



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/8



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

5 August 2015
Original: English

80th 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

Athens, Greece, 14-15 July 2015

Report

80th 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

For environmental and economic reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

Table of Contents

Report	Pages
	1-8

ANNEXES

Annex I List of Participants

Annex II Agenda

Introduction

1. At the invitation of the Government of Greece, the 80th 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 was held on 14-15 July 2015 in Athens, Greece.

Participation

2. The President of the Bureau, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Emin Birpinar (Turkey), the Vice-Presidents H.E. Ambassador Xavier Sticker (France); Mr. Ilias Mavroidis (Greece); and the Rapporteur, Mr. Senad Oprasic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) attended the Bureau meeting. Vice-Presidents Mr. Mohamed Benyahia (Morocco) and Mr. Saleh Amnissi (The State of Libya) excused themselves for not being able to attend the meeting. The President of the Bureau was accompanied by Mr. Murat Turan and Ms. Bahar Ozogut. In addition, as per Terms of Reference of the Bureau, Ms. Marijana Mance (European Commission) attended the meeting as observer.
3. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

4. The meeting was opened by the President of the Bureau, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Emin Birpinar. He welcomed the Bureau members and other participants.
5. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator, welcomed the Bureau Members. He provided the Bureau with an overview of the recent developments and work of UNEP/MAP since the 79th Meeting of the Bureau.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

6. The Bureau reviewed and adopted the agenda as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/1 (Annex II).

Agenda item 3: Progress Report by the Secretariat on Aactivities Carried out During the Period January – June 2015

7. The Secretariat presented the document entitled “Progress Report by the Secretariat on activities carried out during the period January – June 2015” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/3), as well as the “Progress of the Implementation of COP 18 Decisions” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/4).
8. Bureau members requested a number of revisions in the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/3, as follows:
 - revisit the references to the work of MCSDD regarding the MSSD review and replace the action of the Commission’s “endorsement” with “provision of recommendations” to be submitted for the consideration of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, following discussion at the meeting of the MAP Focal Points;
 - include the SCP/RAC and SPA/RAC Focal Points Meetings of 2015 in the report;
 - clarify the reference given to comments provided on the draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in paragraph 51;
 - move the wrongly placed paragraphs 73-78 under Theme IV section;

- include the information on the workshop on Environment Friendly Cities Award, which was presented in the “Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/4), also in the progress report;
 - include the work done on preparation of a formal cooperation instrument with the Black Sea Commission in the report.
9. After discussions, the Bureau took note with satisfaction of the progress achieved during the period January-June 2015.

Agenda item 4: Update on Financial Situation

10. The Secretariat presented an update on financial issues to the Bureau members for their comments and recommendations , as contained in the “Report by the Secretariat on Financial and Administrative Issues” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/5), including:
- Status of contributions as of 30 April 2015.
 - Implications of Umoja implementation.
 - Invoicing for 2016.
 - Expenditures.
 - Working Capital Reserve.
 - Interim Report with the balance between income and expenditure.
 - Report on personnel matters.
11. After discussions, the Bureau:
- i. noted with appreciation the improved percentage of contributions received for the year 2015;
 - ii. took note with concern of the three cases of arrears over 24 months and welcomed the Secretariat’s suggestion to continue its efforts to collect all outstanding arrears, giving full consideration to the individual situations of the relevant parties, and bring the matter to the attention of the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in October 2015;
 - iii. expressed appreciation for the measures taken by UNEP HQs and by the Secretariat to address the negative balance of the CAL fund and meet the requirements of Umoja in line with the Bureau recommendation at its 79th Meeting;
 - iv. urged the Host Country to complete the payment of its 2014 and 2015 contributions to CAL fund in order to ensure progress of the deficit recovery, and meet the requirements of Umoja;
 - v. took note of the Decision 21.17 stating that “in the 2016-2017 biennium a scale based on the latest UNGA scale of assessments should be applied”. The Bureau also noted that the COP 19 in February 2016 will make it difficult to respect procedure 2.4 of the Financial Rules and Procedures, which requires the COP to adopt the operational budget before the period that it covers;
 - vi. welcomed the following proposal by the Secretariat, subject to approval by the UNEP Executive Director, to address the financial implications of holding COP 19 in February 2016:
 - to issue notifications with estimated contributions for 2016 in October 2015 to meet planning and budgetary needs of Contracting Parties. They will be based on the 2015 invoices and will be adjusted and resent immediately after COP 19 to reflect the approved budget and the revised UN assessed scale of contributions approved by the UNGA in December 2015;

