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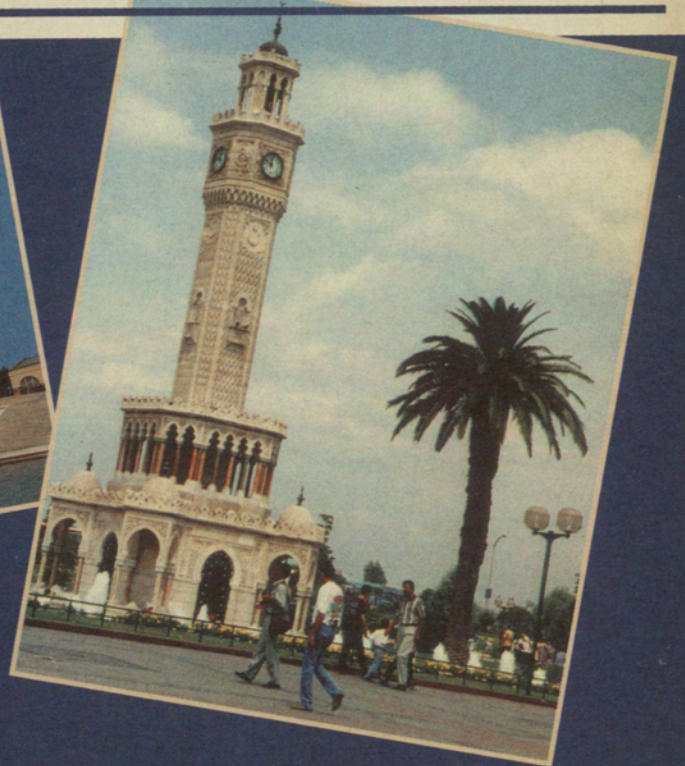


# MED WAVES

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**Montpellier :**  
**The Extraordinary  
Meeting of the  
Contracting Parties**  
**1-4 July 1996**



**Izmir :** The  
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**26 September-  
1 October 1996**



**Rabat :**  
**The Mediterranean  
Commission on  
Sustainable  
Development  
at Work**

**16-18 December 1996**

The second half of 1996 was a very busy time for MAP which had to put into effect several decisions taken in Barcelona in 1995. Montpellier, Izmir and Athens marked three important stages for the programme, crowned by the inaugural meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development which took place in Rabat in December.

## Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996: The Extraordinary Meeting

This extraordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties, which examined and adopted the programme and budget for 1997, brought together delegates from 17 Mediterranean countries and the EC, 21 IGOs/ NGOs and the 7 Regional Activity Centres of MAP. The meeting was chaired by Mr **Nourdine Benomar Alami**,

Minister for the Environment of Morocco, elected president of the Bureau by the Ninth Ordinary Meeting held in Barcelona. The meeting was privileged to hear addresses by Mrs **Corinne Lepage**, Minister for the Environment of France, Mr **Jacques Blanc**, President of the Languedoc-Roussillon Region and Mrs **Elizabeth Dowdeswell**, Executive Director of UNEP (see frame). Following the presentations made by the delegates from the various countries regarding the latest developments in the field of the environment, participants discussed the difficult subject on the agenda: the budget for 1997. Delegates agreed on an increase of 3.5 per cent in the ordinary contributions

to the MTF and to an extraordinary contribution of an additional 3.5%. The extraordinary contributions of France, Italy and Spain will cover part of the cost of three meetings foreseen by the approved 1997 budget. Following the approval of the programmes and the budgets of the MED POL programme and the seven Regional Centres, the meeting adopted the mandate of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, together with the selection criteria for its members, after making several modifications. Finally, it was unanimously agreed to accept Tunisia's offer to host the tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties in September 1997. Commenting on these results, MAP Coordinator, Mr L. Chabason, noted that he was convinced that Mediterranean countries and the EC were committed to keep the engagements made in Barcelona in 1995. ■



Personalities present in Montpellier : from left to right Mr Jacques Blanc, Mrs Corinne Lepage, Mr Nourdine Benomar Alami and Mrs Elizabeth Dowdeswell

### EXTRACTS FROM SPEECHES DELIVERED IN MONPELLIER:

*«When the global community forged its commitments at UNCED almost 5 years ago, it was with the knowledge that the job of improving the environment would not be easy. As we began translating our plans into action, we have indeed discovered the complexity and difficulty of implementing Agenda 21... There are signs that a new understanding is emerging of the implications of sustainability and the post-Rio agenda.» Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director of UNEP.*

*«However, we shouldn't expect everything from the states... Partnerships with the civil society are essential: NGOs, businesses, universities, local authorities are all actors on whom we can count, provided we enhance their cooperation through Mediterranean «networks».» Corinne Lepage, French Minister for the Environment, extraordinary meeting in Montpellier, 1<sup>st</sup> July 1996.*

*«I want simply to express my deep conviction: that the Mediterranean could launch original forms of inter-regional and cross-border cooperation as bridges for the future and invent its own model of development that the North could not impose on it.» Jacques Blanc, President of the Languedoc- Roussillon Region.*



## LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON: WHEN A REGION FIGHTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Breaking with a secular tradition of centralisation, France is, since the Laws of 1982 -amended in 1986-, 1992 and 1995, divided into 26 regions each governed by an elected regional Council to which the State has transferred a part of its competencies, thus increasing the possibilities of intervention by local authorities in economic affairs and abolishing the State's administrative and financial powers. One of these new local authorities, the Region of Languedoc-Roussillon, situated in the west of the Mediterranean facade of France, hosted the extraordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties in the "Hotel de Region" of Montpellier. During the past few years, this Region has been characterised by strong and innovative action in favour of the environment. It has indeed created, at the local level, a **Mediterranean Environment Agen-**

**cy** (or **AME**, which publishes a «Letter on the environment of Languedoc-Roussillon») which intervenes in very specific domains such as protected areas. The **AME** has also contributed, at the regional level, to the setting up, in March 1995, of the **Centre of Euro-mediterranean Regions for the Environment (CREE)**. Twenty five Mediterranean regions from the following Member States of the European Union are members of CREE: Spain, France, Greece, Italy and Portugal. The CREE is setting up an exchange network and a framework for cooperation with the European institutions and international organisations active in the Mediterranean such as MAP. Its headquarters are in Athens and ensure general coordination. Its Secretariat, based in Montpellier, manages the working groups and ensures relations with the scientific

world. The CREE has been accepted as a member of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development. At present, it is responsible for 7 thematic working groups in which between 3 and 9 regions participate. **The Liaison Committee of Associations for the Environment of Languedoc-Roussillon (CLAPE-LR)**, another initiative supported by the Region, organised a meeting in Montpellier, from 1 to 2 July 1996. Representatives from the 14 NGO partners of MAP from Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon, Spain, Italy and France participated in the meeting. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the main issues examined by the extraordinary meeting which was taking place at the same time, and to propose amendments to the mandate of the MCSDD. Two of the amendments were accepted by the delegates from Mediterranean governments and the EC.

