

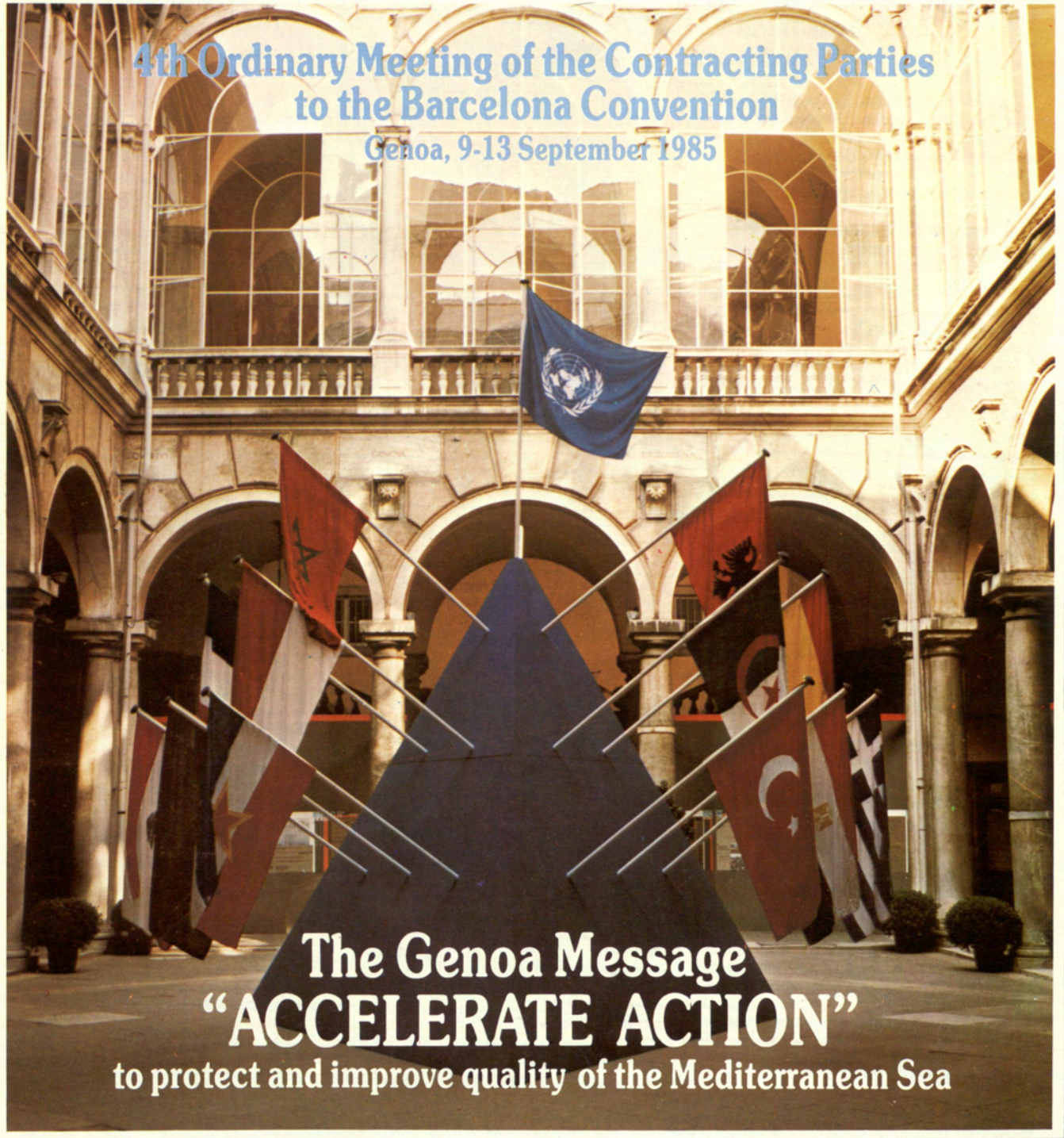


ENGLISH EDITION

# MEDWAVES

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**4th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties  
to the Barcelona Convention**  
Genoa, 9-13 September 1985



**The Genoa Message**  
**“ACCELERATE ACTION”**  
to protect and improve quality of the Mediterranean Sea



# A COMMON PERIL REQUIRES A COMMON RESPONSE

not on paper but in practice

**D**r. M. K. Tolba, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in his opening statement to the Fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, first, looked back at the "pioneering environmental agreement" as he named the Mediterranean Action Plan, which at the Genoa Meeting of 9-13 September 1985, commemorated its tenth year of age.

UNEP's Executive Director went on pointing out that "UNEP frequently cites the Mediterranean Action Plan as one of our foremost achievements. In very difficult conditions, a great deal has been achieved in a very short space of time. The Action Plan became a blueprint, not only for UNEP's other Regional Seas accords, but also for other international accords aimed at addressing a wide range of environmental problems. And progress with the implementation of the Action Plan became a yardstick by which we could judge other agreements.

So today, Mr Tolba continued, if I may seem somewhat critical in my assessment of where we stand, it is that I am merely keeping faith with the high standards set by Governments in Barcelona in agreeing the Convention and later the protocols."

Touching on some critical points, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme placed an emphasis on the fact that "The Contracting Parties have created an apparatus which has not yet been put to full use. There is, he continued, broad satisfaction with the Convention itself, the legal instruments have been given near universal approval, the quality of scientific information is high, a secretariat and an array of supporting units and institutions are in place and working – and yet this elaborate organizational structure is in danger of being dismissed as a facade. It is as though all the goods are in the shop window and none on the shelves inside.

