



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.81/2



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

13 January 2016
Original: English

81st 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

Extraordinary Meeting
Teleconference, 18 January 2016

Request from the British Permanent Representative to the UN in Nairobi dated 17 December 2015

Demande du Représentant permanent britannique auprès de l'ONU à Nairobi datant du 17 Décembre 2015



British
High Commission
Nairobi

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From the British Permanent Representative to the UN in Nairobi

Thursday 17th December, 2015

Dear Mr Thiaw,

With this letter, the UK is formally requesting an issue be added to the agenda of the next COP of the Barcelona Convention: namely the accession of the United Kingdom to the Barcelona Convention.

The UK has a Mediterranean Coastline at its Overseas Territory of Gibraltar. The Barcelona Convention currently applies to Gibraltar where the EU has competence. The UK believes it should be a member in its own right, so that Gibraltar's interests can be represented where the EU does not have competence. The UK is therefore requesting to accede to the Barcelona Convention.

We have been in communication with UNEP since September on this issue but have encountered considerable delay within the UN system. We hope that you can help us resolve this matter as swiftly as possible by putting the UK's request on the agenda of the forthcoming COP.

Yours sincerely

Dr. John Murton

Mr Ibrahim Thiaw
Deputy Executive Director
UNEP