## Izmir, 26 September -1 October 1996: The "Hazardous Wastes" Protocol

The adoption of the **Protocol on the Prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean sea by trans-boundary movements of hazardous waste**, was a double exercise. First of all, between 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September, the legal and technical experts from the 16 Mediterranean countries and the EC, entrusted with the elaboration of the Protocol, held their third and last meeting in an effort to agree on the remaining loose ends, something which was made possible at the cost of various modifications and improvements to the original text. Then, from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October, a Conference of Plenipotentiaries was held. The opening address was given by Mr Ziyattin Tokar, Minister of the Environment of Turkey. The Final Act

was signed by the sixteen Contracting Parties and the Protocol by eleven. The adoption of this new legal instrument closes the cycle of intensive elaboration and updating of legal documents which MAP has experienced during the past three years, with the adoption of the «offshore» Protocol, the revision of the Barcelona Convention, and of its Protocols. Immediately after the signing ceremony, Mr Ziyattin Tokar, president of the conference and Mr Lucien Chabason, MAP Coordinator, held a press conference (see p.4). The conference also adopted three resolutions: I) on the signature, ratification, acceptance and approval of the Protocol, II) on the Interim Provisions, and III) the Tribute to the Government of Turkey for its

hospitality and its contribution to the success of the conference. Finally, the Israeli, French and Slovenian delegations added declarations to the Final Act expressing reserves on certain points in the Protocol, as did also the representative of the European Commission who stated that the EC «*was not in a position to approve and sign the Protocol, as its internal procedures have not yet been completed but hopes to be able to do so in the near future*». As Mr Chabason, MAP Coordinator remarked, «*the legal base of MAP can be considered as complete, after a long period of legal changes and updating which will end in November with the adoption and the signature of the annexes to the SPA Protocol*». ■

## The Izmir Press Release (1 October 1996):

For many years, the scientific and political communities and public opinion have been deeply disturbed by the problem of hazardous wastes, their transfer and disposal. Everyone remembers the strong feelings raised by the illegal traffic that made developing countries into "dumps" for wastes from developed countries.

In order to prevent any such happenings in the future, the Mediterranean countries decided to strengthen and adapt the international provisions in force to the special situation of the Mediterranean. Meeting in Izmir, Turkey, on 30 September and 1 October 1996, they adopted a Protocol that provides for the following:

- Commitment to abate the production of hazardous wastes
- Ban on exports of wastes from developed to developing countries
- Reciprocal commitment by developing countries not to accept wastes
- Strict control of the passage of ships transporting wastes through the territorial seas of each State
- Verification procedure entrusted to the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention, in the event of any breach

This Protocol is the sixth in a series of legal instruments under the Barcelona Convention and it completes the Convention in an area that is essential for the protection of the environment and public health. It is also innovative, providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries in the Mediterranean and guaranteeing the necessary transparency by informing the public immediately of any illegal traffic.

Sixteen Mediterranean States and the European Community signed the Final Act. The European Community, which took an active part in drafting the protocol together with its Mediterranean partners, hopes to approve the Protocol once its internal procedures have been completed. All those present expressed their gratitude to the Turkish Government and the Authorities of Izmir for the impeccable organization of the Conference.

## Izmir: A Long History of Cooperation with MAP

By hosting the meeting and the conference on the «hazardous wastes» Protocol in Izmir, the Turkish authorities also confirmed a long history of cooperation with MAP. First of all within the framework of a pilot project launched in 1987, then of a Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) implemented from 1990 to 1993 to deal with the problems of this dynamic town,

which has around 2 million inhabitants and is the first commercial centre of the country and the second port after Istanbul. During the past thirty years, demographic growth and accelerated urbanisation have placed a heavy burden on the environment, especially because of the effluents discharged into the bay whose shallow depth renders

mixing and natural purification difficult. In the extension of the results of the CAMP, Turkey has oriented itself towards the creation of a management Committee for the bay of Izmir including a Secretariat and specialised groups structured in a way as to be responsible as a last resort to the Minister for Environment.

## Athens, 4-5 November 1996: The Meeting of the Bureau

The meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties was opened by Mr Theodoros Koliopoulos, new Deputy Minister for Environment of Greece. Mrs Bani Layachi chaired the meeting as a representative of the Moroccan Minister for Environment. Following the presentation by

Mr Chabason, MAP Coordinator, on the main activities of the progress report, the members of the Bureau discussed the practical arrangements to be followed by the ad hoc group assigned to examine and revise the structure, the role and the mission of the Coordinating Unit and the Re-

gional Centres of MAP. Then, in an effort to prepare the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development to be held in Rabat in December, participants proceeded with the selection of the members of the Commission.

## Monaco, 23-24 November 1996: SPA Annexes

On November 24<sup>th</sup> 1996, the day after the meeting of experts assigned with producing the final draft texts, the three annexes to the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean were adopted at a

meeting of plenipotentiaries representing 20 Mediterranean states and the European Community. These annexes include: «Common criteria for the choice of SPAs which could be included on the list of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Im-

portance -SPAMIs» (Annex I), «the list of endangered or threatened species» (Annex II), and «the list of species whose exploitation is controlled». Thus, the process of revision and updating of the Barcelona legal framework was completed.

## Rabat, 16-18 December 1996: *The MCSD at Work*

The first meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) constitutes a milestone for the Mediterranean in the post- Rio era. Thirty members of the Commission, representing 17 Mediterranean governments and the EC, 3 local authorities, 3 socio- economic actors and 5 regional NGOs attended the three day meeting. Observers from 5 international or intergovernmental organisations and the directors of MAP Regional Activity Centres were also present. The meeting was held under the high patronage of His Majesty King Hassan II. The Commission elected a bureau composed of eight members. Mr Nouridine Benomar Alami, Moroccan Minister for Environment, was elected Chairman. It was decided that the Commission should have its own internal rules of procedure and MAP Secretariat was re-

quested to draft them. After having presented the situation as regards sustainable development in their respective country, group or organisation, the members of the MCSD examined a preliminary report on the main issues related to sustainable development in the Mediterranean region. Subsequently, they discussed their methods of work and decided to appoint *task managers* and constitute *thematic working groups* which would concentrate on a limited number of subjects over a specific period of time. Two of these groups are to get to work without delay on two major priorities: sustainable management of coastal zones and management of water demand. The first of these groups will be managed by Morocco and the MEDCITIES network, the second one by Tunisia and Morocco. After one year they will propose the first strate-

gic and policy orientations which will be exploitable by all decision-makers, at all levels, in the region. In the medium-term, other groups will deal with the great challenges to sustainable development posed by tourism, free trade and industry. It was also decided that the Commission would submit a report on the situation of sustainable development in the Mediterranean to the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, to be held in New York in June 1997, which will review the progress in the implementation of Agenda 21. Closing the debate, the Commission decided to hold its second meeting in Spain in May 1997 to examine the first progress made by the thematic working groups and to proceed to a higher level of action. ■

## Rabat or "Building a Concept"

The success of the term is undeniable. Development, management, tourism, energy, agriculture, industry, town: everything is claimed to be sustainable in a world which is, however, geared towards acceleration and questionable evolution. The English term «sustainable» has been manipulated in all languages, more or less well translated, defined and understood, reverberated by the media and the publications of numerous international organisations, NGOs, IGOs and local authorities.