- to re-phase the 2015 unspent balance into 2016 accounts and withdraw from the Working Capital Reserve to cover staff and operational costs of the first months of 2016 as needed;
 - the approval by UNEP Executive Director should be circulated to Contracting Parties;
- vii. took note of the status of recruitments at the Coordinating Unit and encouraged again Contracting Parties who may be able to do so to contribute human resources to the Secretariat through JPO and other similar schemes;
- viii. invited the Contracting Parties, who are in the position to do so, to fund their participation to COP 19 in order to contribute to covering the costs of the COP, in accordance with the best practices of other MEAs.

Agenda item 5: Specific Issues

12. The Secretariat presented the “Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/4).

5.1. Governance and Organizational Matters / Compliance issues

13. The Coordinator of MAP presented an update on issues regarding the status of Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Related Protocols and Host Country Agreements with countries hosting MAP Regional Activity Centers.
14. Additionally, with reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decision IG.21/1 on Compliance Committee and the Decision IG.21/2 on Reporting Format, adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Secretariat provided an update on the outcomes of the 10th Compliance Committee Meeting, reporting on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Biennia 2010-2011 and 2012-2013); and revision of the Reporting Format of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.
15. Under this agenda item, discussions on the organization of COP 19 took place. Greece, as Host Country of COP 19, expressed concern for the high cost of the organization of the event, also taking into account the current economic situation in Greece. The representative of the Greek Government also informed the Bureau Members that their search for possible donors was on-going, and confirmed that COP 19 will take place in Athens as planned. He also confirmed that the initial discussions had taken place with the UNEP/MAP Secretariat on the ministerial-level session and on the Athens Declaration. A formal reaction to the theme proposed by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat in May would be finalized soon, along with the details of the hosting of COP 19, to enable the process of invitations to start as soon as possible.
16. After discussions, the Bureau:
- i. welcomed the special efforts made to promote ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as well as progress achieved in supporting compliance by the Contracting Parties;
 - ii. called upon Contracting Parties, that have not yet done so, to sign or ratify the amended Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and requested the Secretariat to continue following up on this matter;
 - iii. expressed concern on the limited number of reports on measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols submitted by the Contracting Parties, and urged them to submit their reports as soon as possible;
 - iv. requested the Secretariat to continue close follow-up with UNEP HQs and concerned governments to finalize the HCAs as per the Decision IG.21/13;

- v. invited the Host Country to finalize the preparation of COP 19 as soon as possible, including the Ministerial Segment, and requested the Secretariat to inform the Bureau accordingly through electronic means.

5.2. Update on mandated strategic processes

17. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decisions IG.21/8 on Follow-up Actions Regarding the Offshore Action Plan, IG.21/10 on Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), IG.21/11 on Review of Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD), and the Decision IG.21/17 on MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2014-2015 biennium, adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Coordinator updated Bureau Members on the current status of the development of the Offshore Protocol Action Plan, SCP Action Plan, review of MSSD, implementation of Decision IG.21/16 and development of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework.
18. After discussions, the Bureau:
 - i. welcomed the outcome of the strategic processes that the Secretariat reported on, and invited the MAP Focal Points to consider also the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework in their Meeting in October 2015;
 - ii. requested the Secretariat to submit to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in October 2015 the results of the assessment of MAP II, addressing the challenge of sustainable development and the irreversible nature of impacts on the environment and resources, and including options and roadmaps for the way forward.

