant monitoring data on effluents, biota and sediments.
- With respect to approved environmental quality criteria for shellfish waters (UNEP/IG.74/5, Recommendation K.3), to provide the Secretariat with the fullest information possible on:
  - . legislation and administrative measures on existing national criteria for shellfish waters;
  - . measures taken to adopt as minimum requirement the WHO/UNEP interim environmental quality criteria detailed in the recommendation described in the Summary Table that forms part of the recommendations;
  - . complementary measures taken in response to national or local circumstances;
  - . monitoring data from all shellfish waters.



## Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas

### New Protected Areas

- To transmit to the secretariat information on newly established protected areas for compilation of the Directory (art. 8);

### Monitoring of Protected Areas

- To transmit to the Secretariat information on monitoring of biological development of the Mediterranean environment (art. 14);

### Reporting

- To transmit to the Secretariat reports on:
  - . measures taken;
  - . species present;
  - . any threats to those areas from sources outside the control of the Party (art. 14);

### Changes affecting protected areas

- To transmit to the Secretariat information on changes in the delimitation, or legal status, or the suppression of all or part of such an area (art. 16).

**Genoa Declaration on the Second Mediterranean Decade**

To inform the Secretariat on:

- newly established port reception facilities (target 17.a);
- application of environmental impact assessment to development activities (target 17.c);
- co-operative arrangements for the safety of maritime navigation (target 17.d);
- measures taken for the protection of endangered species (monk seal, marine turtles, etc.) (target 17.e);
- concrete measures to achieve substantial reduction in industrial pollution and disposal of solid waste (target 17.f);
- protection of the 100 historic sites (target 17.g);
- identification and protection of at least 50 new marine and coastal sites or reserves of Mediterranean interest (unless reported under the SPA protocol) (target 17.h);
- measures taken to prevent and combat forest fires, soil loss, desertification (target 17.i);
- measures taken to reduce air pollution (target 17.j);

**Mediterranean Environment Week**

- To inform the Secretariat about initiatives taken in connection with the Mediterranean Environment Week (point 15 of the Genoa Declaration);