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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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

Madrid, Spain, 2-3 July 2007

SPECIFIC ISSUES

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Specific issues

1. Composition of the Compliance Committee

The fourth meeting of the Working Group on Compliance held in Istanbul from 23-25 May 2007 adopted the draft of the Compliance mechanism under the Barcelona Convention and agreed to transmit it for the consideration and approval by the MAP Focal Points' meeting and eventually for adoption by the 15th meeting of the Contracting Parties.

The WG also requested the Secretariat to prepare a note explaining the procedure for the nomination of Members of the Compliance Committee to be discussed at the meeting of MAP Focal Points next October. The meeting emphasised that it is very important that in Almeria, Spain the CPs nominate the members of the Committee in order to render the compliance mechanism operational during the next biennium.

According to the Compliance mechanism being proposed, the committee shall be composed of seven members. Another seven shall be nominated as alternate members. The composition of the Compliance Committee shall ensure a) equitable geographic representation; b) rotation of members and c) balance among technical, legal and scientific experts.

In the opinion of the Secretariat there is no need to establish a formal written procedure for the nomination of the members of the Compliance Committee because the Rules and Procedures for meetings and conferences of the Barcelona Convention provide for such a Decision to be made by 2/3 majority of those present and voting during the meeting of the Contracting Parties. However, rather than putting this issue to a vote, it is proposed that the first Compliance Committee be composed as follows:-

- 2 members nominated by the developing southern Mediterranean countries (7 parties),
- 2 members nominated by the seven EU members states which are Party to the Barcelona Convention and the EC (8 parties)
- 2 members nominated by the other Parties (7 parties)
- 1 additional member from each group on a rotation basis every four years.

In this regard, it is proposed that a letter be sent by the Secretariat to the MAP Focal Points inviting them to carry out informal consultations next October in order to reach consensus on the nomination of the members of the Compliance Committee.

Names and CVs of the proposed candidates and alternates nominated by the Contracting Parties, could then be officially transmitted to the Secretariat after the MAP focal points meeting so that a draft decision will be prepared for the next meeting of the CPs..

Recommendation

The Bureau is invited to discuss the above proposed approach and provide the Secretariat with guidance.

2. Adoption of the Draft Protocol on ICZM

Regarding the organisation of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the adoption of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, the Secretariat will prepare and submit to

the Bureau an addendum to this report immediately after the conclusion of the forth meeting of the WG to develop a protocol on ICZM which is scheduled to be held on 13-16 June 2007 in Split, Croatia.

3. MAP evaluation

The 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to convene an extraordinary meeting of the MAP FP to discuss the MAP evaluation report and to prepare a draft Vision and Strategic Statement for consideration by the meeting of the CP in 2007.

The Extraordinary Meeting of MFP that took place in Catania on 7-11 November 2006, agreed to establish a Drafting Committee composed of a group of Contracting Parties, coordinated by Italy, to prepare a Strategy Declaration (SD) and a Governance Paper (GP) on the basis of the Outline for Strategy Declaration that was agreed upon during the meeting.

Up to the time that this report was prepared, a Draft Strategy Declaration was circulated for comments. It was also copied to the Secretariat and MAP components. A preliminary and incomplete draft of the Governance Paper was also circulated among the members of the drafting committee but the final draft was not yet available.

Since the process is still ongoing and without prejudice to the final versions that will be submitted to the MAP Focal Points next October for their consideration and approval, the Secretariat would like to share its thoughts with the Bureau members with respect to the finalization of such documents.

Status of the preparation of the Strategy Declaration and Governance Paper

The draft Strategy Declaration seems to be more of a political statement and as such will not be binding. It will not be subject to reporting nor compliance. Some clarification is needed if these draft documents (SD and GP) are meant to stand alone or whether they will constitute a further development of the basic MAP Phase II programme, due to the new Mediterranean context and developments on the global level which are related to the:

- Entry into force of the amendments to the Barcelona Convention in 2004;
- The entry into force of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol in 1999; and the new Prevention Emergency Protocol in 2004.
- Development of the new protocol on ICZM which is extremely important because it will make fully effective the application of the Barcelona Convention and its legal system on the coastal zone;
- Adoption in 2005 of the MSSD that goes further than the integration of environment into development policies which is an obligation under Article 4 of the revised Convention;
- The legal developments within the European Union related to the field of application of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;
- the launching of important initiatives in the region within the framework of Euro-Mediterranean Partnership such as Horizon 2020 Initiative;
- regional and global processes on sustainable development including the MDG and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