On its own, it appears to work a sort of magic which automatically solves problems. So? Is it exorcism for the end of a worrying millennium? It would be deceitful to keep up appearances, as regards anything irritating which is in fashion. After all, in the seventies, the word «environment» had known a comparable fate due to ignorance. Then, as years went by, the word acquired content, a meaning and a weight which were real to the point of arousing, among those responsible, public opinion and authorities, a

consciousness, a change of mentality, behaviour and political choices. The Rio conference of 1992 and the fact that higher priority was given to environmental action prove this. Despite the original definition of the Brundtland report of 1987 and the refinements which were made thereafter, we will avoid to specify the con-

cept of sustainability in the context of the Rabat meeting: for a simple reason: a lot remains to be done, it is still "under construction" by commissions, teams or departments whose mission is to reflect on it and to study its implementation. Actually, it would be presumptuous to try to do so, knowing that efforts are being made at the international level to define several hundreds of indicators! Let us simply remind ourselves that sustainable development implies a cross sectional approach and requires that all actions and every project, are closely examined for its impact on the environment. Thus, the great novelty is that the environment and development must from now on go hand in hand and not be antagonistic. However, environmental phenomena rarely limit themselves to national administrative entities. They ignore borders of neighbouring countries. Regional cooperation therefore appears to be the appropriate framework for intervening on time against the perverse effects of development on the environment and the quality of life. It answers better to the dimension of problems and challenges. At the Rio conference, which advocated the setting up of national commissions for sustainable development, based on the example of the international Commission, the possibility of setting up regional commissions had not been considered. Once more, the Mediterranean, after decision of its bordering



The panel of the Rabat meeting. From left to right : Mr A. Hoballah, Deputy Director of the Blue Plan and Secretary of the Meeting, Mr L. Chabason, MAP Coordinator and Mr Benomar Alami, Minister for the Environment of Morocco and President of the MCSD Bureau.

...

...

States and the EC, partners of MAP and Parties to the Convention of Barcelona, showed the way by forming its own commission, the MCSD. The MCSD has a clearly defined mandate and composition; apart from governments, it has representatives from local authorities, socio-economic actors and NGOs. Here we should recall the role played by Tunisia in the initiation of the process, with the hosting, in November 1994, of the Ministerial Conference of Tunis on Sustainable Development and the launching of an Agenda MED 21 which adapted the important themes of the Rio Agenda 21 to the Mediterranean. The first meeting of the MCSD is therefore a «first» at the global level and is therefore already an event. The impressions of one of the participants, Mrs Bani Layachi, Director for Environment of Morocco, the country which hosted the meeting are cited below.

Morocco also strongly contributed to the building of the MCSD by assuming, in the person of Mr Nourine Benomar Alami, Minister for Environment, the presidency of the Bureau elected in Barcelona in June 1995. The active presence of countries such as Morocco and Tunisia clearly pose the question of the positive effects which the MCSD could have on the unequal development observed around the Basin and also that of certain actions which will be considered within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership inaugurated in Barcelona in 1995 and put into effect by the adoption by the European Union of the rules of MEDA. Rabat is but the beginning of a very long process, an exchange of views between those responsible for reflecting and acting. The next deadline is the special session of the General Assembly entrusted with the examination of the

post-Rio results. The voice of the MCSD will be heard. As it is for MAP, the future efficiency of the MCSD will depend on the willingness of governments - because that of other actors is, in theory, acquired - to really contribute. Rabat has already shown that the exercise requires clear and complete information, imagination, innovation and courage, products and strategies which can be exploited by all Mediterranean actors. Isn't that actually, at a larger scale, the reasoning behind MAP Coastal Area Management Programmes launched in 1989? To this respect, the MCSD also appears like an extension and a confirmation of a pattern foreseen and launched several years ago by a number of pioneers within the framework of the Mediterranean programme; well before Rio and Agenda 21.

Medwaves

## INTERVIEW WITH MRS BANI LAYACHI, MOROCCAN DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

### ON THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING OF RABAT

*Thanks to the involvement of the Moroccan Minister for the Environment, Mr Alami, and your own as President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties - since 1995 - and as President of the Bureau of the Commission, Morocco has been highly involved in the preparation and the organisation of the Rabat meeting. So, here is my first question: are you satisfied with the results?*

Its too early to talk about results! I would rather like to make a preliminary evaluation. Although the MCSD is totally new as regards its composition, we were able to reach a consensus on three essential points: the role of the Commission, its methods of work and its working groups. May I add that we were able to form these groups quite easily. I don't think that we could have done more at this stage. We should let time do its work. You see, I am both satisfied with the debates which took place during the three days, because of their results and careful with my predictions: we are confronted with a difficult and long-term task. Our Commission must affirm and impose itself at the regional

level as an efficient institution. I would simply say: Rabat is good news, it now remains to turn theory into practice.

*Several members of the Commission, starting with Mr Alami - who chaired the meeting - insisted on one point: the role of the MCSD will not be to launch particular programmes or projects but to promote a balanced approach by integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Do you think that all the members of the Commission got the message?*

This is a very important point especially because it sets the framework for the work which we are going to do. Evidently, we are not to replace the national or regional executive bodies - such as MAP - but to formulate methods, policies and strategies for sustainable development which the various actors concerned will exploit and implement. During the debates we talked about the «added value» of our work. What does that mean? That we should contribute «more» than what is being done or will be done elsewhere.



There are more and more bodies, institutions and organisations geared towards sustainable development. Also, relevant studies are

springing up like mushrooms more or less everywhere: it would not be wise to «repeat» this work. It would be a waste of time and money. It is exactly for this reason that we have decided to limit ourselves to a few well defined themes which we will enhance by adopting an original approach. Has this message got through? In any case, I haven't heard any objections and we parted after reaching an agreement. However, I must underline that this theoretical contribution will have a concrete value: the Commission itself has declared explicitly that it would not limit itself to defining objectives but that it would also propose means for their realisation by indicating the costs and benefits and by proposing new financing mechanisms. We are inventing, imagining, anticipating and

fixing long-term objectives but at the same time we are trying to keep our feet on the ground.

*Precisely, let us stick to concrete things and talk about the example which we have in view: Morocco. Parallel with the meeting of the MCSD, you have organised an exhibition in order to present a picture of your accomplishments...*

Actually, it was only a picture, because our action cannot be summarised by two or three panels presenting around thirty information brochures and documents. This is particularly true for all the work which has been accomplished at the local level (such as the various «Clean towns» campaigns) which is not always the most spectacular but leaves its traces in every day life.

