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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Fifth Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Tunis, Tunisia, 26-27 February 2009

DECISIONS OF THE BUREAU 68 MEETING

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1. Legal component

Ratification and entry into force of MAP legal instruments

1. The Bureau calls upon the Contracting Parties to speed up the ratification process for all MAP legal instruments and especially urges them to take all necessary action towards ratifying the new ICZM Protocol with a view to its possible entry into force by the next Contracting Parties meeting.
2. The Bureau requests the Depositary country to inform the Contracting Parties of the status of ratification and entry into force of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols on a regular basis, urging Contracting Parties that have not yet ratified them to do so.
3. The Bureau requests the Secretariat to provide assistance and support for ratification to any Contracting Party on request.

Other legal issues

1. The Bureau requests the Contracting Parties to participate actively in the consultation process for the finalization of the set of effectiveness indicators with a view to its submission for approval by the meetings of the MAP Focal Points and the Contracting Parties. It also recommended that there should be a clearer differentiation between general performance indicators and specific results-based indicators in order to assess concrete achievements on the ground and their effectiveness in improving the environmental status of the marine and coastal area of the Mediterranean region.
2. The Bureau calls upon the Contracting Parties to submit their 2006-2007 reports on measures taken to implement the Convention and its Protocols according to the format agreed by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties by mid-March 2009, possibly on line. It also requests the Secretariat and the RACs to harmonize the reporting exercise, notably in terms of timing, in order to avoid any unnecessary duplication.
3. The Bureau approves that the funds allocated by the Contracting Parties under the 2009 budget for the Working Group on liability and compensation will be used to provide financial, legal and technical assistance to the Contracting Parties upon their request for activities related to the implementation of the liability and compensation Guidelines.

2. Institutional arrangements and coordination

1. The Bureau agrees that the topic for discussion at the Ministerial Segment of the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties shall be "Adaptation to climate change in the Mediterranean: challenges and experiences". The choice of this theme would enable the discussions at the MCSD to serve as input for the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.
2. The Bureau requests the Secretariat to revise the draft mandates of the MAP components, in particular the common introduction, by fully reflecting the strategic vision and draft Strategy Declaration prepared by the Working Group of the

Contracting Parties established by the Extraordinary Meeting of MAP Focal Points, 2006, as well as the principles and requirements contained in the Governance Paper.

3. The Bureau suggests to the Secretariat and the ECP that, in elaborating the mandates of each MAP component, both the individuality of the components and the need to ensure effective and realistic integration among them should be taken into account and any overlapping avoided. For this purpose the consultation process with regard to the mandates should, from the outset, involve the MAP Focal Points and the components' Focal Points.
 4. The Bureau agrees with the calendar of the main institutional meetings of MAP in 2009 as proposed by the Secretariat.
 5. The Bureau requests the Secretariat to undertake a needs assessment in the field of information and communication technologies with a view to implementing the relevant decisions taken in Catania, Portoroz and Almeria, and in particular the requirements of the Governance Paper with regard to the information and communication component of MAP.
 6. The Bureau requests the Secretariat to express its thanks and appreciation to the Italian authorities for making available the necessary funding to the Regional Department for Industry of the Sicilian Region – INFO/RAC for the implementation of the programme of activities approved by the Contracting Parties.
 7. The Bureau requests the Secretariat to inform the Italian authorities that a long-term strategic plan, including a biennial programme of work 2010-2011, together with a draft mandate for the information and communication technologies component of MAP, should be prepared for consideration by the MAP Focal Points and the Contracting Parties meetings, scheduled respectively for July and November 2009.
 8. The Bureau requests the Secretariat to circulate to Bureau members the Financial and Management Audit Report as soon as the final version is available and agrees that the question should be on the agenda of the next Bureau meeting.
- 3. Application of the ecosystem approach**
1. The Bureau thanks the EC for allocating funds to the Secretariat in order to carry out activities for the implementation of the road map for the application of the ecosystem approach by MAP.
 2. The Bureau encourages all Contracting Parties to participate actively in the implementation of the road map for the application of the ecosystem approach. It also requests UNEP/DEPI to assist MAP in this process.
- 4. Cooperation and partnership**
1. The Bureau supports and encourages the further strengthening of MAP/EC partnership and cooperation in view of its importance in achieving necessary synergies for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. It also recognizes that MAP and Barcelona Convention experiences are very important for the European countries which are parties to the Barcelona Convention with the view to ensuring synergy and sharing experiences in the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