The various elements that are expected to be included in the Governance Paper could be translated into the modus operandi of the Secretariat and the MAP components by incorporating them in the Programme of Work and Budget that will be prepared for the

consideration of the MAP Focal Points' meeting. In drafting the Programme of Work for the biennium 2008-2009 the Secretariat is already following the suggestions coming from the Catania meeting by preparing:-

- a 5-year rolling work plan,
- a biannual programme budget with specific goals, objectives, activities and expected results and indicators to monitor progress as well as other important elements such as policy reference and partnership for each activity or group of activities.
- a limited number of decisions on important issues for approval by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties ;

In view of the above, another approach might be the preparation, on the basis of the draft GP, of the following draft decisions:

- a draft decision on Governance addressing the mandate of RACs (still to be completed by the group) and the role of MAP FPs.
- a draft decision on the Programme of Work and Budget as described above.

With respect to the MCSD, the Secretariat is of the opinion that this issue should be addressed through a separate decision, which could be prepared during or after the MAP FPs meeting on the basis of its deliberation.

The principles and objectives mentioned in the GP could be used for the elaboration of the preambles of the above mentioned decisions.

Recommendations

The Bureau is invited to discuss the on-going process for the drafting of the Strategy Declaration and Governance Paper, taking into account the observations made by the Secretariat, and to provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat with respect to the preparation of the Draft Decisions as outlined above.

4. Implementation of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities that may affect the marine and coastal environment

At their 14th Ordinary Meeting (Portoroz, Slovenia, November 2005) the Contracting Parties endorsed the cooperation with the EC in a project to be implemented by MED POL, on behalf of MAP, regarding the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities in the Mediterranean region. The project would be implemented in cooperation with all Regional Activity Centres, with a view to the possible application of the ecosystem approach by the whole MAP system.

The aim of the EC/MAP project is to facilitate the implementation of the ecosystem approach by MAP and its components by proposing, after studying the various implications, a road map for its implementation and for the development of Mediterranean Environmental Quality Objectives (EQOs).

In the framework of the EC-MAP project, a working group was set up composed of 15 experts from Mediterranean institutions, the RACs and OSPAR, HELCOM, ICES and MAP secretariat. MED POL facilitated the work of the group through a consultant. The working group met twice (April and November 2006) to agree on a document that included definitions, proposals for a road map, specific proposals for vision and strategic goals and possible implications.

The final document was the subject of the discussions at the Government-Designated Expert Meeting on the application of the ecosystem approach by MAP, which took place in Athens in February 2007. The meeting agreed to propose the following roadmap to the MAP Focal Points and eventually to the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Almeria, December 2007) for adoption:-

- 1) Progressively apply the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities that may affect the marine and coastal environment.
- 2) Initiate a process, involving scientists and policy makers, and when appropriate, with other competent bodies/organizations/authorities, aiming at the gradual application of the ecosystem approach which would include the following steps:
 - a) Definition of an ecological Vision for the Mediterranean.
 - b) Setting of common Mediterranean strategic goals.
 - c) Identification of the important ecosystem properties and pressures.
 - d) Development of a set of ecological objectives corresponding to the Vision and strategic goals.
 - e) Derivation of operational objectives with indicators and target levels.
 - f) Revision of existing monitoring programmes for ongoing assessment and regular updating of targets.
 - g) Redrafting the management plans.
- 3) Consider the launching of pilot projects as a model for the application of the ecosystem approach.

Ecological vision and strategic goals

The meeting also proposed the following ecological vision:-

“A Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are healthy, productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations.”

As far as the strategic goals are concerned, on the basis of the objectives of the relevant priority field of action of the MSSD and the experience gained by other international and regional bodies, the meeting proposed the following three goals for marine and coastal areas:

- 1) *To protect, allow recovery and, where practicable, restore the structure and function of marine and coastal ecosystems thus also protecting biodiversity, in order to achieve and maintain good ecological status allowing for their sustainable use.*
- 2) *To reduce pollution in the marine and coastal environment so as to ensure that there are no significant impacts or risk to human and/or on ecosystem health and/or on uses of the sea and the coasts.*
- 3) *To preserve, enhance and restore a balance between human activities and natural resources in the sea and the coasts and reduce their vulnerability to risks.*

The meeting also agreed that, through the process of applying the ecosystem approach, a number of actions would be necessary. In particular:-

- i. study the socio-economic consequences of the proposed management actions and put forward ideas for alleviating them;
- ii. use the best available scientific information for setting the target levels. In addition, ensure that the capacity exists to determine the indicators at the required accuracy, precision and frequency. In this regard, it should be

- noted that assessment, monitoring, and scientific research are required to provide a sound scientific basis for identifying ecological objectives, selecting indicators, and assessing the effectiveness of measures taken by providing regular evaluations of the ecosystem status;
- iii. initiate and maintain a process to inform the public and involve the stakeholders in the entire course of implementation, in particular (a) prepare an information package on the objectives for the benefit of the stakeholders and the general public and (b) obtain feedback from all stakeholders on the management actions and tolls proposed.