*Does the population respond?*

That is our primary aim: to build on participation. Without the support of citizens, the actors who are most concerned, our measures would soon be obsolete, no matter how good. As for our main action, it is carried out within several institutional frameworks: the National Environment Council, the National Environment Strategy, the National Observatory for the Environment, the National Plan of Action for the Environment (or NPAE, which defines concrete and precise actions within the framework of the strategy), Action 30 (with reference to the 30 million Moroccans who will enter the XXIst century) which is geared towards sustainable development etc... Well, I won't go into detail, I would just like to say that all this action already constitutes a national experience which we hope to share. Our national strategy and our plans of action for Rabat and Essaouira are on the Internet. We have received over 2000 messages in two months, especially from those responsible in African countries who want to come and see what we are doing. We could also serve as an example for the North-West of Africa and more generally for the Arab world. I say this without pretensions because on the one hand we are still far for reaching our objectives and, on the other hand,

our partners and neighbours have also acquired an experience which is perhaps very different but which can also serve as an example. But Morocco is, I believe, in a privileged position. It serves as a bridge between the western extreme of the Arab world and the European Union from which it is separated by a 14km strait. Thus, our participation in EU programmes, in various international organisations such as UNEP, the Arab League, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, the Arab Magreb Union and the Arab environmental action programme, permits us to improve communications and thus increase exchanges and concerted action as regards the environment and sustainable development.

*Without being personal, my last question is addressed to you: you are a woman who has been entrusted with important functions in your country. As one of the delegates pointed out to the MCSD, we saw very few women during these past three days: only four out of the thirty members of the Commission were women! Is there still a lot to be done in this area?*

Yes, and that also applies to the NGOs: at the meeting of the MCSD, only one out of fifteen NGOs was represented by a woman...! A lot remains to be done and although we note, more or less everywhere - and especially in Morocco, where for the first time we have women in Parliament - progress as regards the presence and the active participation of women in public life, it boils down to the fact that people want to have a clear conscience and to limit women to roles into which «they fit», where they would be, let us say, more useful - equal opportunities, family policy, family planning, social protection, actions for the handicapped, etc...- although in fact women are capable of playing all roles, and I mean all of them! So, personally, I find it unacceptable that women should be forced to accept only certain responsible posts just to serve as alibis! And when I am told, for example, that women are more sensitive to environmental problems and sustainable development, I am rather cautious, because this is task discrimination. What is

certain, on the other hand, is that if women are given greater responsibility in matters which concern our future such as the ones dealt with by our Commission, they will contribute something essential, for two reasons: they want to show that they are equal and know in advance that in the case of a failure - no matter how small - it will inevitably be attributed to the fact that they are women. For this reason, women are more willing to handle problems efficiently. So, one should profit from this fact for the good of everybody... ■

## **MED POL: Focus on POPs**

From 2 to 4 October 1996, the French Government hosted in Marseille a consultation meeting of experts, as a follow-up to the implementation of Article 6 of the 1995 Barcelona Resolution on Environment and Sustainable Development aiming «at the reduction, by the year 2005, of discharges and emissions of substances which are toxic, persistent and liable to bio-accumulate to levels that are not harmful to man or nature, with a view to their gradual elimination». These substances include POPs, or «persistent organic pollutants», which constitute one of the main themes of the Washington Global Plan of Action (November 1995) and of a process of evaluation started by UNEP for a dozen of them («the dirty dozen») which are particularly harmful to the environment and public health. The meeting was organised in the framework of MAP, in cooperation with the Industry and Environment Office of UNEP in Paris. It brought together about 90 participants, among which experts designated by 14 Mediterranean countries, international experts, NGO representatives and representatives from the industrial sector. The recommendations of the meeting will be presented for adoption at the following meeting of the Contracting Parties.

## ECHOES FROM THE COORDINATING UNIT AND THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRES

**The summer of 1996 was marked by important changes in the personnel of the Athens Unit**

**Ljubomir Jeftic, Deputy Coordinator of MAP, retired after 11 years of service.**

Montpellier, July 1<sup>st</sup> 1996. Opening of the extraordinary meeting. Mrs Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director of UNEP, is on the stand. She reminds the representatives of the 16 Mediterranean countries and the EC of their commitments to protect the environment of the region and of the priorities which have been set. She also reminds them that MAP is a model for regional cooperation. A pause. The atmosphere is suddenly charged with emotion:

*«Clearly, this would not have been possible but for the ideas and remarkable initiatives taken by its managers. The first and foremost name which immediately comes to our mind is that of Mr Ljubomir Jeftic. Mr Jeftic, it will be unnecessary to describe your distinguishing record in the service of the Mediterranean Action Plan. Thanks to your dedicated contribution, the Mediterranean Unit is very much recognised and appreciated today. On 31 August this year, «Beb» as Mr Jeftic is popularly known will retire as the Deputy Coordinator of UNEP's Coordinating Unit for MAP. Let me assure you Beb that we are deeply conscious of everything that you stand for and what you have always contributed to the success of MAP».*

What can one add to this praise falling from the sky of Nairobi? That «Beb» naturally has a curriculum which blends with his legend and from which we can but mention the main points: a Doctorate in chemistry from the University of Zagreb, Croatia, in 1964, twenty years of research in electrochemistry, oceanic chemistry, modelling of hydrodynamic processes and coordination of projects at the «Rudjer Boskovic» Institute of Zagreb,

research visits to the University of Warsaw and Kansas in the United States. In 1981, still in Zagreb, he was appointed head of the Department for planning and the protection of the environment at the Croatian Ministry for Public Works, Housing and the Protection of the Environment. His adventure with MAP begins in 1985, with his nomination to the Coordinating Unit as a specialist in marine sciences. L. Jeftic became the driving force or rather the infatigable pilgrim to over one hundred national institutions, for a programme whose original structure was conceived by his compatriot Stephan Keckes, also a graduate



of Zagreb University and chief scientific officer of MAP in 1975: the MED POL or monitoring and research programme for pollution in the Mediterranean. The MED POL programme produced the first reports on the state of the sea. These were followed by the first common antipollution measures, the setting up of a quality assurance programme for participating laboratories, inter-laboratory research projects (such as the one on jelly fish which will make history) and the provision of funds for instruments and equipment. «Beb» will thus coordinate Phase II and carefully prepare Phase III (1996-2005) by shifting the accent from the analysis of pollution towards the combating of pollution, thus answering to the more general

refocusing of the MAP. He negotiated national continuous monitoring agreements with Mediterranean countries and established and supervised global evaluations of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean. In 1988, he added climate change to his portfolio: this new challenge led him to equip the Mediterranean with working groups which adapt predictions made at the regional level to the national or local level (see article Books - Magazines). In 1992, he was appointed Deputy Coordinator, a post which was created for him, and thus concentrated his efforts on the management of the programme. Should we wish him a pleasant retirement? That is probably something for which he is not talented. The personnel of the Unit and the RACs, all the actors of MAP, the MED POL and *Medwaves* would rather say: «Keep busy, Beb!»