2. The Bureau encourages cooperation between MAP and the Union for the Mediterranean on issues related to environment protection and sustainable development in the Mediterranean.
3. The Bureau, agrees to provide its views and advice to the Secretariat by mid-March 2009 on the proposed policy paper with regard to MAP/civil society cooperation,. On the basis of the Bureau's suggestions, the policy paper on MAP civil society will be revised by the Secretariat and submitted for comments and discussion to MAP partners and MAP Focal Points for further consideration by the next Bureau meeting.

5. Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development

1. The Bureau encourages Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lebanon to embark on the development of their NSSDs.
2. The Bureau approves CEDARE, UN-WTO and the World Bank (Department for sustainable development), representing IGOs, as members of the MCSD with a view to their participation at the Meeting of the Commission in Cairo in June 2009.
3. With regard to the other categories, the Bureau recommends that the Secretariat extend the deadline for the nominations until the end of April 2009 taking into consideration the criteria approved at the last Bureau meeting (BUR67) as well as the theme of the MCSD: "Climate Change Adaptation". In order to enable the nominated experts to participate at the next meeting of the MCSD they will be approved by the Bureau following consultation through electronic means.

6. Information and communication

1. The Bureau encourages the Secretariat to carry out activities to create awareness about the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and promote their ratification and entry into force. For this purpose, the Bureau requests the Secretariat to provide assistance to the Parties at their request. The Bureau notes with pleasure the offer by Bosnia and Herzegovina to host such an event.

7. Financial, Personnel and administrative matters

1. The Bureau requests the Secretariat to submit to its next meeting a breakdown of MAP activities according to geographic distribution criteria.

COMPONENTS

1. Land-based Pollution (MED POL)

1. The Bureau requests that MED POL prepares and submits to the next Bureau meeting a paper in order to clarify the meaning of the proposed differentiation approach and strongly supports the view that the application of such an approach should only relate to the timeframe where found necessary for implementation and should not compromise the achievement of the main goal with regard to pollution reduction in the Mediterranean.

2. The Bureau agrees that if need be, an additional day would be added to the MED POL focal points meeting in order to resolve any pending issues and finalize the text of the action plans and programmes required by article 15 of the LBS Protocol for subsequent approval by the meeting of the MED POL focal points.
3. The Bureau urges those Contracting Parties that have not yet established a monitoring programme to do so, and request the Secretariat to provide financial support if required.
4. The Bureau requests the Contracting Parties to submit the monitoring data according to the respective deadlines in order to measure the effectiveness of implementation at the national level.
5. The Bureau approves the preparations for the Marine Litter Management Strategy for submission to the meeting of MAP Focal Points for their consideration. It also considers that MED POL should play an important role with regard to the development of the indicator on marine litter, considered as a good environmental status indicator in the framework of the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
6. Since PRTR covers broader issues than those related to the releases to the marine environment, the Bureau requests the Secretariat to discuss at the ECP meeting the issue of the handling by MAP components of PRTR related activities.

2. **Sea-based Pollution (REMPEC)**

1. The Bureau requests the REMPEC Focal Points to do their utmost to complete and send back to REMPEC the questionnaires in the field of preparedness and response (shoreline, clean –up assessment, waste management, sunken oil).

3. **Sustainable Management of Coastal Zones (Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC))**

1. The Bureau takes note of the progress made in Spain on the appointment of the general coordinator of CAMP Levante Almeria and requests Spain to finalize this process as soon as possible.

4. **Environment and Development (Blue Plan)**

1. The Bureau requests Blue Plan and the concerned components to work together in synergy and broaden the scope of activities related to transport in order to incorporate port expansion and efficient use of the existing infrastructure and their impacts on Biodiversity.

5. **Dates and venue of the next Bureau meeting**

1. The Bureau agreed that the alternative dates for the next Bureau meeting would be between 8 and 10 June or 15 and 19 June 2009. If no offer to host the meeting was forthcoming from a Contracting Party, the venue of the meeting would be Athens.