In implementing the management plans, the Contracting Parties will apply the ecosystem approach principles especially adaptive management, periodic reviews and updates, and the principle of decentralization to the lowest appropriate level.

Recommendations

The Bureau is invited to discuss the progress made on this issue and, if it is deemed useful, to provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat on the way such an important issue could be addressed by the meeting of the MAP Focal points.

5. Request for an Increase in the Ordinary Contribution to the Mediterranean Trust Fund

The programme of activities of the Mediterranean Action Plan including MEDPOL, the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development and of the Regional Activity Centres, with the exception of CP/RAC and to a certain extent INFO/RAC, as well as the core administrative costs of the Coordinating Unit and those of some of the MAP components, are financed mainly from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF). Ordinary contributions by the Contracting Parties to the MTF are the most important factor in the process of ensuring adequate, stable and predictable financial resources for the implementation of the biennial programme of work by MAP and its components.

Additional external funding in the form of earmarked contributions from Governments, the European Commission and other cooperating agencies or supporting organisations is received in cash or in kind both by the Coordinating Unit and the RACs to support specific activities, services and facilities as set out in individual project documents.

It is envisaged that the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2008-2009 that will be submitted for adoption to the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties will require an increase in financial resources over the amount budgeted for the period 2006-2007 not only to meet the increase in costs directly linked to the tasks resulting from existing Resolutions and Decisions of the Contracting Parties, but also to finance new projects and programmes that are expected to come on line. These new projects include:

- The implementation of the new Protocol on Coastal Zone Management which is expected to be adopted at the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in December and opened for signature during a meeting of Plenipotentiaries which is scheduled to be held back to back with the meeting of the Contracting Parties;
- The implementation, over the next five years, starting in 2008, of the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem. MAP's counterpart contribution for the Strategic Partnership for 2008 - 2009 will amount to US\$ 2,032,000 in cash and in kind

- ❑ The implementation of the Ecosystem Approach by MAP, assuming that the Contracting Parties agree in principle to the Secretariat's proposal, including the implementation of the roadmap as explained in the report to the Bureau on this specific issue;
- ❑ MAP's continued support and participation in the Mediterranean Hot Spot Investment Programme (MeHSIP) launched by the European Investment Bank for the implementation of the E.C.'s Horizon 2020 initiative as explained also in the report to the Bureau on this specific issue;
- ❑ Accelerated implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development including continued support to the countries to develop their NSSD and implementation of pilot projects of a regional, sub-regional or bilateral nature in respect of the seven priority fields of action that contribute to the implementation of the Strategy;
- ❑ Establishment of the Compliance mechanism will add a new subsidiary body to the Convention which should have a permanent budget line for its activities;
- ❑ Implementation of SAP/BIO activities by SPA/RAC.

Additional financial resources for the biennium 2008-2009 are also required to meet increased costs for:

- a cost of living increase of 3% to RAC Directors and other professional officers paid out of the MTF;
- an increase in the salary of the Director of SPA/RAC to address the disparity with the salary being paid to the Director of PAP/RAC;
- an increase in salary of the Scientific Director of SPA/RAC to bring it at par with the salary of the foreign experts engaged by SPA/RAC;
- the continued funding of the L4 Post of Sustainable Development Officer if it is decided to retain this post following the filling of the post of Deputy Coordinator;
- salaries due to the fall in the value of the US Dollar against the Euro. Salaries are computed in US Dollars and as a consequence a post adjustment is applied to retain the value of the salaries for Professional and General Service staff taking into account also the rate of inflation;
- adjustments in costs of services for organizing meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Bureau, the MCSD, the MAP and RAC Focal Points and the various thematic working groups. In particular, the increase in volume of documents for these meetings requires substantially higher amount of resources for translation;
- adjustments in operational expenses such as office maintenance costs, communications, supplies, computer equipment etc.;

The significant increase in activities, especially in connection with new projects as outlined above, and the fact that there were no increases in the voluntary contribution for the last two biennia, do not allow for savings without impairing the effectiveness and quality of service to the Parties. Moreover, in recent months, the accumulated balance of the Mediterranean Trust Fund has been reduced to offset the difference between the approved budget and additional expenditures for unforeseen activities like the three additional meetings of the Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts for the development of the new ICZM Protocol which the Bureau members approved.

