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and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Antalya, Turkey, 3-4 February 2015

Agenda item 5 - Specific Issues

Report on Specific Issues

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I. Governance and Organizational Matters

i. Status of Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

1. The entry into force of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention legal instruments made new progress during the last months with the ratification by Israel of the Emergency Protocol (2002). The overall situation is described in the following paragraphs.
2. The Secretariat made further efforts to achieve universal ratification of the amended Convention. The two countries that have not yet ratified (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lebanon) were contacted; the Deputy Coordinator visited Lebanese authorities and close bilateral discussions took place with Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Secretariat will continue its efforts in order to achieve the ratification of the amended Convention before the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 19).
3. The Dumping Protocol is a revised instrument pending adoption, which requires only one additional acceptance of its 1995 amendments. As follow-up to the reminder letter sent on 29 May 2014 to the Contracting Parties concerned (Algeria, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro) calling for the ratification without delay of the amendments before COP 19, the Secretariat continued bilateral communications with concerned Parties.

Table 1: Summary of Status of Ratifications

<p>20 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the Convention, 1995; 15 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the Dumping Protocol, 1995; 17 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the LBS Protocol, 1996; 7 Contracting Parties have ratified the Offshore Protocol, 1994; 18 Contracting Parties have ratified the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol, 1995; 7 Contracting Parties have ratified the Hazardous Waste Protocol, 1996; 14 Contracting Parties have ratified the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol, 2002; 10 Contracting Parties have ratified ICZM Protocol, 2008.</p>

ii. Compliance Issues

a. Reporting on Implementation of Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Biennia 2010-2011 and 2012-2013)

4. As of 31 December 2014, 9 Contracting Parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, European Union, Lebanon, Montenegro, Greece, Italy, Morocco, and Turkey) have submitted their reports for the 2012-2013 biennium on the measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, pursuant to Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention.
5. The Compliance Committee held its 9th Meeting in Split, Croatia on 27-28 November 2014. The agenda of the meeting was dedicated to the definition of specific actions for the implementation of the Decision IG.21/1 on non-compliance with obligations regarding submission of reports provided for in Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention, the finalization of criteria for the evaluation of reports by the Secretariat and the Committee to establish compliance, and the assessment of the reports submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina, European Union and Turkey. The Compliance Committee recalled that repeated failure to comply with this obligation is a potential situation of non-compliance and requested the Secretariat to send another reminder letter to the Contracting Parties to submit their national report, using the online form without delay, in

accordance with Decision IG.21/2 of the 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 18, 3-6 December 2013, Istanbul).

b. Outcome of the Meeting of the Compliance Committee

6. At its 9th Meeting, in accordance with Article 6 of its Rules of Procedure, the Compliance Committee unanimously elected Ms. Daniela Addis as Chairperson and Ms. Selma Cengic and Mr. Michel Prieur as Vice-Chairpersons.
7. The Committee provided recommendations on non-compliance with obligations regarding the submission of reports as per Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention as decided by COP 18; discussed criteria for the evaluation of reports by the Secretariat and the Compliance Committee to establish compliance; and considered the revision process of the Barcelona Convention reporting format.
8. The Committee decided to send a letter to the President of the Bureau of the Barcelona Convention, asking to follow-up on the Decision IG. 21/1 and to be informed on what action the Bureau intends to take to ensure compliance and enforcement of the measures in the said decision; also informing the Bureau of the actions that will be taken by the Committee, including possible hearings with representatives of the Contracting Parties concerned at the next meeting of the Committee. Such meeting is planned "back to back" with the meeting of MAP Focal Points tentatively scheduled in late March 2015.
9. The Committee also decided to write to the Contracting Parties concerned, in order to: (i) inform them of the Committee's actions to ensure the implementation of the measures provided for in Decision IG.21/1; and (ii) ask them about the steps that they intend to take to comply with their commitments and the assistance that they may need to meet their reporting obligations.
10. In accordance with Decision IG.21/2, the Secretariat launched in June 2014 a process for the elaboration of a simplified reporting format of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. At the 9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee the Secretariat presented an explanatory note on the draft revised reporting format related to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The Compliance Committee provided its preliminary comments on this document. It also requested the Secretariat to continue working on the draft, taking into account the comments provided by the Committee, and to seek funds for training programs for the Contracting Parties for the use of the revised format. The Committee will follow up the assessment of this draft revised format at its next meeting scheduled in late March 2015.

c. Revision of the Reporting Format of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

