



United Nations  
Environment  
Programme



UNEP/WG.143/INF.3  
20 March 1986

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Joint Meeting of National Focal Points  
for the Blue Plan and the Priority  
Actions Programme

Athens, 28-30 April 1986

PROGRESS REPORT ON BLUE PLAN ACTIVITIES  
(JANUARY - MARCH 1986)

BLUE PLAN

(original in english)

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

January 1st to  
March 20, 1986

## A. INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Documents for the 5th Steering Committee Meeting and for the joint Blue Plan-PAP Focal Points Meeting have been prepared. (Meeting with MM. Manos and Pavasovic in Sophia Antipolis, January 22-23)
2. 3rd of March, Mr P. Komilis, from Greece, has joined the permanent team in Sophia Antipolis. He will be in charge of urbanization problems.
3. During the fifth Steering Committee (Sophia Antipolis, 12-13 March 1986), attended by the new members designated at the Genoa Meeting, progress of work has been reviewed, together with status about national scenarios. The Committee has also discussed the problems caused by the fall of the dollar with its dramatic consequences on the budget and on some parts of the work program.

## B. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

### Mediterranean scenarios

4. A working meeting has been held in Geneva, February 25-26, with participants of the macro-economics and of food-agriculture working groups, and part of the Blue Plan staff. This meeting has reviewed the econometric relations prepared by J. Royer and G. Jerger for agricultural growth in most of the mediterranean countries, and brought some minor modifications.
5. It has been agreed to test this with a first run, on values for agricultural production growth proposed by M. Labonne, and assumption on potential development of irrigation for three scenarios. Water requirements will be calculated, and if possible investments and costs.
6. Work is continuing on general economic relations.

### National scenarios

7. France. Discussions with the French group for French national scenarios (Paris, February 21th) have been useful to define the working levels for the scenarios. First results are expected in May.
8. Spain. During the Geneva meeting on mediterranean scenarios (February 25-26), E. Fontela has informed of the formation of a working group in Spain, associating various organizations under responsibility and sponsorship of the Ministry for Public Works.
9. The work program has been presented, based on three interacting modules: qualitative scenario, quantitative model, set of environmental indicators. It is expected that first results for three scenarios will also be presented in May.
10. It was agreed to have end of May a meeting to compare and discuss the two French and Spanish scenarios.

11. Egypt. Mr Abdel Rahman, during a visit to Sophia Antipolis (January 24th - 25th) has informed of the progress of building up a small organization in Egypt for the national scenarios.

12. Algeria. The possibilities of an Algerian group for national scenarios, and details about these scenarios, have been extensively discussed, during two visits of L. Khaldoun in Sophia Antipolis end of January and end of February.

13. It will be of the highest interest if in parallel to the two "Northern" scenarios for France and Spain, one or two "Southern" scenarios could be begun as soon as possible, to promote comparisons and benefit to the whole exercise.

14. Yugoslavia. Yugoslavian scenarios have been discussed during a visit of V. Vekaric to the BP-RAC for the matrix of interest (February 27-28).

15. Although all these contacts progress favorably, it will be urgent to have more national responses for overall progress and if we really want to keep the time-schedule. All countries but one have nominated correspondents for the Blue Plan scenarios, and the "Reference Note and Guidelines" have been sent in December 1986.

#### Sectorial and other activities

16. Interesting discussions have been devoted with experts of the french Ministry of Agriculture on Food and Agricultural Industries. Because of workload we will probably not be able to benefit as much as possible about this valuable experience.

17. The French Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism has agreed to participate and contribute to Blue Plan sub-scenarios on mediterranean tourism. Fruitful, and hopefully promising, discussions were also held with the Direction of Tourism of the European Community.

18. The fall of oil prices and the new, subsequent, "energy crisis" have obliged to review some of the assumptions about energy in the mediterranean scenarios. The Scientific Director had extensive discussions with international experts in Bruxelles and Paris, and has attended a I.A.E.A. meeting in Geneva (March 4 and 5) on forecasts on energy demand, with representatives of major international organizations (UN, UNDP, UN-ECE, EEC, OECD, WEC, OPEC, IEA, etc).

19. A meeting was held with V. Vekaric (Sophia Antipolis, February 27-28) on the matrix of interest. A detailed review was made of the questionnaire, which has been modified and rearranged.

20. The Blue Plan Data Base has been up dated. A draft has been prepared for the Steering Committee.

21. The working details of the contract with Armines on the design of integrated methods of "coastal scenarios" have been worked out.

22. The Scientific Director has written a paper on "Prospects for Energy and Development/Environment in the Mediterranean Basin", to be presented at the XIIIth World Energy Conference meeting (Cannes, October 1986). This paper has been cleared by UNEP, Nairobi.