Efforts will be intensified by the Secretariat to mobilize additional financial voluntary and earmarked contributions from Governments, United Nations agencies, donor institutions and other organizations. These supplementary funds are very important as they allow MAP to implement fully the programme of work approved by the Contracting Parties. MAP is also developing multi-year partnership agreements with selected donors for streamlined and

predictable provision of funding towards priority programme areas as is the case with the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem. The Secretariat intends also to approach the EC for additional funding to support the implementation of specific projects including the next phase of the ecosystems approach and activities in the field of biodiversity.

On its part, the Secretariat is making every effort to ensure a more efficient and effective use of available resources. In this regard, for example, meetings are being organized back to back, as in the case of the meetings on Reporting, the one on Compliance and the meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development thus making savings on the cost of travel of conference service staff and MEDU personnel. In addition, the meeting of the MCSD was held over two days instead of three days as was the case in the past. Once again BP/RAC, PAP/RAC and INFO/RAC organized a joint meeting of their Focal Points. Moreover, the Secretariat has recommended to the MCSD that the meetings of the Commission should meet on a biannual basis as originally provided for in its Terms of Reference and not annually.

Regarding personnel, the Secretariat does not foresee the recruitment of additional professional or general service staff unless it is decided to retain the post of Sustainable Development Officer. Moreover, the job descriptions for general service posts that become vacant are being revised to introduce an element of flexibility among the various roles within MAP in order to avoid having to recruit additional personnel even if on a temporary basis.

The Secretariat would like to recall that at their 13th Ordinary Meeting in Catania, in 2003, the Contracting Parties agreed not to increase the voluntary contributions for the biennia 2004/2005 and 2006/2007 following their decision to adopt the Euro currency instead of the Dollar which resulted in a substantial increase in the MTF due to the application of the exchange rate at the time of \$1 for Euro 1.1. Before this freeze was applied, the Contracting Parties used to approve a percentage increase in the ordinary contributions every biennium.

In view of the above, the Secretariat has the intention to submit a request to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties for an increase of 3% in respect of the ordinary contributions for the financial year 2008 and a similar increase for the financial year 2009.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Members of the Bureau consider the above and agree to the submission by the Secretariat of a request for a percentage increase in the ordinary contributions to the MTF for the consideration of the meeting of MAP Focal Points in view of the preparation of the Programme Budget for 2008 – 2009 for submission to the meeting of the Contracting Parties.

6. Implementation of the NAPs and Horizon 2020

Following the endorsement by the 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Environment Ministers Meeting in Cairo in November, 2006, of the EC Environment Strategy for the Mediterranean and the time-table for Horizon 2020, the European Investment Bank (EIB) launched the process for the elaboration of a Mediterranean Hot Spot Investment Programme (MeHSIP) in close cooperation with the European Commission, MAP and the World Bank. The first inception meeting involving all these partners was held in Luxembourg in March 2007

The initiative will operate within existing political processes and institutions including the Barcelona Convention as the legal cornerstone for multilateral cooperation on environment and sustainable development issues, and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development which is considered as an important component of Horizon 2020. The main focus of this investment programme is the Southern Mediterranean countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)

The main aim of Horizon 2020 is to reduce the level of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by identifying and tackling the most significant pollution sources by the year 2020. The MeHSIP will address one of the four components of Horizon 2020 which is the development of a pipeline of pollution reduction projects by targeting sectors identified as priority pollution problems in the region, and namely industrial emissions, municipal waste and urban wastewater.

A desk research exercise on hot spots in the countries has already been carried through a review of existing documentation with particular focus on MEDPOL's Strategic Action Programme and the countries' National Action Plans (NAP) which have been prepared in view of the provisions of the amended LBS Protocol. The list of hot spots investment projects being considered under the MeHSIP is based on the list of projects included in the NAPs.

During the second phase of the project, the EIB Consultants developing the MeHSIP together with representatives of MEDPOL will be visiting a number of Mediterranean countries for talks with Government Ministries, EIB offices, World Bank representations and EC Delegations in order to collect first hand information about hot spots and on the bankability of the potential investment projects.