► After the departure of L. Jeftic, **Saverio Civili**, First Officer (Marine Scientist) at the Unit, has assumed the coordination of the MED POL Programme until the post is officially filled.

► **Christian Marx**, Fund Management Administration Officer, left his post after being promoted to a post in the UNEP Industry and Environment Office in Paris. He had joined the Unit in 1987 and held a delicate post because of numerous financial crises which the programme experienced due to the lack of contributions, especially in the years 87/89 and 90/94. The closing of biannual budgets was a difficult exercise for this efficient Alsatian who, like Ulysses had to give proof of «Mediterranean» inventiveness in order to fill in the gaps, re-establish balances and propose



necessarily painful arbitration between the various parts of the programme. However, let us hope that he will retain happy memories of the sleepless nights spent in Athens before the meetings of the Contracting Parties...

► **Peter Reic** was appointed Director of the Regional Activity Centre of the Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC) of Split in Croatia. He took up his functions last July. This expert, who holds a diploma from the Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Split, Croatia, has participated as a consultant in numerous research projects in Italy. From 1992 to 1995, he was director of a project entitled «Hydrodynamic effects on nutrients diffusion and algal blooms along the Emilia-Romagna Coast». Mr I. Trumbic, has now assumed the functions of Deputy Director, and a management council for PAP/RAC has been set up. All legal conditions have thus been met for a smooth operation of the Centre. Mr L. Chabason, MAP Coordinator, went to Split in October (28 - 29) in order to sign the host country agreement between MAP/UNEP and the Croatian government.

## Regional Activity Centres

► **REMPEC** (Malta) hosted, on its premises, the bi-annual Focal Point Meeting from 22 to 26 October 1996. From 29 November to 7 December, it organised the MEDIPOL 96 course in Piraeus, Greece.

► The **Regional Activity Centre for Environment Remote Sensing** (ERS/RAC), on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1996, attended the meeting held in Brussels by DGXII of the European Commission at which the new call for proposals was presented. The Centre is arranging for the submission of two proposals: one with the European Topic Centre for Marine and Coastal Environment for the integrated assessment of the Mediterranean Sea and the other for the extension of the DAPHNE project.

► The **Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas** (SPA/RAC) in Tunis is launching a series of preparatory activities for the establishment of inventories of the elements of biological diversity at national and regional levels, including the formulation of common criteria which will be submitted to the Contracting Parties for adoption.

► Together with MEDCOAST, the **Regional Activity Centre for Priority Actions** (PAP/RAC) of Split organised in Sarigerme (Turkey), from 2 to 5 November, an international workshop on the state of the art of Integrated Coastal Area Management in the Mediterranean. Apart from the representatives of Mediterranean countries whose participation was under the patronage of the Centre, the workshop brought together around fifty renowned experts from the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and other areas of the world.

► The **Centre for the Blue Plan** of Sofia-Antipolis, prepared an important report on Mediterranean water issues which served as a basis for the Euro-Med Water meeting held on November 26-27 in Marseille. For its activities and on behalf of MAP/MEDU, BP/RAC is strengthening cooperation with METAP (it was present at the meeting of Cairo, see article «Mediterranean Fax») on behalf of which it will be in charge of the regional monitoring portfolio, together with EUROSTAT, the statistical office of the EC and the European Environment Agency (EEA) within the framework of its Dobris activity. Finally, it actively contributed to the preparation of the meeting of the MCSD in Rabat.

## Regional Activity Centres

### Echoes from the Coastal Area Management Programmes

- **Rhodes (Greece):** The final conference for the presentation of the results of this project to the national and local authorities was convened on 14-15 May. The possibility of a follow-up to a few priority activities was discussed.
- **Fuka-Matrouh (Egypt):** The preparation of the integrated coastal zone management plan started in November, based on a detailed workplan and timetable.
- **Malta:** The PAP/RAC of Split has been entrusted with the coordination of the CAMP activities to be carried out by all MAP actors.
- **Morocco:** An agreement was reached between MAP and the Moroccan coordinator on the experts who will conduct the analysis of the related work already carried out in the area of Al-Hoceima.
- **Israel:** the draft agreement for the CAMP was finalised and signed, on 12 November 1996, at a meeting of MAP Coordinator, Mr L. Chabason, Messrs Reic and Raimondi, Directors respectively of PAP/RAC and RAC/ERS, and Mr Raphael Eitan, Minister of the Environment of Israel.

## MEDITERRANEAN WETLANDS: THE VENICE DECLARATION

From 5 to 9 June 1996, an important **Conference on Mediterranean wetlands** was held in Venice, Italy. It was organised under the auspices of the Italian Ministry for Environment and the other partners of the **MedWet** initiative: it is a project whose aim is to develop instruments for the efficient conservation of wetlands and their rational exploitation in five Mediterranean countries of the EU: France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal. It is supported by the governments of these countries, the European Commission, several NGOs such as the WWF, the Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat, the Greek Biotopes/Wetlands Centre and Wetlands International. Apart from the partners mentioned above, representatives from 16 other Mediterranean governments and the Palestinian Authority were present in Venice. The Conference adopted the «**Strategy for**

**Mediterranean Wetlands**», which is a regional application of the Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention and «*reflects the conviction that the conservation of biological diversity of wetlands should be linked to sustainable development*». Participants also adopted the **Venice Declaration** «*recommending immediately to all Mediterranean States, organisations and people concerned to set the following target: stop the loss and the degradation of Mediterranean wetlands and reverse the tendency*».

Originally foreseen for the EU Mediterranean countries, the MedWet initiative was extended to other Mediterranean countries within the framework of actions financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the EU LIFE programme. Since June, the Mediterranean Strategy of Venice has been submitted to the various governments concerned in

order to obtain their support; it could constitute one of the subjects to be included in the mission of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development.

As a follow-up to this Conference and to the wide consensus which it gained, *Medwaves* asked Mr Thymio Papayannis, MedWet Coordinator, to express his thoughts and to recall the most recent developments (see EDITOR'S GUESTS). The information contained in the following pages was taken from The Venice Strategy and MedWet publications («*Characteristics of Mediterranean Wetlands*», «*Functions and values of Mediterranean wetlands*», Editors: J. Skinner and A. Crivelli, Tour du Valat Le Sambuc - 13200 Arles, France). The photographs were kindly offered by Mr Papayannis. ■

## MAJOR MEDITERRANEAN WETLANDS



Source : MedWet, «Characteristics of Mediterranean Wetlands»

## EDITOR'S GUESTS

## The MedWet Initiative is in Full Swing

By *Thymio Papayannis, MedWet Coordinator*

Wetlands are crucial for biodiversity in the Mediterranean, especially (but not solely) for ornithofauna, as they are key stops on the major migration flyways. These permanently or temporarily wet areas (lakes, rivers, swamps, ponds, bogs, sebkhas, chotts) have traditionally been of great use for the populations living around them, providing them with food, materials, and services; this



Lagoon of Orbetollo, Italy

has been recognised through the strong social and cultural links of people to wetlands.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, these links have been broken in many parts of the Mediterranean, and as a result wetlands have been drained, destroyed or degraded, resulting in a loss exceeding 60% of their surface in some countries. To stop this loss, and to reverse the trends of wetland degradation, for the benefit both of people and biodiversity in the Mediterranean, the MedWet initiative was started in 1991, soon after the Conference held that year in Grado, through the initiative of the Ramsar Convention, the European Commission, five European governments (from Portugal to Greece) and a number of international non-governmental organisations.