11. In accordance with Decision IG.21/2, the Secretariat has prepared the draft of the operational section of the reporting format of ICZM Protocol. The Secretariat held a meeting with PAP/RAC on 26 November 2014 to assess and further develop this draft operational section before its submission for consideration by the next MAP Focal Points Meeting. Following the request by the Secretariat of 5 June 2014, three Contracting Parties (Montenegro, Morocco and Spain) among those that have ratified or signed the ICZM Protocol have submitted their reports.

iii. Host Country Agreements with Countries Hosting MAP Regional Activity Centres

12. In accordance with Decisions IG.20/3 and IG.21/13, the countries hosting MAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs) are urged to finalize and sign a new Host Country Agreement (HCA), following the template agreed upon by the Parties after adapting it to the national context. The MAP Coordinator initiated contacts with the Governments of countries hosting RACs and action tailored to the specific status of these HCAs is being defined in consultation with the relevant RACs.

Draft Recommendations:

- **The Bureau takes note of the progress achieved during this period on governance and legal issues.**
- **The Bureau requests the Secretariat to continue following closely with the Contracting Parties that have not yet done so to sign or ratify the amended Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and to make particular efforts to ensure the entry into force of the revised Dumping Protocol by COP 19.**
- **The Bureau reminds all Contracting Parties that have not yet done so, to officially submit all their pending reports on measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as soon as possible in compliance with the obligations of Article 26 of the Convention and with a view to facilitate the work of the Compliance Committee.**
- **The Bureau requests the Secretariat to continue close follow-up with concerned governments to finalize the HCAs as per the Decision IG.21/13 as soon as possible and preferably by COP 19.**

iv. Proposal on Evaluation Method on Measures to Enhance the Functioning of the Secretariat and MAP Components

13. As per the recommendation of the 78th Meeting of the Bureau, the Secretariat has reviewed the methods and evaluation terms of references of a number of conventions, regional programmes, and cooperation and coordination among multiple conventions. There is no specific and detailed methodology that could be customized to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, according to the requirements mentioned in the Terms of Reference of the Bureau, particularly with reference to a cost-benefit analysis.

14. The Secretariat presents to the consideration of the Bureau the following two options:

(a) submission to the Bureau at every third meeting in each biennium a Progress Report on the achievement of the Programme of Work Expected Results. The proposed basis of the evaluation of the MAP Components and the Coordinating Unit would be:

- i. The percentage of the financial delivery rate of each expected result,;
- ii. The comparison of the estimated external funding to be mobilized with the external funding already realized; and
- iii. The substantive achievement rate of the activities to reach individual expected results.

It should be noted, however, that the submission of a detailed performance evaluation report on biennial basis presents some challenges. The preparations for the meetings of Contracting Parties start 6 months in advance with the third Bureau meeting, which usually takes place in early summer months. Significant time is needed for the preparation, endorsement and agreement processes of a document that will be submitted for adoption at a meeting of Contracting Parties. Therefore, the time remaining for such an evaluation will allow only looking at the level of achievement by mid-Spring of the second year of the biennium.

(b) Alternatively, the Secretariat proposes that the Midterm Strategy be considered as the basis for the evaluation. An "Interim Progress Assessment" could be carried out during the first year of the second biennium of the 6- year strategy period. The outcome of this assessment would be

submitted to the attention of the second COP of that period. The evaluation would be complemented with an outcome evaluation of the Midterm Strategy by the end of the fifth or beginning of the sixth year and its results would also be used for development of the new Midterm Strategy. This evaluation should be external and budget should be allocated in the second and third biennia of the Midterm Strategy period.

15. The methodology for this evaluation should be prepared with the help of external expertise and brought to the attention of the 80th meeting of the Bureau for its endorsement.

- **The Bureau is expected to provide guidance to the Secretariat as regards to the two options for the evaluation process proposed above.**