The joint EIB Consultants-MEDPOL team has so far visited Egypt (18-25 April, 2007) and Syria (28 May – 3 June, 2007) to assess the status and the prospects of implementation of the priority actions of the NAPs and has already identified a first short list of bankable projects. Tunisia will be visited in June and the other countries will follow.

Important issues raised during these visits by the National authorities in Egypt and Syria which could present an obstacle to the utilization of EIB funding to implement projects under the Horizon 2020 initiative relate to the conditions of the EIB loans. Clarifications are also needed in respect of the EU interest and grant subsidies in the framework of the EU Horizon 2020 initiative. Coordination with the World Bank which is already involved in these countries also needs to be addressed.

It is expected that all these issues will be tackled at the concluding session of the programme which is expected to be held next September with the presentation of the final report, including conclusions and recommendations, to the EIB and the other stakeholders. .

Both the MeHSIP and the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem (GEF LME), mentioned in another section of this progress report, have a major significance for MAP. They are a means for MAP to play a new role in the region by identifying and facilitating financing opportunities to the Contracting Parties for the implementation of projects to enable them to meet their obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Such initiatives go far beyond the monitoring, assessment and capacity building initiatives that MAP and its components have been engaged in over the years.

Recommendation

Following the March meeting with the EIB and other stakeholders, the Secretariat decided that MEDPOL should take part in the second phase of the programme by visiting the countries together with the EIB Consultants. The Bureau is invited to discuss the issues raised above and to support the continued participation by MEDPOL in the joint missions to the countries together with the EIB Consultants.

7. Cooperation with other Regional Seas Conventions on a Joint Initiative Related to the EU Marine Strategy Directive

A proposal has been received by the MAP Secretariat from the Secretariat of the OSPAR Commission to the effect that collectively OSPAR, HELCOM, Barcelona Convention and the Black Sea Commission could take a joint initiative in the form of a Common Implementation Strategy related to the EU Marine Strategy Directive in the same way as the Water Directors did for the EU Water Framework Directive.

Following consultations via electronic means among the Secretariats, it resulted that HELCOM is broadly supportive in principle of the idea. The MAP Secretariat, expressed support in principle pending guidance from the Bureau, while the Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission has still to express an opinion.

The Members of the Bureau may recall that the MAP Secretariat, together with the Secretariats of OSPAR and HELCOM participated in a European Parliament hearing on 11 July, 2006, organized by the Rapporteurs on the Proposed Marine Strategy Directive (MSD), in which all three Secretariats made the case for the European Commission to make use of existing regional mechanisms to achieve the objectives of the EU Marine Strategy. At the time the Rapporteurs reacted very favourably to this common stand.

As the draft text of the Marine Strategy Directive currently stands, Article 4(2) requires Member States to cooperate within each marine region or a sub-region to achieve the objective of the Directive. Article 5 of the Marine Strategy Directive states that where practical and appropriate, Member States should use existing regional institutions cooperation structures, including those under Regional Seas Conventions to achieve this co-ordination.

Recognition of the need for a common understanding and approach to the Water Framework Directive resulted in the agreement on a Common Implementation Strategy (CIS). The CIS was developed initially under the aegis of the European Water Directors, who meet informally.

Given the Marine Strategy Directive's intention to use regional institutional cooperation structures (Article 5(1)) and the timescale envisaged (Article 4(2)), the proposal is that the Regional Seas Secretariats namely OSPAR, HELCOM, Barcelona and Black Sea, could take a lead in establishing a parallel Common Implementation Strategy for the Marine Strategy Directive.

Recommendation

The Bureau is invited to consider this proposal and to indicate whether the Secretariat should explore further, together with the Secretariats of other Regional Seas

Conventions, the suggestion of a Common Implementation Strategy for the Marine Strategy Directive.

8. Scenario Note on the Preparation of the 15TH MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES 10 – 13 December, 2007 Almeria, Spain

The present scenario note has been prepared to inform the members of the Bureau about the objectives and expectations as regards the possible outcomes of the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. An updated version of this scenario note will be circulated to all Contracting Parties together with the conference documents, following the meeting of MAP Focal Points in October. All meeting documents and further information on the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties will be posted on the UNEP/MAP website (www.unepmap.org) in due course.

The 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties will be convened by the Executive Director of UNEP and will be held over four days, from 10 to 13 December, 2007 in Almeria, Spain at the kind invitation of the Spanish authorities.