The first phase of MedWet, which ended in the summer of 1996, consisted of developing methods and tools in the fields of wetland inventories and monitoring, management, train-

ing, and public awareness, and the use of research results that were tested in a number of sites around the Basin. The work culminated by the organisation of the Venice Conference in June 1996, during which a Mediterranean Wetland Strategy was presented by the MedWet partners and endorsed by the participants. The Strategy aims at coordinating and intensifying the efforts for wetland conservation and sustainable use in the region, at the international, the national and the local level.

In the months that followed, a number of positive developments demonstrated that a strong momentum was established.

A second project under MedWet, funded to a large extent by the European Commission, is well on the way concerning the wetlands of Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Morocco and Tunisia, with actions both on the national level and on specific pilot sites (Kune-Vain lagoons, Beni Boulaid, Neretva delta, Merja Zega, Sebkhia Kelbia).

A Mediterranean Wetlands Committee has been established under the Ramsar Convention, including governments, intergovernmental authorities and non-governmental organisations. The purpose of this Committee will be to plan and supervise the implementation of the Mediterranean Wetland Strategy, and to strengthen international collaboration and support to this purpose.

Through the initiative and funding of the governments of France and Greece and a number of international NGOs (such as Fondation Sansouire, WWF, and Wetlands International), a MedWet coordination structure was established with a secretariat unit in Thessaloniki, at the Greek Biotope/

Wetland Centre, a project development unit in the Camargue, at the Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat, and a coordinator was appointed.

A project proposal for wetlands and coastal areas in Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia has been prepared by MedWet and the Conservatoire du Littoral, for funding under the GEF, and will be submitted soon.

In November 1996, during a pan-Mediterranean workshop held in Tour du Valat, the Mediterranean Wetland Strategy was analysed, and priorities for its implementation were agreed, with a focus on international collaboration and support in the region, and a number of new specific projects were discussed.

Thus MedWet continues as a concerted action for Mediterranean wetlands under the aegis of the Ramsar Convention, bringing together governmental and non-governmental organisations, in strong collaboration networks. In this spirit, the Barcelona Convention has been invited to participate in the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee,



Wetland of Dalyan, Turkey

signifying the strong cooperation links that have been created in the past and that will be strengthened further in the current phase, especially through the RAC/SPA Centre in Tunis. The task of protecting the Mediterranean wetlands and using their resources sustainably is a formidable one and requires the strong commitment and long-term participation of all those who can contribute. ■

## Significant Data on Mediterranean Wetlands:

► for millions of years, they have been essential to the life of the region, offering water, food, various resources and transport (great civilisations of the Nile delta)

► in more recent times, they were considered as unhealthy areas necessitating drainage

► the importance of their functions were rediscovered and pointed out during the past few decades: production of vegetation, fish reserves, biodiversity sanctuaries, replenishing and protection of aquifers, control of sedimentation, protection from erosion and therefore stabilisation of lake, river and sea shores, flood control, purification role and prevention of eutrophication by the absorption of

nutrients (fertiliser for agricultural land)

► approximate estimate of their area: 28 500 km<sup>2</sup> (of which: 6 500 are coastal lagoons, 12 000 natural lakes and marshes and 10 000 artificial wetlands, lakes joining dams)

► important wetlands: south of France (Camargue), Venice-Trieste coast and the Pô Delta in northern Italy, Tunisian coast (Ichkeul lake), Nile delta in Egypt, Ebru delta in Spain, common delta of the rivers Axios, Aliakmon and Loudias and the zone of Messolonghi in Greece, Menderes delta in Turkey, etc.

► salt water lakes are among the largest wetlands of the Mediterranean

(North Africa/Chott el Djerid, Turkey/lake of Tuz),

► Mediterranean wetlands not only constitute reproduction and wintering sites for millions of birds but they also play an important role for an even greater number of birds which feed and rest in them during their annual migrations between Africa and the north of Europe and Asia

► the massive disappearance of the Balkan wetlands has rendered lake Skadar (Albania/Montenegro) and lake Prespa (Albania/FYROM/Greece) the most important sites for avifauna in the south-east of Europe (herons, gulls, ducks, coots, white pelicans, Alsatian pelicans, cormorants, egrets etc.)

## The Problems:

► they stem from the destruction (draining) and deterioration brought about for health reasons (malaria) and in order to reclaim land for agriculture, towns, infrastructure and industry. The effects are reported in the Venice Strategy: «since 1930, 73% of wetlands in northern Greece were drained; between the years 1930 and 1994, 86% of French wetlands deteriorated; Spain lost about 60% of its original wetland area; and 15% of the lake and wetland area of the centre and north of Tunisia

(84% of wetlands in the Tunisian part of the Medjerdah basin, an important river which originates in Algeria and crosses the north of Tunisia) were destroyed between 1881 and 1987

► the effects are the influencing or the disappearance of the functions mentioned above and therefore: the depletion of aquifers (and consequently global water resources), overflowing, floods, eutrophication, disappearance

of species and habitats, disequilibrium of soils and banks, acceleration of erosion, reduction of fish resources, loss of leisure areas

► as if these effects - some of which are irreversible - are not enough, certain projects currently under study could imply new losses or degradation of wetlands (physical planning, intensive aquaculture in lagoons, projects in the areas of Messolonghi and Ichkeul, new dams, etc.)

## The Solutions:

► they depend on the awareness at the international level; the first important step was the signature in 1971, in the Iranian town of *Ramsar*, of one of the first treaties on the protection of the environment: the *Convention on wetlands of international importance especially as waterfowl habitat*. By signing this Convention, States committed themselves to designate «Ramsar sites» and more generally to

protect and preserve wetlands by combining national long term policy with coordinated international actions. In 1994, 14 Mediterranean countries designated 97 wetlands as «Ramsar sites» covering over 500 000 hectares

► the MedWet action launched in 1993, the campaigns led by associations in a number of Mediterranean countries every time a wetland is

threatened, the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, the inclusion of wetlands in the revised Barcelona Convention and MAP II (1995), the Ramsar and Kushiro (1993) and Brisbane (1996) conferences, the Venice conference of July 1996, all marked new positive developments in the implementation of an efficient strategy for the protection and rehabilitation of wetlands.

## THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP:

### The regulation which allows for its financing entered into force

The Euro-Mediterranean partnership, launched at the Conference of Barcelona in November 1995, which brought together 15 European Union countries (5 of which from the Mediterranean including Portugal) and 12 other countries from the southern and eastern Mediterranean, began its «concrete» and «practical» phase with the adoption by the «General Affairs» Council of the EU, on 15 July 1996, of the MEDA regulation. This regulation (1488/96/EC), which entered into force a month later, allows for the financing of cooperation between the EU and 12 non-EU Mediterranean countries - of which 10 are already partners of MAP (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey), plus Jordan and the Territories of Gaza and Cisjordan. The beneficiary countries and the EU will jointly set up three year programmes aimed primarily at favouring the establishment of a zone of free Euro-Mediterranean exchange and at supporting structural and social changes. The financial reference amount (article 1) for the implementation of this programme for the period 1995 to 1999 will be ECU 3,424.5 million. The annual appropriations will be authorised by the budgetary authority of the EU. Financing will be in

the form of grants, risk capital or interest rate subsidies (for loans granted by the European Investment Bank). This new unique financial framework covers all cooperation with Mediterranean countries and replaces previous regulations. All economic and social partners, public and private, from European Union and Mediterranean countries will be invited to respond to calls for proposals for projects funded under MEDA.

The objectives of actions to be financed are outlined in the annex of the regulation. They include several areas, some of which are of direct interest to MAP, such as:

- «the participation of civil society and populations in the planning and implementation of development measures;
- reinforced cooperation concerning fisheries and the sustainable exploitation of marine resources;
- reinforced environmental cooperation».

The role of MAP in the protection of the environment had already been recognised by the Euro-Med conference of Barcelona. During the past three years, it has been underlined in all Commission and Council explanatory memoranda which accompanied the MEDA regulation drafts (Euro-

pean Summits of Corfu, Essen and Florence). The following terms were used: «Existing institutional structures, especially within the framework of the Barcelona Convention of 1976 and the Plan of action for the Mediterranean (MAP), should fully be utilised in order to permit the elaboration of common approaches and the best follow-up to their implementation». It now remains to be seen to what extent the European Commission will profit from the provision of Article 4: «encourage the coordination and cooperation with the cooperation programmes of the United Nations», and from the «Med Committee» created to assist it in its choices, to try to «fully utilise» MAP's potential in the framework of the process started by the MCSD. Finally, NGOs can also profit from this partnership as they are explicitly mentioned as potential beneficiaries of measures to be financed. However, the fifteen Member States of the EC have linked this financial assistance to a political clause. The European Parliament in Strasbourg had particularly insisted on it, while the project was under discussion, and had proposed amendments: according to article 3, «the present regulation is based on the respect of democratic principles and on State justice, as well as on human rights and fundamental freedom, all of which constitute an essential element whose violation justifies the adoption of appropriate measures».

## THE METAP III PROGRAMME WAS LAUNCHED IN CAIRO

The METAP programme, or Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme, was launched jointly in 1990 by the World Bank and the European Investment Bank in order to assist national efforts to protect the environment and encourage regional cooperation. It is therefore a complementary programme for other programmes under way at different levels, which has been carefully conceived and set up. Resources for this programme are made available, apart from the banks mentioned above, by three other partners: the European Commission, UNDP and UNEP. Phase III (1990-1996), which has just ended, utilised 30 million dollars which financed around one hundred activities. A large part of METAP activities were geared towards the solution of urban problems linked to

demographic pressure in certain southern Mediterranean countries, such as solid waste management, water supply and air pollution. The accent is placed on the creation of networks and training at the regional level. The choice of Cairo (Egypt) as the place for launching phase III, which took place on the occasion of a workshop held from 15 to 18 October 1986, was highly symbolic because of the seriousness of the problems to which this capital is confronted; Cairo is characterised by demographic explosion (Greater Cairo has over 12 million inhabitants). METAP III will endeavour to achieve better cooperation between social and regional partners, the private and public sectors and to increase national responsibilities. Around sixty activities are foreseen with a budget of 80 million dollars. MAP will contribute via the Blue

Plan, which has already participated in preparatory activities and will be responsible for the regional monitoring dossier - in particular the elaboration of indicators. Following a meeting of METAP III donors, organised previously in Paris in 1996 at which Mr L. Chabason, MAP Coordinator, participated, there were thoughts of setting up a real working partnership between Euro-Med, MAP and METAP III, especially, according to the recommendation of the extraordinary meeting of Montpellier, for the implementation of the Protocol «on land-based pollution», the strengthening of the capacities of developing countries and the development of integrated management plans for coastal zones. Pollution «hot spots» will be among the first targets.

## MAP Technical Reports Series:

### UNEP: The State of the Marine and Coastal Environment in the Mediterranean Region

*Athens, 1996, 142 pages, English version (No 100) and French version (No 101) published separately:*

This volume of MAP Technical Reports Series, based on a document which was officially submitted to the Montpellier meeting in July 1996, is of particular importance. It is in fact a «health report» for the Mediterranean which the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have asked the Secretariat to establish at regular intervals in order to be kept informed about the most recent developments in the region and, thus, to help them decide on measures to be taken. The previous report was presented seven years ago (*No 28 of the Series, Athens, 1989, in English only*). This new report is not only an update of the previous report. It is an innovation because it reviews economic activities

in the region and their effects on the marine and coastal environment, and its resources. Thus, those who are just anxious to get to know the region well or the decision makers - at any level - have, in a nutshell, a complete picture - demographic, socio-economic, environmental and legal - of the Mediterranean with its characteristics, its problems and their complexities. It also includes the main actions of cooperation taking place within the framework of MAP. The document contains several "boxes", drafted with the help of the Regional Activity Centres, which illustrate specific themes (remote sensing, climate change, posidonia, the Monk seal, eutrophication, etc.) After presenting the progress achieved in the field of pollution abatement and the

benefits of cooperation during the past twenty years, the report concludes with a warning: «*While it is clear that public awareness of the problems is growing and that national governments are developing the administrative and technical structures to deal with a wide range of environmental problems, environmental security can only be achieved if this awareness is manifested in environmentally sound actions (as, for example, pre-separation of domestic wastes by individual households to facilitate re-use) and in effective implementation of environmental policies and enforcement of the relevant laws by the aforementioned national entities. Still too often do governments react to the demands of active environmental groups rather than take the lead.*»

Apart from the first two, the new books which are mentioned below, are official MAP documents which have been submitted to meetings of the Contracting Parties. Some of them (Nos 105, 106, 108) led to the adoption of measures and recommendations:

**UNEP: Implications of Climate Change for the Coastal Area of Fuka-Matrouh (Egypt).** (*No 102, Athens, 1996, 238 pages, English only*)

**UNEP/FAO: Final reports on research projects dealing with eutrophication and heavy metal accumulation** (*No 104, Athens, 1996, English only*)

**UNEP/FAO/WHO: Assessment of the state of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by zinc, copper and their compounds** (*No 105, Athens, 1996, 288 pages, in English and French*)

**UNEP/FAO/WHO: Assessment of the state of eutrophication in the Mediterranean Sea** (*No 106, Athens, 1996, 456 pages, in English and French*)

**UNEP/WHO: Guidelines for authorisation for the discharge of liquid wastes into the Mediterranean Sea** (*No 107, Athens, 1996, 200 pages, in English and French*)

**UNEP/WHO: Assessment of the state of microbiological pollution of the Mediterranean Sea** (*No 108, Athens, 1996, 270 pages, in English and French*)

### The new MAP brochure has been published

A publication which was necessary: the previous brochure had in fact been published in 1985. The new brochure is totally different, its format is more practical and its rich illustration is ideally suited to the text. The preface is by Mr L. Chabason, MAP Coordinator. Its 36 pages trace the history of MAP, with the latest developments since Rio, the turn towards sustainable development, the evolution of the MED POL Programme, the Blue Plan scenarios and the coastal management programmes. Apart from the necessary references to Split, Malta and Tunisia, the reader is informed about the recently set up organisations: the Remote Sensing Centre of Palermo and the Centre for cleaner production of Barcelona. Colour diagrams, an organisational chart of MAP and a list of abbreviations enable one to find his way through a programme whose parts, ramifications and links with other international actions are as numerous and complex as the environment-development problems of the region. Destined to a very large public (including pupils and students), this quick guided tour of Mediterranean cooperation also permits one to detect the great challenges with which the Mediterranean is

confronted. A more in depth study of these problems is available in *The State of the Marine and Coastal environment* publication, mentioned at the beginning of this section. *(The Mediterranean Plan of Action/ A Contribution to sustainable development in the Mediterranean Basin, 36 pages, 1996, MAP Coordinating Unit/ UNEP, POB 18019, 48 Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue, 11610 Athens, Greece. French version available. English version in press (December 1996).*

**Christian Reynaud et al.: Transport and Environment in the Mediterranean: Stakes and Predictions**

It is by now superfluous to stress the interest of the *Blue Plan fascicules*: they have become a necessary reference for every study on development and environment in the Mediterranean. This volume, the ninth in the series, is particularly important because it concerns a sector of the economy which depends on the level of activity of other important sectors. Furthermore, it analyses all means of transport-terrestrial, maritime and air transport- and describes their effects on a particularly fragile environment. The importance of the transportation of hydrocarbons by sea and the foreseen spectacular increase in road transport along a coastline which is subject to the pressure of millions of tourists, create a serious problem for all coastal states. Developments and possible solutions are carefully analysed by an expert from the National Institute for transport research who also headed the Economic Analysis service of the French Ministry for Transport, with the help of other experts from all over the Mediterranean (*Economica Publishers, Paris/ Blue Plan Centre, Sophia Antipolis, 1996, 250 pages, preface by Michel Batisse, in French only*).

**BOOKS - MAGAZINES**

**Climatic Change and the Mediterranean. Environmental and societal impact of climate change and sea level rise in the Mediterranean region.** Volume II. In 1993, *Medwaves* (no 27) had reviewed Volume I. The present volume, published by a British editor, with the support of MAP, contains two general studies: on the implications of future climatic changes for the Mediterranean Coastal region, with a comparative analysis of the main results, and on the elaboration of scenarios of this evolution. The publication also contains five totally new case studies of predictable impacts (Rhodes, Kastela bay, Syrian coastline, Malta, Cres-Losinj islands). Each study has a summary, a list of references, and numerous tables and diagrams. They are based on the work and results of working groups organised in the Mediterranean by L. Jetic between 1987 and today, within the framework of MAP. They complete the six case studies contained in volume I and permit the reader to gain an overall picture of the magnitude and the singularities of the impacts according to each sub-region or site examined. Finally, the authors describe the measures which will be necessary to halt the most serious socio-economic, environmental, legal and information effects. (*Edited by L. Jetic, S. Keckes and JC Pernetta, 1996, 564 pages, in English. Copublication Halstead Press (USA)/ 605 Third Avenue New-York 10158-0012 and Arnold (R-U)/ 338 Euston Road, London NW1 3BH*).

**MAP CALENDAR**

Regional training course on Crisis Management	Beginning of 1997	Malta
Regional workshop on the Application of an Environmentally Sound Approach to Planning and the Development of Tourism	9-11 January 1997	Split
MEDEXPOL 97 (REMPEC)	4-8 February	Brest
XIV Meeting of RAC Directors	3-4 March	Athens
Regional Training Course on the Reuse of Urban Waste Waters	March	Israel
First Meeting of Experts on Liability and Compensation	14-16 April (Tentative)	Athens (or Zagreb)
Meeting of the Bureau of Contracting Parties	5-6 May	Athens
Meeting of MED POL Coordinators	19-22 May	Athens

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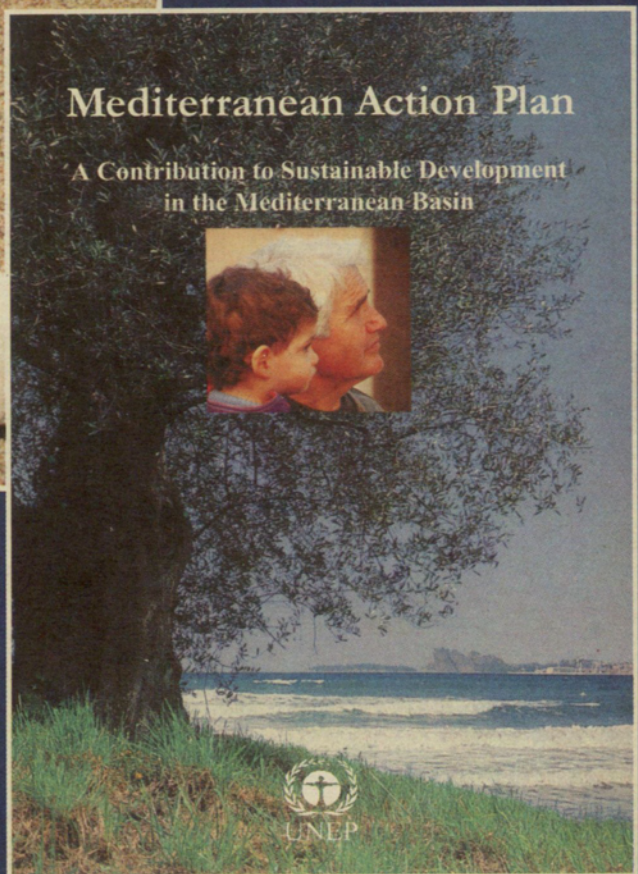
MAP Technical Reports Series No. 100

UNEP - Athens, 1996

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