5.3. Update on Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021

19. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decision on MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2014-2015 Biennium (Decision IG.21/17), adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Coordinator of MAP updated Bureau members on the progress of the development of the Mid-Term Strategy for the period 2016-2021, including the outcomes of the MAP Focal Points Meeting, which was held on 19-21 May 2015 in Athens, Greece and the draft Strategic Framework subsequently revised on the basis of those suggestions.
20. After discussions, the Bureau expressed support to the work done in developing the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 based on the suggestions of MAP FPs at their Meeting in May 2015.

5.4. General orientations on the Programme of Work (2016-2017)

21. The Coordinator of MAP will explain the general orientations on the Programme of Work for 2016-2017 biennium, with reference to Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021.
22. After discussions, the Bureau:
 - i. agreed with the principles, general orientations and structure of the Programme of Work 2016-2017, specifically:
 - alignment with key mandates and the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021;
 - coherence and integration of its components;
 - realistic projection of its outcomes, outputs and resources, as well as means of implementation and expected partnerships.
 - ii. requested the Secretariat to bring to the attention of the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in October 2015, the possibility to include costs of the organization of future COP Meetings in the biennial MTF budget, as provided for in the Rules of Procedure, and in line with UN best practices.

5.5. Environment Friendly Cities Award

23. With reference to the Istanbul Declaration, adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Secretariat presented an update on actions taken regarding nomination and selection principles and criteria for the award, including the outcomes of the workshop hosted by the Government of Turkey on 25-26 May 2015 in Ankara, Turkey.
24. After discussions, the Bureau:
 - i. expressed appreciation to the Government of Turkey for organizing the Environment Friendly Cities Award Workshop, in which categories and preliminary set of criteria and selection process for the Award were identified;
 - ii. requested the Secretariat to submit to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in October 2015, the results of the Workshop, including categories and preliminary set of criteria and selection process, along with financial implications and decision text containing a mandate for the forthcoming Bureau's approval of the detailed nomination and selection process with a view to grant the first award at COP 20.

5.6. Cooperation Agreements

25. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decision on Cooperation Agreements (Decision IG.21/14), adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Secretariat presented an overview of cooperation with International and Regional Organizations, and bilateral cooperation agencies, and updated Bureau Members on the operationalization of current agreements and on progress in the development of new ones.
26. After discussions, the Bureau noted with satisfaction the progress on cooperation with partners and encouraged the Secretariat to continue working on the development of such cooperation, in particular with contiguous regional seas, and requested the Secretariat to continue working with the Black Sea Commission to finalize the MoU, possibly by COP 19.

5.7. MAP Partners

27. The Secretariat updated the Bureau on the process regarding the update of the MAP Partners list.
28. After discussions, the Bureau asked the Secretariat to continue working to identify relevant candidate MAP Partners and bring the list of candidates to its attention by email for approval and onward submission to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points in October 2015.

5.8. Visibility and Outreach

29. The Coordinator of MAP presented an update on the outreach activities carried out during the reporting period.
30. After discussions, the Bureau:
 - i. appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat to enhance the visibility of the MAP/Barcelona Convention, and encouraged Contracting Parties to organize events to observe the 40th Anniversary of the MAP/Barcelona Convention;
 - ii. requested the Secretariat to include appropriate resources for outreach, information and communication in the proposed budget of the next biennium and in the preparation of project submissions to donors.

Agenda item 6: Update on COP 19

6.1. Organizational Matters / Inter-ministerial Session and Athens Declaration

31. The summary of the discussion on this matter and the recommendation by the Bureau are provided in section 5.1 above.

6.2. Draft Decisions

32. The Secretariat introduced a preliminary list of draft decisions to be submitted to MAP Focal Points Meeting that will be held in October 2015.

33. The Bureau reviewed the proposed list of COP 19 Decisions, as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/7/Rev.1 and provided guidance to the Secretariat for further development. The revised provisional list reflecting the Bureau guidance is as follows:

Provisional List of COP 19 Draft Decisions as Revised by the Bureau

No.	Provisional Title	Summary
1	Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures to strengthen the Barcelona Convention/MAP Governance including strengthening cooperation with Components, • Host Country Agreements, • Environment Friendly Cities Award criteria and selection process to grant first award at COP 20 • Other mandated actions, • Common date to hold national events to celebrate 40th Anniversary of Barcelona Convention, and • Date and venue of next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.
2	Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the draft revised format of the Barcelona Convention Reporting System, and • New reporting format for the ICZM Protocol (Operational Section).
3	Compliance Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election and/ or renewal of members, • Adoption of the Compliance Committee Recommendations, and • Programme of Work of the Compliance Committee.
4	Cooperation Agreements and MAP Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of new cooperation agreements (e.g. ACCOBAMS and Black Sea Commission) including mandate to develop a proposal of cooperation in the field of prevention, preparedness and response to marine pollution from ships in cooperation with European Commission, European Maritime Safety Agency - EMSA and the oil industry. • Addition of new MAP NGO Partners.

No.	Provisional Title	Summary
5	MCSD Governance	Adoption of revised constitutive documents and new composition of MCSD.
6	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025	Adoption of the MSSD 2016-2025.
7	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and related assessment criteria	Establishment of an integrated monitoring and assessment programme 2016- 2021, as part of the application of Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean.
8	Implementation of updated National Action Plans (NAPs)	Endorsement of the updated NAPs, and measures for its implementation.
9	Mercury Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) Guidelines	Adoption of common technical standards addressing different aspects related to Mercury ESM.
10	Implementing the Marine Litter Regional Plan	Adoption of baseline values for categories of Marine Litter and related environmental targets against which the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan will be evaluated, as well as adoption of Fishing for Litter Guidelines.
11	Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021)	Adoption of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021).
12	Decision on the Mid-term evaluation of the Action Plan for ICZM and CAMP Assessment	Adoption of the two documents and recommendations on how to continue with the implementation of the Action Plan until its end in 2019 including on the priorities for the second half of the Action Plan implementation period, and establishment of a network of CAMPs.
13	Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Offshore Protocol	Adoption of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan.
14	Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production	Adoption of the SCP Action Plan and roadmap for its implementation.
15	Updated Biodiversity related Action Plans	Adoption of updated versions of three Action Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea, • Conservation of the Coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions in the Mediterranean Sea, and • Species introductions and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea.
16	Roadmap for a comprehensive coherent network of well managed MPAs	Adoption of a Roadmap for a comprehensive coherent network of well managed MPAs to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean.
17	Inclusion of the Karaburun Sazan Marine Park (Albania) in the List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI List)	Inclusion of a new coastal area in Albanian waters in the SPAMI List, bringing the number of SPAMIs to 34 and enhancing the geographical balance of the SPAMI network.

No.	Provisional Title	Summary
18	Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework	Adoption of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework and follow-up.
19	Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021	Adoption of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021.
20	Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017	Adoption of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017.
21	Assessment of MAP II and the way forward	Review of the results of the assessment of MAP II, addressing the challenge of sustainable development and the irreversible nature of impacts on the environment and resources, and decision on the options and roadmap for the way forward.

Agenda item 7: Conclusions and Recommendations

34. The Bureau discussed and adopted conclusions and recommendations as listed above.

Agenda item 8: Any Other Matters

35. There were no other issues for consideration by the meeting.

Agenda item 9: Closure of the Meeting

36. The meeting was closed by the President of the Bureau at 17:30 on Wednesday, 15 July 2015.

Annex I

List of Participants

MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU/MEMBRES DU BUREAU

TURKEY / TURQUIE

(PRESIDENT)

Prof. Dr Mehmet Emin Birpınar

Deputy Undersecretary
Ministry of Environment and Urbanization
Vekaletler Cad. No:1 Bakanlıklar,
Ankara
Turkey

Tel: +90 312 4181437- 4240998

Fax: +90 312 4178719

E-mail: mehmet.birpinar@csb.gov.tr

Mr Murat Turan

Head of Marine and Coastal Management Division
DG Environmental Management
Ministry of Environment and Urbanization
Ehlibeyt Mh. 1271 Sk. No:13 06520
Balgat Ankara
Turkey

Tel: +90 312 5863044

Fax: +90 312 4740335

Email: murat.turan@csb.gov.tr

Ms Bahar Ozogut

Expert
Ministry of Environment and Urbanization
Ministry of Environment and Urbanization
Ehlibeyt Mh. 1271 Sk. No:13 06520
Balgat Ankara
Turkey

E-mail: bahar.ozogut@csb.gov.tr

FRANCE/ FRANCE

(VICE PRESIDENT)

S.E. M. Xavier Sticker

Ambassadeur pour l'Environnement
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
27 Rue de la Convention
75015 Paris
France

Tel:+33 1 53 69 33 88

Fax: +33 1 53 69 34 21

E-mail: Xavier.sticker@diplomatie.gouv.fr

GREECE / GRECE
(VICE PRESIDENT)

Mr Ilias Mavroidis
Expert,
Dept.of International Relations and EU Affairs,
Hellenic Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change
Athens
Greece

Tel: +30 210 6426531
Fax: +30 210 6434470
E-mail: i.mavroidis@prv.ypeka.gr

Mr Nicholas Mantzaris
Policy Expert
Dept. of International Relations and EU Affairs,
Hellenic Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change
Athens
Greece

Tel: + 30 213 15 15 680
Fax: +30 210 64 34 470
E-mail: n.mantzaris@prv.ypeka.gr

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA /
BOSNIE ET HERZÉGOVINE
(RAPPORTEUR)

Mr Senad Oprašić
Head of Environmental Protection Department
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations
Musala 9, 71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia & Herzegovina

Tel: +387 33 95 35 36
Fax: +387 33 20 61 41
E-mail: senad.oprasic@mvteo.gov.ba

EUROPEAN COMMISSION /
COMMISSION EUROPEENNE
(OBSERVER)

Ms Marijana Mance
Policy Officer
European Commission
Directorate-General for Environment
Unit C2: Marine Environment and Water Industry
Avenue de Baulieu 5, office BU 9 04/110
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Tel : +32 2 2982011
E-mail : marijana.mance@ec.europa.eu

**SECRETARIAT TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION COORDINATING UNIT OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN/ SECRETARIAT DE LA CONVENTION DE
BARCELONE/UNITE DE COORDINATION DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA
MEDITERRANNEE**

Mr Gaetano Leone

Coordinator
48, Vass. Konstantinou Ave.
11635 Athens
Greece

Tel:+30 210 7273101

E-mail: gaetano.leone@unepmap.gr

Mr Habib N. El Habr

Deputy Coordinator
48, Vass. Konstantinou Ave.
11635 Athens
Greece

Tel:+30 210 7273126

E-mail: habib.elhabr@unepmap.gr

Mr Atila Uras

Programme Officer
48, Vass. Konstantinou Ave.
11635 Athens
Greece

Tel: +30 210 7273140

E-mail: atila.uras@unepmap.gr

Ms. Tatjana Hema

MED POL Programme Officer
48, Vass. Konstantinou Ave.
11635 Athens
Greece

Tel: +30 210 72731115

E-mail: tatjana.hema@unepmap.gr

Annex II

Agenda

TIMETABLE

Tuesday, 14 July 2015			
Time	Agenda item		Documents
09:30 – 09:45	1. Opening of the meeting 2. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and organization of work	President of the Bureau	UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/1 UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/2
09:15 – 10:30	3. Progress Report by the Secretariat on activities carried out during the period January – June 2015	Coordinator of MAP	UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/3 UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/4
10:30 – 11:30	4. Update on Financial Situation	Coordinator of MAP	UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/5
11:30 – 12:30	5. Specific Issues	Coordinator of MAP	UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/6
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
14:00 – 17:00	5. Specific Issues (cont'd)	Coordinator of MAP	UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/6
Wednesday, 15 July 2015			
09:30 – 10:30	5. Specific Issues (cont'd)	Coordinator of MAP	UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/6
10:30 – 12:30	6. Update on COP 19	Coordinator of MAP	UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/7
12:30 – 15:00	<i>Extended Lunch break (preparation of the draft list of conclusions and recommendations for adoption)</i>		
15:00 – 17:00	7. Conclusions and recommendations	Coordinator of MAP	
17:00 – 17:45	8. Any other Matters	President of the Bureau and Secretariat	
17:45 – 18:00	9. Closure of the Meeting	President of the Bureau	