The Secretariat would like to bring to the attention of the Bureau that the meeting of the CPs to the Kyoto Protocol is scheduled to be held during the same week as the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. This may affect the attendance, especially by Environment Ministers, at the meeting in Almeria, Spain. In this regard, the Secretariat has approached the host country Spain to consider moving the dates of the 15th Meeting by a few days either way.

If the dates are not changed, the meeting will be opened on Monday 10th December, 2007 at 10 a.m. and will be conducted in plenary. A Ministerial segment is planned for Tuesday, 11th December, 2007 and the morning of Wednesday, 12th December, 2007. No session will be held in the afternoon of Wednesday, 12th December, 2007 to enable the Secretariat to prepare the report of the meeting to be adopted in plenary on Thursday, 13th December, 2007.

The 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties is particularly important because there are a number of important policy issues to be discussed and on which decisions will need to be taken. The key policy issues to be considered by the meeting of the Contracting Parties include the following:

- Ratification of the Convention and its Protocols – The effectiveness of the Convention and its Protocols depends to a great extent upon their ratification and implementation by all Contracting Parties. While the amended Convention has entered into force and progress is being made with respect to the acceptances of amended Protocols, the Hazardous Waste and Offshore Protocols have not entered into force after more than ten years since their adoption and no progress is in sight. Possible options will be proposed to the Contracting Parties on how to address this issue.
- New ICZM Protocol - The Contracting Parties will be asked to approve the text of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) which has been prepared by the Working Group of technical and legal experts. A Diplomatic Conference is scheduled to be held following the meeting of the Contracting Parties for the adoption of the new Protocol;
- Strategy Declaration and Governance Paper – A Strategy Declaration and a Governance Paper will be submitted for adoption by the Contracting Parties on the

future orientation of MAP which are being prepared by a Drafting Committee set up by the extraordinary meeting of MAP Focal Points in Catania in November, 2006;

- Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach – A decision has to be taken by the Contracting Parties on whether they agree in principle to the application of the ecosystem approach by MAP in which case they will be asked to approve a roadmap for its progressive application to the management of human activities that may affect the marine and coastal environment;
- Compliance mechanism – A compliance mechanism developed by a government-designated working group will be submitted to the Contracting Parties for approval. The meeting will also have to agree on the nomination of the members to sit on the first compliance committee;

The key operational and implementation issues are:

- Increase in the Ordinary Contribution to the MTF - The Contracting Parties will be asked to approve that the Ordinary Contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund be increased by 3% with effect from 1st January, 2008 and a similar increase effective 1st January, 2009 for the reasons explained in another section of the Secretariat's report to the Bureau.
- Re-instatement of the post of Deputy Coordinator – In the Governance Paper being prepared by the Drafting Committee set up by the Extraordinary meeting of MAP Focal Points a recommendation is expected to be made for the reinstatement of the post of Deputy Coordinator. The Contracting Parties will be asked to approve the reinstatement of this post.
- New Reporting Format – A new reporting format in the framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols has been developed by the Secretariat and will be submitted to the Contracting Parties for adoption;
- Implementation of GEF Strategic Partnership and MeHSIP – The Conference will consider the two financing programmes being developed for the implementation of the SAP and NAPs to reduce pollution from land-based sources. The first is the GEF Project “Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem” which is expected to be approved by the GEF Council in June, 2007 and the “Mediterranean Hot Spot Investment Programme (MeHSIP) which is being developed by the EIB to finance investment projects to achieve the objectives of Horizon 2020;
- Programme of Work and Budget 2008/2009 – The Contracting Parties will also need to approve a programme of work for 2008 – 2009 including the adoption of the budget for this period and to consider other issues referred to them by the meeting of MAP Focal Points dealing with marine pollution and prevention control, biological diversity and specially protected areas, cleaner production, integrating environment and development and information and communication. Details of these items will be given in the documents that will be prepared for the meeting;
- Election of the Bureau – A new Bureau will have to be elected during the meeting of the Contracting Parties for the biennium 2008 – 2009 in accordance with Article 19 of the Convention and the Terms of Reference of the Bureau adopted by the 9th meeting of the CPs in 1995.

In order to engage the Contracting Parties on the most important policies issues mentioned above, it is proposed that the following themes be included on the agenda for the Ministerial discussions:

- Towards full implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols including the new ICZM Protocol;
- Financing Instruments for the Implementation of the SAP and NAPs;

- Adoption of the Strategy Declaration and Governance of MAP.

Recommendation

The Bureau is invited to provide its views on the elements of the above scenario note and to approve the proposed themes to be addressed during the Ministerial segment of the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties.