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20th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017

Agenda item 3: Thematic Decisions

List of Reporting Obligations

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2017

Note by the Secretariat

At the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points, held in Athens, Greece, on 12-15 September 2017, Contracting Parties agreed, at the time of discussing the revised reporting format, that clarification should be sought as to the difference between reporting and monitoring mechanisms, and that the Secretariat should compile a comprehensive list of reporting obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in preparation for the 20th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 20) (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017) (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.443/21,§22). This document addresses that request.

Listing of reporting obligations

The present document contains a summary in table form of all reporting obligations under the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and Decisions adopting Regional Action Plans since 2008, when the Format for the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols was introduced.

Table 1 presents a general overview of the reporting obligations upon Contracting Parties, by providing a broad picture of the synergy between the biennial national implementation reports submitted following Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention and relevant articles of its Protocols, and the datasets held by MAP components, mainly MED POL and REMPEC. In Table 1, the existing tiers of reporting under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols are presented, the complementary of which has been considered when revisiting the revised reporting format. In so doing, the relevant sections of the revised reporting format have been re-structured by providing Contracting Parties with the flexibility to refer to information already provided to MAP components for the concerned reporting period, thus avoiding reporting twice.

Table 2 presents a detailed overview of the reporting obligations upon Contracting Parties per legal instrument, including COP Decisions adopting Regional Action Plans since 2008, putting the focus on the type of the information required. Obligations upon Contracting Parties range from reporting, to notifying to informing on the measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and relevant COP Decisions.

Reporting obligations and monitoring mechanisms

Under Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention, reporting on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and recommendations adopted by the meeting of Contracting Parties is a mandatory obligation, which sets the basis for the meetings of the Contracting Parties to keep under review the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Article 18 of the Barcelona Convention) and to assess the compliance with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as the measures and recommendations (Article 27 of the Barcelona Convention).

The Barcelona Convention and its Protocols include provisions on monitoring, the formulation of which varies per legal instrument. Under Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention, there is a general obligation upon Contracting Parties to endeavor to establish, in close cooperation with the international bodies which they consider competent, complementary or joint programmes, including, as appropriate, programmes at the bilateral or multilateral levels, for pollution monitoring in the Mediterranean Sea Area. The relevant articles of the Protocols specify the general obligation of Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention as follows:

- (1) under Article 6.1 of the Dumping Protocol, dumping at sea permits for the wastes or other matter listed in Article 4.2 have to be issued only after careful consideration of inter alia those criteria, guidelines and procedures adopted under Article 6.2 of the Protocol. Following that article, specific Guidelines have been adopted, the appropriate consideration of which governs the issuance of permits. This implies that applications for the dumping of wastes or other matter listed in Article 4.2 have to demonstrate that careful consideration has been given to the precautionary procedure for considering disposal at sea outlined in the Guidelines. This includes guidance on monitoring;
- (2) under Article 5 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol Parties shall develop and apply monitoring activities covering the Mediterranean Sea Area in order to prevent, detect and combat pollution;

(3) under Article 8 of the LBS Protocol, Parties shall carry out monitoring activities and make access to the public of the findings in order to assess the level of pollution along their coasts, in particular with regard to the sectors of activity and categories of substances listed in Annex I to the LBS Protocol, and to evaluate the effectiveness of actions plans, programmes and measures implemented under the LBS Protocol;

(4) under Article 3 of the SPA/BD Protocol, Parties shall monitor the components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use and under Article 20 Parties shall consult, when necessary among themselves and with competent international organizations with a view to identifying, planning and undertaking scientific and technical research and monitoring programmes necessary for the identification and monitoring of protected areas and species and assessing the effectiveness of measures taken to implement management and recovery plans;

(5) under Article 19 of the Offshore Protocol, the competent authority shall establish, where appropriate, a national monitoring system to monitor regularly the installations and the impact of the activities on the environment, so as to ensure that the conditions attached to the grant of the authorization are being fulfilled, and under

(6) under Article 16 of the IZCM Protocol on monitoring and observation mechanisms and networks, the Parties shall use and strengthen existing appropriate mechanisms for monitoring and observation, or create new ones if necessary.

This adds to the monitoring requirements under the Regional Action Plans adopted within the framework of the LBS and SPA/BD Protocols and under the Decision on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria.

As noted, under Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention there is a general obligation to report on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. This includes the provisions dealing with monitoring, as reflected in the Biennial National Reports.

Table 1: General Overview			
REPORTING OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE BARCELONA CONVENTION ITS PROTOCOLS AND DECISIONS¹ ADOPTED BY THE MEETINGS OF CONTRACTING PARTIES			
Reporting Obligation	Instrument	Report to/reporting format	Timing²
1. Biennial Report on the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention	Barcelona Convention: Article 26	Secretariat/Barcelona Convention Reporting System-BCRS	On an biennial basis
2. Biennial Report on the Implementation of the Dumping Protocol	Barcelona Convention: Article 26 Dumping Protocol: Articles 8, 9 and 14	Secretariat/Barcelona Convention Reporting System-BCRS	On an biennial basis
• Reporting of cases of <i>force majeure</i> dumping	Dumping Protocol: Article 8	Report to MED POL	Immediately or as part of Biennial National Report
• Reporting of cases of critical situation	Dumping Protocol: Article 9	Report to MED POL	Forthwith or as part of Biennial National Report
3. Biennial Report on the Implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol	Barcelona Convention: Article 26 Prevention and Emergency Protocol: Articles 4,7,9, 10, 11, 16 and 18	Secretariat/Barcelona Convention Reporting System-BCRS	On an biennial basis
• Reporting of contingency plans and other means of preventing and combating pollution incidents • Dissemination and exchange of information	Prevention and Emergency Protocol: Articles 4 and 7	REMPEC/REMPEC Country Profiles	Updated as needed, also as part of Biennial National Report through the Country Profile
• Reporting on pollution incidents • Operational measures	Prevention and Emergency Protocol: Articles 9 and 10	REMPEC/POLREP Format MEDGIS MAR (Mediterranean Integrated Geographical Information System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment)	Immediately Updated as needed, also as part of Biennial National Report through MEDGIS MAR
4. Biennial Report on the Implementation of the LBS Protocol	Barcelona Convention : Article 26 LBS Protocol : Article 13	Secretariat/Barcelona Convention Reporting System-BCRS	On an biennial basis
• Pollutants emissions and releases • Monitoring data	LBS Protocol: Article 13	MED POL/MED POL -Info System, including NBB and IMAP Info System (partly operational, new elements under development)	Emissions: on a two year basis Monitoring data: annually NBB: on a five year basis

¹ This refers to Decisions adopting Regional Action Plans (RAPs) since 2008, when the Format for the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols was introduced and the Decision on the IMAP.

² The proposed deadline for the submission of the national implementation reports for the reporting period 2016-2017 is December 2018

			Obligations to report these data addressed in the Biennial National Report but the data to be provided through MED POL Info system/Info MAP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Regional Action Plans on POPs 	Decisions IG. 19/8, 19/9 and 20/8. 3.1-4	Secretariat/Barcelona Convention Reporting System-BCRS	On an biennial basis/part of the Biennial National Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Regional Action Plan on Mercury 	Decision IG. 20/8.1		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Regional Action Plans on BOD5 Reduction 	Decisions IG. 19/7 and 20/8.2		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter 	Decisions IG. 21/7 and 22/10		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production 	Decision IG. 22/5		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LBS related Ecological Objectives (EO) 	Decision IG. 22/7 (IMAP)	IMAP Info System (partly operational, new elements under development)	Annually, also as part of the Biennial National Report
5. Biennial Report on the Implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol	Barcelona Convention : Article 26 SPA/BD Protocol : Articles 23, 25 and 26	Secretariat/Barcelona Convention Reporting System-BCRS	On an biennial basis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans) 	Decision IG. 21/4	Secretariat/Barcelona Convention Reporting System-BCRS	On an biennial basis/part of the Biennial National Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Regional Action Plan concerning Species Introduction and Invasive Species 	Decision IG. 22/12		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Bird Species 	Decision IG. 21/4		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans 	Decision IG. 22/12		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation 	Decision IG. 20/6		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Monk Seal 	1985 COP Decision		

• Implementation of Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles	Decision IG. 21/4		
• Implementation of Dark Habitats Action Plan	Decision IG. 21/4		
• Implementation of Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Coralligenous and Other Calcareous Bio-concretions	Decision IG. 22/12		
• SPA/DB related Ecological Objectives (EO)	Decision IG. 22/7 (IMAP)	IMAP Info System (partly operational, new elements under development)	Annually, also as part of the Biennial National Report
6. Biennial Report on the Implementation of the Offshore Protocol	Barcelona Convention: Article 26 Offshore Protocol: Articles 6, 14, 20, 25, 26 and 30	Secretariat/Barcelona Convention Reporting System-BCRS	On an biennial basis
7. Biennial Report on the Implementation of the Hazardous Waste Protocol	Barcelona Convention: Article 26 Hazardous Wastes Protocol: Articles 4, 8, 9 and 11	Secretariat/Barcelona Convention Reporting System-BCRS	On an biennial basis
8. Biennial Report on the Implementation of the ICZM Protocol	Barcelona Convention : Article 26 ICZM Protocol : Articles 16 and 31	Secretariat/INFO-RAC System	On an biennial basis
• ICZM related Ecological Objectives (EO)	Decision IG. 22/7 (IMAP)	IMAP Info System (partly operational, new elements under development)	Annually

**Table 2: Detailed Overview
REPORTING OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE BARCELONA CONVENTION ITS PROTOCOLS AND DECISIONS³
ADOPTED BY THE MEETINGS OF CONTRACTING PARTIES**

Barcelona Convention				
Articles	Information required	Reporting Format(s)	Recipient body	Timing
Notifying obligation under Article 3.2 <i>General provisions</i>	Bilateral or multilateral agreements signed by Contracting Parties for the promotion of sustainable development, the protection of the environment or the conservation and preservation of natural resources in the Mediterranean Sea Area	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis
Notifying obligation under Article 9 <i>Cooperation in dealing with pollution emergencies</i>	Pollution emergency cases	REMPEC Emergency Communication Procedure (POLREP Format)	REMPEC	Without delay
Dumping Protocol				
Reporting obligation under Article 8	1. <i>Force majeure</i> dumping 2. Circumstances, nature, quantities of the wastes or other matter dumped	Report to MED POL BCRS	MED POL Secretariat	Immediately On a biennial basis
Reporting/informing obligation under Article 9	Action that a Contracting Party takes in a critical situation of an exceptional nature	Report to MED POL BCRS	MED POL Secretariat	Forthwith On a biennial basis
Reporting obligation under Article 14	It is the function of the ordinary meetings of the Parties to study and consider the records of the permits issued in accordance with Articles 5, 6 and 7 and of the dumping which has taken place: 1. dumping permits, 2. nature and quantities of the wastes or other matter permitted to be dumped, 3. location, date and method of dumping	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis
Prevention and Emergency Protocol				
Reporting obligation under Article 4 <i>Contingency plans and other means of preventing and combating pollution incidents</i>	Measures taken for the implementation of Article 4: 1. maintenance and promotion of contingency plans and other means of preventing and combating pollution; 2. measures to ensure as flag State, port State and Coastal State the effective implementation of relevant international conventions	REMPEC Country Profiles BCRS	REMPEC Secretariat	Updated as needed On a biennial basis
Notifying obligation under Article 7	• Information exchange between Contracting Parties on:	REMPEC Country Profiles	REMPEC	Updated as needed

³ This refers to Decisions adopting Regional Action Plans (RAPs) since 2008, when the Format for the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols was introduced and the Decision on the IMAP.

<i>Dissemination and exchange of information</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. national authority responsible for combating oil/hazardous and noxious pollution; 2. national authority responsible for receiving reports of pollution; 3. national authority in charge of mutual assistance and cooperation; 4. national authority responsible for the implementation of relevant international conventions; 5. regulations on preparedness and response; 6. new ways and means of combatting oil/hazardous and noxious pollution; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusion of bilateral/multilateral agreements within the framework of this Protocol 	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis
Notifying obligation under Article 9 <i>Reporting procedure</i>	<p>Information on instructions given to those in charge of ships/aircrafts/ offshore installations/ports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. incidents which result/may result in a discharge of oil/ hazardous and noxious substances; 2. presence/characteristics/extent of spillages 	<p>REMPEC Emergency Communication Procedure (POLREP Format)</p> <p>MEDGIS MAR Database</p> <p>BCRS</p>	<p>REMPEC</p> <p>REMPEC</p> <p>Secretariat</p>	<p>Immediately</p> <p>Updating as needed</p> <p>On a biennial basis</p>
Informing obligation under Article 10 <i>Operational measures</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessments of pollution incidents/actions taken or to be taken 2. Action taken to combat ship pollution 	<p>REMPEC Emergency Communication Procedure (POLREP Format)</p> <p>BCRS</p>	<p>REMPEC</p> <p>Secretariat</p>	<p>Immediately</p> <p>On a biennial basis</p>
Informing obligation under Article 11 <i>Emergency measures</i>	Emergency measures (pollution emergency plans) on board ships/on offshore installations/in ports	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis
Informing obligation under Article 16 <i>Places of refuge</i>	National/sub-regional/regional strategies concerning reception of ships in distress in ports and places of refuge	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis
Reporting obligation under Article 18 <i>Meetings</i>	Function of ordinary meetings of the Parties to examine and discuss reports from REMPEC on the implementation of this Protocol, particularly: —Article 4: Contingency plans and other means of preventing and combating pollution incidents; —Article 7: Dissemination and exchange of information, and —Article 16: Places of refuge	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis
Land-Based Sources and Activities Protocol				
Reporting obligation under Article 13 <i>Reports</i>	Measures taken/results achieved/difficulties encountered in the application of this Protocol	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Statistical data on the authorizations granted under Article 6; 2. Monitoring data under Article 8 3. Quantities of pollutants discharged from their territories 4. Action plans, programmes and measures implemented in accordance with Articles 5 (general obligations), 7 (common guidelines, standards and criteria) and 15 (action plans, programmes and measures and the effectiveness of NAP implementation) 	MED POL -Info System including NBB and IMAP Info System (partly operational, new elements under development)	MED POL	<p>Contracting Parties invited to provide information at MED POL FP meeting held on biannual basis</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Work ongoing to develop a list of NAP indicators to be reported on 5 year basis. First report in 2020</p>
COP Decisions adopting LBS Regional Action Plans (RAPs)	<p>Reporting on the implementation of LBS RAPs on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. POPs; 2. Mercury; 3. BOD5 Reduction; 4. Marine Litter, and 5. Sustainable Consumption and Production 	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis
IMAP (Decision IG. 22/7)	LBS related Ecological Objectives (EO)	<p>IMAP Info System (partly operational, new elements under development)</p> <p>BCRS</p>	<p>MEDPOL</p> <p>Secretariat</p>	<p>Annually</p> <p>On a biennial basis</p>
SPA and Biological Diversity Protocol				
Reporting obligation under Article 23 <i>Reports of the Parties</i>	<p>Reports on the implementation of the Protocol, in particular on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the status and state of the areas included in the SPAMI List, 2. any changes in the delimitation or legal status of the SPAMIS and protected species 3. possible exemptions allowed under Articles 12 (cooperative measures for the protection and conservation of species) and 18 (integration of traditional activities) 	BCRS	Secretariat	<p>On a biennial basis</p> <p>Contracting Parties invited to report on the progress of the implementation on protocol during the SPA/RAC FP meeting held on biannual basis</p>
Reporting obligation under Article 25 <i>Coordination</i>	Reporting on the protection and conservation of threatened or endangered species and their habitats (Action Plans)	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis

Reporting obligation under Article 26 <i>Meetings of the Parties</i>	Reports transmitted by the Parties under Article 23 of this Protocol, as well as any other pertinent information which the Parties transmit through the Centre	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis
COP Decisions adopting SPA/BD Regional Action Plans (RAPs)	Reporting on the implementation of SPA/BD RAPs on: 1. Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans); 2. Species Introduction and Invasive Species; 3. Bird Species; 4. Cetaceans; 5. Marine Vegetation; 6. Monk Seal; 7. Mediterranean Marine Turtles; 8. Dark Habitats, and 9. Coralligenous and Other Calcareous Bio-concretions.	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis
IMAP (Decision IG. 22/7)	SPA/BD related Ecological Objectives (EO)	IMAP Info System (partly operational, new elements under development) BCRS	Secretariat Secretariat	Annually On a biennial basis
Offshore Protocol				
Notifying obligation under Article 6 <i>Granting of authorizations</i>	Authorizations granted or renewed for offshore exploration or exploitation	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis
Reporting obligation under Article 14 <i>Exceptions</i>	Disposals in cases of <i>force majeure</i> and combat of cases of specific pollution: nature and quantity of wastes or hazardous and noxious substances discharged	BCRS POLREP Format	Secretariat REMPEC	On a biennial basis Immediately
Notifying obligation under Article 20 <i>Removal of installations</i>	Depth/position/dimensions of disused offshore installations (platforms/pipelines) left in place	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis
Informing obligation under Article 25 <i>Mutual information</i>	Measures taken/results achieved/ difficulties encountered in the application of the Protocol	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis
Informing obligation under Article 26 <i>Transboundary Pollution</i>	Cases in which the marine environment is in imminent danger of being damaged, or has been damaged, by pollution	REMPEC Emergency Communication Procedure (POLREP Format)	REMPEC	Immediately
Submission of information under Article 30 <i>Meetings</i>	Information concerning authorizations under Section II (Articles 4 to 7): authorization system Information concerning authorizations under Section III (Articles 8 to 14): Wastes and Hazardous and Noxious Substances and materials Contingency Plans: Article 16	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis
Hazardous Wastes Protocol				
Informing obligation under Article 4 <i>National definitions of Hazardous Wastes</i>	Wastes other than those listed in Annex I to the Protocol, considered or defined as hazardous wastes under its national legislation	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis

	Requirements concerning transboundary movement procedures applicable to such wastes Any significant changes in the information provided above			
Reporting obligation under Article 8 <i>Regional Cooperation</i>	Reports regarding the hazardous wastes they generate and transfer within the Protocol area	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis
Informing obligation under Article 9 <i>Illegal traffic</i>	Information related to illegal traffic	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis
Informing obligation under Article 11 <i>Transmission of information</i>	Measures taken/results achieved/ difficulties encountered in the application of the Protocol	BCRS	Secretariat	On a biennial basis
ICZM Protocol				
Reporting obligation under Article 31 <i>Reports</i>	Reports on the implementation of the ICZM Protocol	IG 22/16 Operational Section of the Reporting Format for the ICZM Protocol	Secretariat	On a biennial basis
IMAP (Decision IG. 22/7)	ICZM related Ecological Objectives (EO)	IMAP Info System (partly operational, new elements under development)	Secretariat	Annually