II. Outcome Evaluation of UNEP/MAP Five Year Programme of Work 2010-2014

16. COP 18 requested the Secretariat to carry out an external evaluation of the Programme (Decision IG.21/13). Annex II of that Decision, in the sub-section entitled “Integrated strategic planning process” outlines the requirements of the Contracting Parties regarding the evaluation process.
17. The Evaluation started in August 2014 and will be finalized in March 2015 with the completion of the final draft report. This will be preceded by a debriefing session with the MAP Secretariat and the discussion of findings and recommendations that are expected to be received from the 79th Meeting of the Bureau.
18. In line with the UNEP Evaluation Policy and the UNEP Evaluation Manual, and as set out in the terms of reference, the Outcome Evaluation of the Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP Five Year Programme of Work 2010-2014 assesses programme performance in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency, and determine outcomes and likely impacts (actual and potential) stemming from the Programme, including their sustainability.
19. The evaluation:
 - i. Reviews the 5 Year Strategic Programme of Work (2010-2014) of UNEP/MAP with a view to determine the relevance and contribution of the activities carried out to the objectives of the 6 year Programme, the Convention, Protocols, regional strategies and action plans for the purposes of lesson learning and enhancing effectiveness of future Mid-Term Strategies; and,
 - ii. Reviews the status of the outcomes achieved and the key factors that have affected (both positively and negatively, contributing and constraining) this result.
20. The Evaluation identifies lessons of strategic and operational relevance for future Programme formulation and implementation and provides recommendations regarding the design and content for the new Medium-Term Strategy (2016-2021).
21. The data collection phase has been completed. The evaluators conducted interviews with staff of MAP Secretariat, MED POL, Plan Bleu and SPA/RAC teams in person and with the directors of the other RACs through teleconferences. A questionnaire was sent to all MAP Focal Points, to the Chair of the MCSD Steering Committee and selected MAP Partners. The 45 responses to the questionnaire are being analyzed with emphasis on perceptions of relevance, delivery, applicability of different tools, factors supporting or constringing delivery, and outcomes at country level.

Draft Recommendation:

- **The Bureau acknowledges the work done by the evaluators and requests the Secretariat to reflect its outcomes into the process of preparation of the 2016-2021 Midterm Strategy, as appropriate.**

III. Development of the 2016-2021 Midterm Strategy: Issues and Framework

22. The Executive Coordination Panel (ECP), at its 20th Meeting (Athens, Greece, October 2014) discussed and identified the initial lists of strategic axes, responses/actions/ techniques/approaches, strategies/action plans/legal framework, means/tools and guiding principles to be considered in the development process of the Midterm Strategy for UNEP/MAP.
23. As per Decision IG.21/13 “Governance”, Annex II, the Secretariat prepared an issues paper for discussion at the ECP 21st Meeting (Rome, Italy, December 2014) , which includes an overview of the current status of the Mediterranean Sea and coasts, lists the main relevant global and regional strategic references and proposes a framework for the Midterm Strategy for the period 2016-2021.
24. The issues paper was discussed during the 21st meeting of the ECP in December 2014 (Rome, Italy) and is submitted to the Bureau as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/7. The ECP agreed on the guiding principles and the business areas that will be taken into consideration during the process to further develop the Midterm Strategy. The draft Midterm Strategy will be submitted to MAP Focal Points at their meeting planned to take place in late March 2015.
25. The Midterm Strategy should be:
 - Integrated and coherent across the system
 - Consistent
 - Inclusive
 - Adaptive and flexible
 - Attentive to regional and national needs
 - Collaborative
 - Based on participation and partnerships
 - Knowledge generating and sharing
 - Result-based and resource-based
26. The ECP proposed the following issues that are “business areas” of UNEP/MAP to form the basis of the new Midterm Strategy:
 - Biodiversity and Ecosystems;
 - Land and Sea Based Pollution;
 - Climate Change;
 - Natural Resources;
 - Environmental Governance;
 - Mediterranean Environment Under Review.

- **The Bureau is expected to provide further guidance to the Secretariat as regards to the Midterm Strategy framework and development process.**

IV. Update on mandated strategic processes

i. MSSD Review Process

27. By Decision IG. 21/11, the Contracting Parties asked the Secretariat to initiate the process to review the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) for consideration and adoption at COP 19. The revision of the MSSD is led by the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) with the assistance of the Secretariat to the Barcelona Convention. The technical work supporting the revision of the MSSD is being carried out by UNEP/MAP through its Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (PB/RAC), with the contribution of the other Regional Activity Centres. Key opportunities for the MSSD review are the link to the global process to develop Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), thus ensuring that the Mediterranean region remains a frontrunner in the area of environment and sustainability.
28. The review process of the MSSD was launched in February 2014 by Malta's Minister for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change. Between April-May 2014, a wide stakeholder consultation started on the basis of a document eliciting stakeholder feedback on the set of issues to be addressed in the strategy, as well as the vision for the new strategy. Detailed responses were received from 60 organizations and individuals, which included key stakeholders from the Mediterranean region.
29. The consultation revealed that many of the critical issues affecting the Mediterranean region were captured well in MSSD and should be retained in its revision, while new themes were highlighted. On the basis of the consultation results, during its meeting in June 2014 in Malta, the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) agreed on the following draft vision to guide the development of the new MSSD:
- “A prosperous and peaceful Mediterranean region in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity of healthy ecosystems. This is achieved through common objectives, cooperation, solidarity, equity and participatory governance.”
30. Additionally, the MCSD Steering Committee recommended that the revised MSSD focus on the following thematic areas:
- i. Seas and coasts; including efforts towards reaching Good Environment Status of Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems;
 - ii. Natural resources, rural development and food; including links not only to marine and coastal, but also terrestrial habitats, and to fresh waters;
 - iii. Climate; including the impacts of climate change on natural resources and socioeconomic sectors and possible responses;
 - iv. Sustainable cities; including coastal urbanization and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, land transport, waste management, infrastructure, housing and energy;
 - v. Transition towards a green economy; including sustainable consumption and production, circular economy;
 - vi. Governance; including financing, Aarhus Convention–related issues such as public participation, and cooperation.

31. Based on these six themes, the MSSD review process kicked off in September 2014. For each theme a Thematic Working Group (TWG) was established. The Secretariat invited major stakeholders in the region, partner institutions, MCSD members and MAP Focal Points to participate and/or nominate experts to contribute to the work of the TWGs.
32. Through online consultations and face to face meetings, the TWGs developed the draft list of “Issues and Strategic Directions” for each thematic area, along with the “Actions and Flagship Initiatives” to be undertaken for the implementation of the new MSSD. “Costing and Proposed Sources of Funding” were also considered important parts of the proposed actions, in order to have a strategic document that is truly linked to implementation. The draft new MSSD is currently being edited and will be open for further consultation.
33. The MSSD Review Conference will be held in Malta on 17-18 February 2015, with the kind hosting of the Government of Malta. The first draft of the new MSSD will be discussed and recommendations will be received. The meeting will be attended by MCSD members (Contracting Party representatives, NGOs, IGOs) and selected organizations and experts.
34. It is expected that a version of MSSD agreed by the Conference will be endorsed by the 16th Meeting of MCSD in Morocco in June 2015, before it is officially submitted for adoption at COP 19.

ii. Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production

35. Following the decision on the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Action Plan for the Mediterranean endorsed by COP 18 (Decision IG. 21/10), a first draft structure of the Action Plan was prepared around 4 economic sectors for the Mediterranean region, namely food and agriculture, goods manufacturing, tourism and housing and construction, through the participatory process explained below:
 - The first draft structure of the Action Plan was discussed and reviewed in the meeting held in Marseille, France on 1-2 October 2014, with the participation of 40 international and regional organizations. Participants provided inputs on key challenges, potential actions and suggested potential key stakeholders to be involved in the implementation of the action plan. This meeting was held back to back with the Expert Workshop on Green Economy as part of the preparatory process of the MSSD Review, organized by Plan Bleu, which in order to ensure coherence and synergies between the SCP Action Plan and the MSSD Review.
 - Following the meeting, an on-line consultation platform was set up to invite relevant stakeholders to complement the outcomes of the meeting in Marseille. Fifteen organizations provided feedback during the online consultation. On the basis on the results of this consultation phase with regional and international organisations and also with the collaboration of the Mediterranean SCP Expert Group (MSEG) assigned to provide advice to the Coordinating Unit and SCP/RAC in the preparation of the SCP Action Plan, the first draft Action Plan was prepared.
 - The document was then submitted to the SCP/RAC National Focal Points (NFPs) during the Extraordinary Meeting that took place in Barcelona on 25-26 November 2015, attended by all the Contracting Parties except Libya. During this meeting, the SCP/RAC NFPs agreed in principle on the structure of the action plan, its strategic objectives and the key economic sectors to be addressed. The conclusions of the meeting reflect the main changes that need to be made in the second draft of the document to be shared with the SCP/RAC NFPs for an online consultation at the beginning of 2015.
36. During the Conference on the Review of the MSSD that will take place in Malta on 17-18 February, the participants will be informed on the SCP Action Plan and its current process of development. This will be an opportunity for the MSSD review to integrate the strategic

orientations of the SCP Action Plan as it was requested by the Contracting Parties by the Decision IG. 21/11.

37. Finally the reviewed draft of the SCP Action Plan and a proposal for the roadmap for its implementation will be submitted to the final formal review of the SCP/RAC NFPs during their ordinary meeting that will take place in June 2015 before its final submission to the meeting of MAP Focal Points.

iii. Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean marine and coastal zones

38. The overall objective of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean marine and coastal zones (RCCAF) is to identify and adopt a regional approach to climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, with agreed regional priorities and actions based on current information and future projections of climate change.

39. The first consultation of the RCCAF took place in the framework of the MSSD review process and the first draft of the table of contents and the consultation calendar were presented at the Climate Change Expert Group held in Barcelona in September 2014.

40. The RCCAF was also presented at the first UfM Climate Change Expert Group meeting (CCEG) held in Barcelona on 13-14 October 2014 and attended by the MAP Coordinator and the MedPartnership Project Manager.

41. The first meeting of the advisory panel to the RCCAF was held on 18 December 2014 with the aim to provide technical expert input to the elaboration process.

42. The RCCAF will be completed in Spring 2015 and upon its adoption by COP 19 it is expected to form the basis for the development of a detailed Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan for the Mediterranean.

iv. The Draft Offshore Protocol Action Plan

43. The draft Offshore Protocol Action Plan as adopted by the 3rd Offshore Protocol Working Group meeting (17-18 June 2014, Attard, Malta) was submitted to the 4th meeting of the EcAp Coordination Group (9-10 October 2014, Athens, Greece) which provided a set of recommendations.

44. With a view to submitting the Reviewed Draft Offshore Action Plan and a document compiling all related comments to the MAP Focal Points meeting tentatively scheduled for March 2015, Offshore and MAP focal points were requested to forward their comments to REMPEC by the end of October 2014. The feedback received is being processed.

v. Implementation of Decision IG.21/16

45. As per the recommendation of the 78th Meeting of the Bureau, the Secretariat consulted with ECP, reviewed existing documents of relevance in the framework of the Outcome Evaluation of UNEP/MAP Five Year Programme of Work 2010-2014 and documents prepared by RACs and drafted Terms of Reference for the assessment of MAP II. In this process, the Secretariat will ensure the full involvement of all relevant MAP components, building on their strength, capacity and mandate. A budget revision will be required to secure the needed resources. The assessment will also use the results of the Outcome Evaluation.

Draft Recommendation:

- **The Bureau takes note of the progress made in the revision of MSSD, development of SCP Action Plan and the RCCAF, as well as the Offshore Protocol Action Plan.**
- **The Bureau requests the Secretariat to initiate the assessment process of MAP II and provide an update to the 80th Meeting of the Bureau.**

V. Environment Friendly Cities Award

46. As per the recommendation of the 78th Meeting of the Bureau, the Secretariat initiated the work to develop jointly with RACs, in particular with Plan Bleu, SCP/RAC and PAP/RAC, possible criteria and methodology for the award, reflecting also the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention. A desktop study was held by Plan Bleu.
47. A detailed set of criteria, selection methodology and terms of reference for a selection committee will be prepared to be discussed in the workshop that the Government of Turkey has offered to host in Spring 2015.

Draft Recommendation:

- **The Bureau requests the Secretariat to identify with the Turkish authorities the dates and venue of the workshop to discuss and agree the criteria and state of play of the Environment Friendly Cities Award, to be brought to the attention and endorsement by the 80th Meeting of the Bureau.**

VI. Cooperation Agreements

48. The Secretariat has advanced the discussions with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) regarding cooperation. The drafting of the formal cooperation agreement has started.
49. As a follow-up of the guidance provided by the 78th Meeting of the Bureau, the Secretariat has examined the draft Memorandum of Understanding document prepared by the Permanent Secretariat of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution and forwarded it to UNEP Legal Office for their clearance. The Deputy Coordinator attended the 30th Regular Black Sea Commission Meeting held on 20 November, 2014 in Istanbul, Turkey and had bilateral meetings with the Executive Director of the Commission.
50. Cooperation has been strengthened with other European Regional Seas, with a focus on the ecosystem approach and on its links with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Specific technical exchanges have taken place during the development of the Monitoring and Assessment Methodological Guidance with OSPAR and HELCOM, to ensure that best practices are integrated into the Guidance. In addition, the Secretariat attended and shared its experience on the development of the Mediterranean Marine Litter Regional Plan at the HELCOM Marine Litter Workshop and a Coordination Meeting took place on marine litter between the European Regional Sea Convention Secretariats (October, 2014). In the meeting views were exchanged on enhancing collaboration for the implementation of the regional plans, sharing of products of their work, as appropriate, as well as expertise.
51. The first UfM Climate Change Expert Group meeting (CCEG) was held in Barcelona on 13-14 October 2014 and attended by the MAP Coordinator and the MedPartnership Project Manager.

During the meeting the role of MAP in climate change-related work in the Mediterranean Sea was highlighted, the Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Zones (RCCAF) was presented, several bilateral meetings with the UfM Management and EC DG CLIMA were held and roles and cooperation details on the basis of the UNEP/MAP-UfM Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2013 were clarified. The role and unique nature of the Barcelona Convention as a legally-binding instrument for all Mediterranean Countries and the EU were highlighted both during the plenary session of the CCEG and with UfM managements and EC. Both UfM and UNEP/MAP agreed that although Climate Change is not specifically mentioned in the MoU, it makes sense to address this issue, which is affecting both the coastal and marine ecosystems and all the sectors of interest for UfM (Energy, Environment, Water and Urban Development).

52. The partnership with UfM H2020 has been strengthened. Two meetings of the H2020 group on Review and Monitoring and the H2020 group on Capacity Building were held respectively on 12 November 2014 in Athens and on 17 November 2014 in Brussels. The invitations were co-signed by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator while both meeting documents were prepared in consultation and with UNEP/MAP contribution. In addition, the Secretariat collaborated with UfM Secretariat in preparing the programme of work on pollution prevention and reduction component of H2020 (investment component). UNEP/MAP through the MED POL programme attended the meeting on 18 November 2014 in Brussels, Belgium and co-chaired by UfM Secretariat and the European Investment Bank (EIB). The UfM Secretariat has prepared a database information system for investment projects of UfM H2020/NAPs currently being tested by some Contracting Parties.
53. The collaboration with the European Environmental Agency (EEA) is ongoing and being enhanced. A high-level meeting between EEA and UNEP/MAP took place in November 2014, and the development of a renewed Joint Work Plan was agreed, following the one that expired in 2008, to better harmonize and integrate the respective activities. This would be framed around the different political mandates and obligations of the two organizations, to deliver a common goal on specific themes. The process of developing such Work Plan would involve all MAP Components.

Draft Recommendations:

- **The Bureau notes the progress on the operationalization of the MoU with UfM.**
- **The Bureau notes with satisfaction the progress on the cooperation agreements between the Secretariat and CBD Secretariat, as well as with the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution, and asks the Secretariat to have the MoUs submitted to the 80th Meeting of the Bureau.**
- **The Bureau asks the Secretariat to continue working on possible cooperation with EEA, OSPAR and HELCOM.**

VII. MAP 40 Communications Plan

54. The year 2015 marks the 40th anniversary of the MAP. The Secretariat recommends that this be marked throughout the year by the Contracting Parties, the Coordinating Unit and the RACs, and last till COP 19. The aim is to enhance MAP's visibility, build new partnerships and mobilize resources.
55. In preparation for the 40th anniversary, the following activities are being planned:
 - A preparation team within the Secretariat and an Information Task Force including communication staff from the RACs has been formed. They are meeting regularly for the purpose. RACs and the Coordinating Unit have committed to highlight the MAP

40th anniversary throughout the year, in their national and regional events as much as possible.

- A specific tagline "Together for a sustainable Mediterranean" was selected for the 40th Anniversary of MAP. The tagline will be reflected in all visual items with assistance in designing it from UNEP HQ.
- Audio visual material is under preparation focusing on the achievements of MAP in the last 10 years. These will be used in all events. Messages focus on sustainability, the need to work as one, and ecological objectives.
- The launching of the year of celebration will be held during the MAP Focal Points meeting in Athens in collaboration with the Greek Ministry of Environment. The closing will take place during COP 19, which will include a Ministerial segment.
- The year of celebration will also include the launching of the new revamped website of UNEP/MAP, and the launching of the Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information Platform (MedICIP) platform for Climate Change and ICZM. Major strategic products such as the revised MSSD, the new Midterm Strategy, the SCP Action Plan, the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, etc. will be prominently featured.
- Parties' support will be mobilized especially for the opening and closing events. In addition, all parties and partners will be encouraged to take part to the observance of the anniversary by organizing events at their national level.

56. UNEP Headquarters have expressed willingness to support the celebration in terms of communication and information. The Presidency, Parties and partners will also play important roles. The celebration will require financial resources, and the possibility of approaching the private sector to support some events will be explored.

Draft recommendations:

- **The Bureau confirms its support to the organization of the 40th anniversary of MAP.**
- **The Bureau encourages Parties and partners to host national events, as appropriate, and provide full support to the observance of this important anniversary.**