Certainly, Dr Tolba went on, progress has been achieved in the past ten years. Most progress has been made with scientific monitoring, but we still do not know enough about the complex movement of the Mediterranean's water masses, in particular their role in transporting and distributing pollutants.

Referring specifically to MED POL activities, Dr M. Tolba said: "The pollution re-



search and monitoring programme, is the foundation of the Action Plan. Through co-operation, an over-all assessment of microbial pollution of beaches, of shellfish and shellfish growing areas and of mercury pollution of sea-food have been made possible. This is a major achievement by your scientists and your scientific institutions. But the goal of a basin-wide monitoring network producing data on a regular basis has not yet been achieved. Information on sources, levels, pathways and effects of pollutants provided by MED POL's network of 80 capable national research institutions has not yet provided a solid basis for effective action on a number of other fronts."

And UNEP's Executive Director went on to underline that "UNEP welcomed the speed with which the Protocol on Land-Based Sources was ratified. But we are disappointed with the apparent reluctance of many States to adopt the legally binding criteria proposed by UNEP together with WHO and FAO. These criteria have not been challenged; no alternatives have been proposed; but no action has been taken. I hope, Dr Tolba said, that this meeting will decide to adopt them. If not these, then which ones? If not now, when?"

At a later part of his speech, UNEP's Executive Director wondered: "Why are Governments not acting on research findings? It is, I agree, he added, always cheaper to do nothing now, and hope that the problems will go away. The problems will not go away, and our assessments tell us that each year we wait, the more expensive our folly will become. Self-interest – an interest in the future – should be a spur for action – not an excuse for apathy."

Speaking of the Blue Plan and the Priority Actions Programme, Mr Tolba accepted that the first phase of the Blue Plan has produced an interesting picture of the basin shaped by a common history, sharing so many values, but as yet shy or slow in recognizing its common identity, and its common future; and Dr Tolba underlined that "the need to follow strategies which pay full heed to the conservation of shared resources is critical. UNEP therefore urges states to take fully into account the alternative development scenarios which will develop from the Blue Plan and Priority Actions Programme exercise."

In regard to the efforts that should go into establishing specially protected areas in the Mediterranean region, he said: "We are particularly concerned to see that the Contracting Parties should take immediate steps to protect areas of special ecological significance, and marine mammals threatened with extinction" and went on reminding his audience that "the catalytic role of UNEP in the Mediterranean is almost at an end. In all, the speaker said, UNEP has contributed over \$ 8 million to the development of the Mediterranean Action Plan. An infrastructure has been created which matches the complexity of the subject it covers."

Closing his opening statement to the Fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the Executive Director of UNEP, Dr M. K. Tolba proposed to the delegations of the Mediterranean States:

"In order to mark a common determination to nurture the fruits of the Plan, it would seem appropriate that you adopt a declaration that will allow this Plan to work for the people of the region. I am also proposing, he said, that you adopt a programme of action with clearly defined goals for the next decade. In addition to accelerating the slowly moving elements of the Action Plan that I mentioned earlier, these goals should include the establishment of:

- reception facilities for oily residues in all major ports;
- treatment plants for sewer effluents in all cities of over 100,000 population;
- suitable outfalls for sewer effluents in all cities of over 10,000 population;
- measures to ensure full access by developing countries to technology and expertise in oceanography and pollution control." ■



# NEW BUREAU FOR 1985-87 WAS ELECTED IN GENOA

*After two years in office H.E. Mr Z. Kovacević gave its place to the newly elected President of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, H.E. the Minister of Public Work and Urbanism in Spain, Mr Javier L. Saenz de Cosculluela*

**"...The solution is to be found in actions taken at the national level and our efforts in this direction should be increased considerably..."**



**T**he environmental problems of the Mediterranean Basin, which brought our Governments together, have not lost over the last ten years their menacing dimensions. Our ability to interfere with our environment and to inflict damage to some of its critical features, did not diminish in spite of sporadic and local successes in containing the damage or even improving the situation.

The evidence collected through the Action Plan indicates that more vigorous measures are needed in order to achieve the goals we set ourselves ten years ago. At the same time, I am convinced that the Mediterranean Action Plan has acquired greater strength and maturity, as coastal States begin to attack the problem by responding through legislation and improved scientific capability, instead of watch-

ing helplessly – or worse – contributing to the degradation of the sea. As I look into the future, I see the need for a greater commitment from all of us, not necessarily only through more money in the Trust Fund. A larger degree of involvement is needed at the national level from all of us. The solution of the problem can not be sought through the direct action of our Secretariat only. The solution is to be found in actions taken at the national level and our efforts in this direction should be increased considerably.

The once beautiful shores of our common sea continue to deteriorate due to poorly planned development. The rich Mediterranean vegetation and the unique landscapes are too frequently and in too many places replaced by impersonal urban, industrial and touristic complexes. The coastal waters are receiving ever increasing amounts of pollutants, making the sea and seafood unpleasant and unsafe for users. The very air we breathe over some parts of the Mediterranean has changed from clear blue to lingering smog, with adverse effects on people, vegetation and wild-life. The number of places where this is happening is increasing at a rate which should be considered unacceptable"□

**"...Spain attaches special attention to the protection of the Mediterranean Sea from pollution and to the harmonious development of the region..."**



**M**y Government attaches special attention to the protection of the Mediterranean sea from pollution and to the harmonious development of the region.

For Spain, this is an issue on which all political parties agree, as evidenced by the two inter-governmental conferences which were invited to meet in Barcelona, where the Action Plan for the Protection of the Mediterranean was approved.

Spanish public authorities are sensitive to the fact that the conservation and protection of the environment are expectations of our people which have to be satisfied. In the field of legislation, the Spanish Constitution presently in force, which was adopted in 1978, contains valuable provisions on this issue.

Thus, as far as the coastline is concerned, Article 132 provides that beaches, the land-sea contact zone and territorial waters are in the public domain.

During this decade, investments for water supply, sanitation and sewage networks for 181 communities of the Mediterranean coast amounted to a total of 26,000 million pesetas (E.N. \$ 190 million, 1983 value, IMF), as a result of which the vast

majority of coastal communities are now equipped with adequate facilities.

From 1983 to 1985, 70 actions have been carried through or are being implemented; of these 51 are beach protection or revitalization projects together with access roads and pedestrian ways.

The investment involved for the 3-year period, 1983-1985, amounts to 7,000 million pesetas, an investment rate which will be maintained during the coming years." □





GENOA 9-13 SEPTEMBER 1985

# CONTRACTING PARTIES VOICE THEIR WILL TO WORK TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHIER COMMON SEA

**ALGERIA:** "The convening of this meeting at Ministerial level, even though it coincides with the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Action Plan, is not merely a formal commemorative event, but, on the contrary, constitutes a privileged occasion for a calm examination and an objective evaluation of the activities undertaken, and for an identification of the obstacles encountered, so as to allow a better projection of the action necessary during the years to come. It is in this constructive spirit that the delegation of Algeria wishes to express its satisfaction at the positive and encouraging results achieved in the execution of certain programmes and to express its concern at the accumulated delays and slowness in the realisation of other programmes of no less importance."

**CYPRUS:** "The Cyprus Government, mainly through the Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, participates actively in all operational aspects of MAP. With help from the Mediterranean Action Plan, we participated in most of the projects of MED POL Phase I Programme, and we are participating in monitoring and research activities under the MED POL Phase II Programme. Besides, the research and monitoring projects, programmes for the conservation of nature and protection of endangered species have been established and are being carried out in cooperation and assistance from international organizations. Within our capabilities we shall continue to make every effort towards the successful implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan because we believe in its aim and the philosophy that plots its path and because we believe that without it progress towards conserving the Mediterranean will suffer a severe blow."

**EEC:** "In our first decade, politicians, officials and experts have had the vision to see the need to protect the Mediterranean and its ecological, cultural and economic resources. And, they had the determination to set up the necessary structures. Surely now, the need is to ensure that every citizen who cares for the Mediterranean future should be made to feel that it is his business

too and to realize that the environment issues affect them personally. This, in turn, surely means that we must increasingly move forward from planning to concrete actions that are visible and beneficial to the ordinary citizen. It is against this background that I would end by repeating what I said at the outset, that is to say that the European Community is ready within its possibilities to do everything it can to assist in ensuring the future progress of the Mediterranean Action Plan."

**EGYPT:** "The Arab Republic of Egypt fully supports the recommendations presented by UNEP Executive Director to this meeting. They give a wise and comprehensive view for the promotion of our efforts towards the necessary protection of this Sea. In spite of the high costs needed for environment protection projects in this area, and the heavy burden they represent to all of us, we appeal to all the countries present here to continue their efforts which have begun to bear fruit after ten years from the signature of the Convention and the formulation of the Mediterranean Action Plan. We also urge the Contracting Parties to ratify, if they have not already done so, all the affiliated protocols as soon as possible."

**FRANCE:** "Our role as Ministers here, is to commemorate ten years of work: I do this in my turn, with gratitude. Our role as Ministers is to renew our commitment for the pursuit of a collective effort for the Mediterranean, its shores and peripheral regions, within the framework of the Action Plan. I do this with confidence. Our role as Ministers is also to move forward with funds which we must manage wisely, as it is the money of our fellow-citizens, now that UNEP is no longer available to finance us. Our role is to make known what we want, so that our people, our industries, our communities, may also know what is at stake: to enable the Mediterranean to live and to enable it, with its heritage of quality, to develop, to bring closer together living standards and to confirm a stronger position for it in the concert of peace-loving nations."

**GREECE:** "For our country it is essential to continue the Mediterranean cooperation to achieve concrete MAP

objectives, to ensure relations of peace in the region and to respect international law and regulations, in order to effectively protect the Mediterranean environment for our mutual benefit. If we accept that the main feature of the first decade has been to ensure the necessary administrative and scientific infrastructure, the new period that now begins, could be characterized by increasing public awareness, assessment of the situation and adoption of the appropriate measures. The objectives and programmes of MAP must no longer be the realm of specialists, they must reach beyond the confines of offices and laboratories to become familiar to the inhabitants of the area. On behalf of the Greek Government we would like again to confirm our permanent and undiminished concern and our political will to ensure the success of MAP. We shall reiterate these positions when the Declaration is discussed in detail for which we shall submit specific comments and remarks."

**ISRAEL:** "To expedite the transition from fine words into effective action, we urge the Contracting Parties gathered here to adopt the recommendations of the Third meeting of the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Cooperation regarding "common measures" for quality of bathing waters and the practical definition of terms and criteria for application of the Dumping Protocol. The long delay between the coming into force of this protocol in 1978 and the drafting of recommendations for the technical implementation must be avoided in the future, especially in connection with implementation of the Land-Based Sources Protocol. Strict implementation of protocols based upon common standards, guidelines and quality criteria is a prerequisite for the further success of the Mediterranean Action Plan."

**ITALY:** "The Action Plan has succeeded in arousing a new solidarity in the initiatives and objectives of all the governments on its shores. If these are properly nurtured and supported, the Plan could open the way for even wider and stronger bonds. Within the framework of the EEC, efforts are being made to ensure appropriate attention for Mediterranean problems in all the important ecological programmes of the Community. I, said the Italian Minister, should also



wish to recall the bilateral or trilateral actions (always within the framework of Mediterranean objectives) which the Italian Government is undertaking through agreements reached with countries bordering on Italy by sea: with Greece for the Ionian Sea; with Yugoslavia for the Adriatic; and with France and the Principality of Monaco for the Ligurian Sea."

**MALTA:** "Rather than the past, said the Minister of Malta, I would prefer to speak about the future. We feel that the Action Plan should continue operating on the same general lines, at the same level and under the same administrative arrangements as it is now. We do not think there should be any retrenchment, but at the same time we feel no major expansion is necessary. My government considers that one of the most important activities during the coming years should be the implementation of the Protocol on Land-Based Sources of pollution. As far as possible, all relevant components of the Action Plan should contribute to this activity. In this regard, Mr Chairman, I would like to assure this Conference that my government hopes to ratify this Protocol in the near future."

**MONACO:** "Monaco, which is the host country for the headquarters of the RAMOGE Agreement, has in the past ten years adhered to the Barcelona Convention, ratified it and put in place the mechanisms for the adoption of various agreements in the framework of international conventions, the objectives of which coincide with the objectives of the Barcelona Convention. Finally, it is in the same spirit that we have established and developed bilateral actions in cooperation with other Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, especially in the fields of monitoring, research and prevention of pollution of the marine environment."

Even though the Mediterranean Action Plan has now been in existence for ten years and even though its results have been positive to a great extent, there is still a lot to be done. This is the reason why we must establish priorities for action, avoid overlaps and favour those projects which are practical and direct over those that are highly technical."

**MOROCCO:** "In our opinion, the past ten years have been positive and we have, in fact, succeeded in pinpointing pollution problems by identifying their sources and by putting into place the structures necessary for their control and monitoring. Morocco has always displayed a particular interest in the Mediterranean and has always considered it a crossroad of civilizations. The Mediterranean must not only be protected as a natural resource, but also as a meeting place for our peoples and our civili-

zations. It is of concern to us, therefore, that we make our basin a venue for dialogue, not only to solve the region's problems but also to contribute towards solving the political, economic and cultural difficulties which arise on a world-wide scale. It is around this basin that one should also promote a Euro-Arab dialogue, so as to define the role of the Arab world and of Europe in the 21st century."

**SPAIN:** "As concerns the preservation of coastal areas, international cooperation is of paramount importance. We believe that the Mediterranean Action Plan is the ideal framework for an effective and fruitful action."

For a country like ours with 1349 km of Mediterranean coast, the importance of the task to protect the Mediterranean coastal areas is evident. On the other hand, we must also protect the natural ecosystems of this coast which are of a great genetic richness due to the bioclimatic and geographical characteristics of Spain.

In the past ten years, Spain has undertaken several types of action, directly or indirectly related to MAP. They can be grouped in two categories:

- formulation of legislation and standards aiming at the protection of the social values, the environment and the ecology of the coastal areas;
- projects and investments aiming at the protection and preservation of beaches, in-shore waters and the coastal environment."

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC:** "Syria is doing its utmost in preventing polluted materials to reach the Sea. We are establishing water treatment stations, in order to protect the people's health as well as the equilibrium of the environment. Concerning water recreation, we are intensifying our efforts in order to reconcile our environmental quality criteria with that of WHO and UNEP criteria. Syria has established a new plan of action to protect the environment. A high supreme authority was established to overview various environmental components. One of the main objectives of this authority is to study all subjects concerning the protection of marine environment in Syria, and create an emergency plan in the field of marine pollution."

**TUNISIA:** "Tunisia is fully aware of the need for a joint effort in order to protect our common sea. It is in this spirit of Mediterranean solidarity that Tunisia adhered to the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols and has given proof of its firm will to contribute, along with its Mediterranean partners, to the effective implementation of these instruments."

Today - on the tenth anniversary of the

Barcelona Convention -, we are able to affirm that our efforts have been crowned with success. However, we should be critical with ourselves in order to "re-adjust the target", if you allow me the expression. Thus, even though MED POL, the Environment Monitoring Programme, which in the opinion of our delegation is the cornerstone of MAP, has produced the awaited results, a greater participation of the Southern Mediterranean countries in this programme would certainly give us a better appreciation of the state of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea."

**TURKEY:** "As a signatory of the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols, Turkey attributes particular importance to the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from Land-Based Sources. In line with this Turkey has taken a number of steps in this area. Also, Turkey agrees fully with the objectives of the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre which has been created in connection with the basic provisions of the Protocol. On the subject of the preparation of national reports on existing and planned Specially Protected Areas and on the applicable legislation, Turkey has provided the necessary legislative and institutional arrangements for efficient use and conservation of natural resources, and has also re-arranged the Regional Planning system recently, with the new Constitution Act. Through this act we intend to improve intersectoral integration between environmental and economical goals in taking decisions concerning various sectors of natural resources. In addition the recommendations of the World Conservation Strategy are being taken into consideration within our efforts towards natural resources management."

**YUGOSLAVIA:** "For the materialization of the Action Plan, political will on the part of the coastal states must be expressed in a more decisive manner. Now that MAP has reached an advanced stage of institutional, structural and operational maturity the clear and committed political will is needed if the common objectives for a healthier Mediterranean Sea and the ecologically sound development of the region are to be achieved. It is, more than ever, necessary that the Contracting Parties clearly express their will to benefit from the existing MAP sources and potential by translating their international obligations into national commitments for the long-term welfare of their peoples. The real test for the Contracting Parties will be the implementation of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from Land-Based Sources. Full implementation of this Protocol can be achieved only with the full cooperation of all Contracting Parties." ■



# "... The health of Mediterranean to the well-being of the people"

## INTERIM ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CRITERIA FOR BATHING WATERS

**1** The Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Athens, 10-13 April 1984) had recommended to adopt the WHO/UNEP interim environmental quality criteria of the Mediterranean bathing waters, shellfish and shellfish-growing waters and implement them to the extent possible by appropriate national, legal and/or administrative measures.

**2** On the basis of the results of MED POL VII and the analysis of the present national and international regulations related to the environmental quality criteria of the Mediterranean bathing waters, proposals were submitted for the consideration of the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation, with a view to their transmission by UNEP to the Contracting Parties.

*The Contracting Parties:*

**(a) Take measures** for a transition period that will ensure as minimum common requirements that the quality of bathing waters will conform with the proposed interim WHO/UNEP environmental quality criteria concerning faecal coliforms, (see table below):

- during this period, the Contracting Parties which have already standards will continue to apply them without modifying their legislation and will perform comparative studies between their own standards and the WHO/UNEP criteria;
- the results of these studies, after being evaluated by the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Cooperation, will be submitted to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties, with a view to reach Mediterranean common criteria.

**(b) Adopt** one of the "Methods for Marine Pollution Studies" developed to support the proposed interim environmental quality criteria as one of the two reference methods (Reference Methods for Pollution Studies Nos 3, "Determination of Faecal Coliforms in sea-water by the Membrane Filtration Culture (MFC) Method", or 22, "Determination of Faecal Coliforms in sea-water by the Multiple Test Tube (MPN) Method") to be used in connection with these criteria;

**(c) Include**, to the extent possible, all public coastal recreational beaches in their National Monitoring Programmes within the framework of MED POL - PHASE II;

**(d) Provide** the Secretariat to the Convention with the fullest information possible on:

- present legislation and administrative measures on existing national criteria for coastal recreational and shellfish-growing waters;
- measures taken on (a) and (c) above;
- relevant monitoring data from (c) above.

**(e) Continue** to provide full support to the research and monitoring component of MED POL - PHASE II relevant to the assessment of the environmental quality of bathing waters, shellfish and shellfish-growing waters, in particular to:

- studies on the intercomparison of various analytical techniques for the main microbiological indicators;

*As 100 million people live in the coastal population expected to increase to 200 million and another 100 million or more come to the Mediterranean for work and recreation, it is natural that the Contracting Parties, in their initial deliberations, set as a priority the implementation of the proposed Mediterranean pollution monitoring and control programme, a compilation of the maximum possible information on the Mediterranean marine environment. The Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation, through the implementation of the above programme, was designed to provide an input on which the Contracting Parties will be able to formulate a set of environmental quality criteria for the Mediterranean Sea.*

*Besides, the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean from Land-Based Sources, adopted by the Conference of plenipotentiaries of the Contracting Parties, stipulated that: "...the Parties shall progressively, in cooperation with competent international organizations, develop appropriate, standards or criteria dealing with water used for specific purposes that is essential for the health, living resources, and ecosystems".*

*As time passes quickly, just 5 years have passed since the work in the field of microbial and chemical pollution was begun at the Genoa Ordinary Meeting, in September 1980. The Working Group's recommendations it adopted in every aspect of its work, including bathing recommendations on the Interim Environmental Quality Criteria for Bathing Waters and for Mercury in Seafood.*

- development of sampling and analytical techniques for pathogenic organisms in coastal recreational and shellfish-growing waters;
- studies on the survival of pathogenic organisms in sea-water;
- expansion of the present programme of epidemiological studies to achieve the necessary information on the relationship between water quality and health effects ■

Interim environmental quality criteria for bathing waters in the Mediterranean Sea

Parameter	Concentrations per 100ml not to be exceeded		Minimum number of samples	Analytical method	Interpretation method
	50% of the samples	90% of the samples			
Faecal coliforms	100	1000	10	WHO/UNEP Reference Method for Marine Pollution Studies No. 3, "Determination of Faecal Coliforms in sea-water by the Membrane Filtrations Culture Method", or WHO/UNEP Reference Method for Marine Pollution Studies No. 22, "Determination of Faecal Coliforms in sea-water by the Multiple Test Tube Method"	Graphical or analytical adjustment to a log normal probability distribution



# Sea is of paramount importance people of the Mediterranean...''

al zones of the Mediterranean basin – million in the not too distant future – to its shores every year for relaxation Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention of the primary aims of the Co-ordinating and research programme (in 1975) the amount of data on the quality of the eventual evaluation of data collected research and monitoring programme Contracting Parties would base the criteria, applicable to the Mediterra-

of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution in Athens on 17 May 1980 by the Contracting States of the Mediterranean Region, jointly formulate and adopt, in cooperation, common guidelines and, as appropriate, particular with: ..the quality of sea water necessary for the protection of human

er – years marked by intense scientific pollution in the Mediterranean, the 1985, among the great number of recommendations, adopted also the following Environmental Quality Criteria for Bathing

## INTERIM ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CRITERIA FOR MERCURY

**1** According to the available evidence to date, on the basis of present concentrations of mercury in Mediterranean seafood, it appears that the consumption of seafood by the general population does not present any risk.

**2** It is considered therefore that, at this stage, the adoption of upper limits for mercury concentrations in seafood on a

common regional basis would not be a priori justified.

**3** On the basis of the assessment of the quality of Mediterranean seafood with regard to its mercury content prepared by FAO/UNEP, the Contracting Parties:

**(a) Take note** of the interim criterion proposed by the joint FAO/WHO Committee of Experts on food additives. According to this criterion, the Provisional Tolerable Weekly Intake of 0.3 mg of mercury, of which not more than 0.2 mg is methylmercury, for a person of 70 kg bodyweight, should not be exceeded;

**(b) Take** into consideration this criterion to establish, if national circumstances so require, standards for maximum concentration of mercury in seafoods;

**(c) Use** for the determination of total mercury the Reference Method "Determination of Total Mercury in Selected Marine Organisms by Cold Vapour Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry" (Reference Methods for Marine Pollution Studies No. 8/Rev. 1, UNEP/FAO/IAEA, /IOC/, 1984) and for the determination of methylmercury in marine organisms, the Reference Method "Determination of Methylmercury in Selected Marine Organisms by Gas Chromatography" (Reference Methods for Marine Pollution Studies No. 13, UNEP/FAO/IAEA, 1984). However, other methods giving comparable results could also be used;

**(d) Include**, to the extent possible, in their National Monitoring Programmes, the sampling and analysis of species of seafood, known to accumulate mercury, in addition to those already monitored in the framework of MED POL – PHASE II;

**(e) Limit** anthropogenic discharges of mercury into the Mediterranean Sea pend-

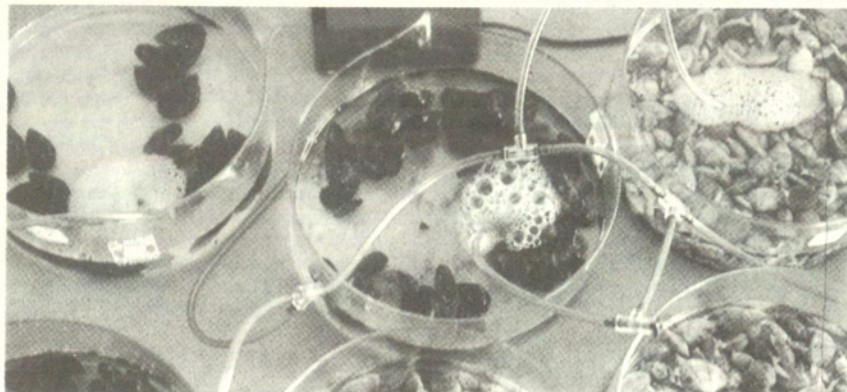
ing the eventual formulation of emission standards for mercury, as a result of the entry into force of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources, and in terms of article 5 of that Protocol, commence as early as possible, the elaboration of the necessary programmes and measures with respect to mercury;

**(f) Provide** the Secretariat to the Convention with the fullest information possible on:

- present legislation and administrative measures on existing national criteria for levels of mercury in seafood;
- measures taken on (b), (c), (d) and (e);
- relevant monitoring data on (d) above;

**(g) Continue** to carry out the monitoring and research component of MED POL – PHASE II relevant to the assessment of mercury content of Mediterranean seafoods, and the risks affecting all sectors of the population arising from seafood consumption, in particular:

- identification of population groups at risk;
- surveys on seafood consumption patterns among such populations;
- surveys on mercury levels in affected population groups;
- epidemiological studies to obtain the necessary information on the relationship between mercury intake and health effects;
- studies of the relationship between total mercury and methylmercury content of seafood, and the effects of cooking on such content;
- studies on biogeochemical cycles of mercury in the Mediterranean;
- studies on the effects of selenium in decreasing mercury toxicity ■





# In Genoa the Contracting Parties recommended: ACCELERATE ACTION!

Since Genoa, Mediterranean Action Plan has entered a decade of sharpened pollution conditions in the Mediterranean basin. MAP in our days is involved in more complex and difficult problems compared to its starting up period of early '70s. In 1985, the tourist population and activities in the area are increased, urbanisation goes on spreading out, agricultural practices are being more and more intensified, industrialization is crowding-up the green belt of the region, the volume of airborne pollution appears augmented, acid rain is "ante portas", technology's new applications has multiplied man's destruction effectiveness.

At the same time Mediterranean peoples' needs for long-term economic development, income growth and improvement of quality of life become almost evident, justifying their declared demand for a healthier and productive marine environment. These manifold, and to a certain extent, divergent social realities designate the complexities at the Co-ordinating Unit's function, explain the spectrum and the sophistication of MAP's operation and reflects the width and the multiplicity of the recommendations the week-long Fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Genoa in September 1985, adopted. A number of these recommendations - the most indicative at the Editor's free choice, of the pollution concerns of the Mediterranean States - covering almost every area of the Mediterranean Action Plan operations as well as principal subjects discussed in the Genoa Meeting, appear in the following lines:



#### The Contracting Parties:

**Reaffirm** the need to prepare a consolidated annual report on the steps taken in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols which should be submitted to the Secretariat by 30 June of each year.

**Invite** Contracting Parties to ratify the Protocol on Land-based Sources.

**Invite** Contracting Parties to ratify the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas.

**Invite** the Contracting Parties to ratify all international conventions relevant to the protection of the environment.

**Recommend** that adequate port reception facilities be provided in the Mediterranean as required by the MARPOL 73/78 Convention.



#### The Contracting Parties:

**Recommend** that all Coastal States develop and adopt national contingency plans, which are an essential prerequisite to building multilateral and sub-regional arrangements for mutual assistance in cases of emergency.

**Recommend** that the Regional Oil Combating Centre develops proposals for sub-regional co-operation arrangements in case of emergencies involving oil pollution.

#### The Contracting Parties:

**Note** with satisfaction the consolidation of the Regional Activity Centres for the Blue Plan (Sophia Antipolis), the Priority Actions Programme (Split) and the Specially Protected Areas (Tunis). Agreements with host countries covering the Centres should be completed as soon as possible.

**Reconfirm** that the Regional Activity Centres are national institutions entrusted to carry out specific tasks under the Mediterranean Action Plan.

**Welcome** the recommended steps to be taken in order to initiate action at the country level to publicize the role of the Mediterranean Action Plan in protecting the Mediterranean Sea against pollution, as proposed by the meeting of Directors of United Nations Information Centres, in particular by promoting the Mediterranean Environment Week.

**Welcome** the issue of the Mediterranean Action Plan Information bulletin, MEDWAVES, and consider it an important contribution to the information exchange.

#### The Contracting Parties:



**Consider** it necessary to create and circulate as soon as possible a document for use by the States, describing in detail the procedure of the scenarios, the baseline hypotheses, data and sources, and the goals to be achieved.

**Reiterate** their commitment to the completion of the Blue Plan exercise by the end of 1987.

**Request** an in-depth review by the Contracting Parties of the results of the Blue Plan, and examination of its relevance for national development strategies (by 1988/89).

#### The Contracting Parties:

**Recommend** that the States who have not yet done so, designate the PAP National Focal Points to provide full support to Priority Actions Programme. Whenever appropriate and feasible, it would be desirable that the National Focal Points for the Blue Plan and for the Priority Actions Programme are identical in order to ensure the harmonious development of the integrated planning and management component of the Action Plan;

**Recommend** that the involvement of national institutions and experts be encouraged, in order to facilitate the establishment of Priority Actions Programme networks of institutions and experts giving their contribution to the Priority Actions Programme.



#### The Contracting Parties:

**Invite** the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas to formulate, in co-operation with the Secretariat and other relevant international organizations, common guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of Specially Protected Areas.

**Recommend** the preparation of national reports on existing and planned Specially Protected Areas and on the applicable legislation and transmit it to the Secretariat by 30 June 1986 in order to facilitate the early establishment of a regional network and co-ordination with other MAP components.

**Recommend** that all Contracting Parties designate a National Focal Point responsible for Specially Protected Areas.



**Recommend** the ratification of the Specially Protected Areas Protocol by all Parties to the Barcelona Convention by 1987.

The Contracting Parties recommend for the 1986-87 bienium:

- Continuation of negotiations with the MED POL National Co-ordinators in order to increase the contributions to MED POL-PHASE II through their National Monitoring Programmes; specific efforts will be made to improve the presently insufficient coverage of the Mediterranean with the monitoring programme and to achieve a more efficient and meaningful regular reporting on the obtained results;
- Provision of equipment, training and fellowships to national research centres, at the request of, and in consultation with, MED POL National Co-ordinators in the States with signed National Monitoring Programmes;
- Continued support to the participants in MED POL through the common maintenance services, provision of reference methods for marine pollution studies, provision of reference material and standards, and through involvement in intercalibration in order to assist them to improve the quality of their data;
- Preparation of inventories of sources and amounts of pollutants from land-based sources;



- Sponsoring the participation of scientists/experts in meetings organized by other bodies on subjects relevant to monitoring activities of MED POL;
- The already existing close link between the research and the monitoring components of MED POL will be strengthened in order to make full use of the results of the research activities in the assessments of the state of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea.
- In order to facilitate the evaluation of the results coming from individual research projects, a more co-ordinated approach in the implementation of the projects will be followed. Scientific workshops and experts meetings will be held on topics which need a common methodology for sampling and analysis and co-ordination of work between research centres.

● A pilot project on studying air pollutant depositions into the Mediterranean region and pollutant concentrations in air should be initiated in 1986 in as many countries as possible on the basis of programme proposals agreed upon by experts nominated by National Co-ordinators.

● Early implementation of the Land-Based Sources Protocol is a single most important contribution to the control of pollutants entering the Mediterranean Sea.



● The Secretariat will propose an order of priority and a realistic timetable for the development of programmes and measures for at least two substances annually, including common emission standards and standards of use, required for the implementation of the Land-Based Sources Protocol.

● In preparing such a proposal, the substances of annex I of the Land-Based Sources Protocol as well as pathogenic organisms will be taken into account as higher priority than the remaining annex II substances.

● All Contracting Parties should ratify the Land-Based Sources Protocol by 1987.

● The annex related to air pollution in the framework of the Land-Based Sources Protocol should be adopted by 1988.

● For the implementation of the Land-Based Sources Protocol it is essential that the survey of land-based sources and amounts of pollutants reaching the Mediterranean be made by the end of 1986.

● The Contracting Parties which have not yet done so should designate without delay "competent authorities", in accordance with article 10 of the Dumping Protocol.

● On the basis of information provided by the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat should prepare and circulate a roster of experts and institutions capable of providing technical assistance on matters of dumping of wastes at sea and on alternative methods for waste disposal.

● Relationships with other organizations. ■

# THE MAP CALENDAR

## OF MEETINGS

JANUARY - JUNE 1986

Inter-Agency Advisory Committee on MED POL (IAAC-XIX)	13-17 Jan. Athens
Review meeting on Jelly fish Programme	27-29 Jan. Trieste
Seminar of the Federation of Arab sea ports	Jan. Tunis
First meeting of the Bureau	Feb.
Fifth meeting of the Steering Committee of the Blue Plan	12-13 Mar. Sophia Antipolis
Meeting of experts on solid and liquid waste management (guidelines for monitoring)	24-27 Mar. Split
Meeting of experts on tourism	7- 9 Apr. Split
Seminar on historic settlements	16-19 Apr. Split
Joint meeting of BP/PAP National Focal Points	23-25 April Athens
Seminar on environmental aspects of aquaculture	21-30 Apr. Volos
Training Course on oil pollution combating MEDIPOL 86	May
Seminar on earthquake zones (case studies and the project proposal)	26-30 May Genoa
Meeting of the Working Group on Scientific and Technical Co-operation	16-20 June Athens
Seminar on integrated planning of Mediterranean coastal zones	23-27 June Athens

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*If you would like to propose an article on a subject related to marine science, please address to: Yannis Troumbis, Editor, MEDWAVES, Co-ordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan 48 Vas. Konstantinou Ave., 11635 Athens Greece. Tel. (00301) 723 6586. Telex 222 611 MEDU-GR*



# ECHOES

## from the Palazzo Tursi debates

★ THE CATALYTIC role MAP Co-ordinating Unit has played in promoting, with significant success, the objectives set and the works provided for by the Barcelona Convention and its Related Protocols was unanimously acknowledged by the Genoa Meeting. However UNEP's Executive Director, in his opening statement grasped the opportunity to remind Mediterranean delegations, that "Mediterranean governments do have the apparatus to bring their national and bilateral activities into line with the Action Plan. International obligations must be translated into national laws and practice; the provisions of the Convention should be implemented in their entirety; common standards should be adopted; national monitoring programmes will have to become operational in every coastal state".

★ AFTER CONSULTATIONS, and in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, the Meeting unanimously elected the following officers from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties:

H.E. Mr Javier L. Saenz de Coscolluela (Spain)	<i>President</i>
H.E. Mr Abderrahmane Boufettas (Morocco)	<i>Vice-President</i>
H.E. Mr Abdoul-Hamid Munajid (Syrian Arab Rep.)	<i>Vice-President</i>
Ms Nuran Talu (Turkey)	<i>Rapporteur</i>

★ THE SECRETARIAT expressed its satisfaction at the attendance of Albania for the first time as an observer, and offered any assistance required. The Secretariat also thanked Greece, the host country of the Co-ordinating Unit, for its strong support.

★ ALL DELEGATIONS that participated in the Genoa Meeting debates described their countries' activities and national experience in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols.

★ MEDITERRANEAN states delegates expressed the view that progress has been achieved in attaining MAP's goals during

the past 10 years in the scientific fields and in reducing pollution of the Mediterranean Sea from urban sources. However, they did not fail to underline that there are major environmental problems to be tackled during the next decade.

★ THE RATIFICATION of various Barcelona Convention Protocols by their countries was announced by a number of delegations.

★ MED POL was appraised as the most successful programme of the Action Plan; yet it was pointed out that it should become more effective and oriented towards priority areas. Monitoring and research activities were found important tools in providing the Contracting Parties with a better picture of the state of the Mediterranean Sea.

★ THE MEETING noted with satisfaction that concern for the environment had permitted co-operation in the region and the hope was expressed that it could be extended to other economic and technical fields. As it was noted, the Mediterranean Action Plan has been an example of fruitful North-South co-operation.

★ EMPHASIS was placed on the fact that the most important contributions to the MAP objectives were the actions taken by the individual countries.

★ THE SUPPORT of the specialized agencies was acknowledged by the Meeting participants and it was suggested that others too might also become closely involved.

★ MANY DELEGATIONS commented on specific targets to be achieved, such as the establishment of permanent or floating reception facilities in the main ports of the Mediterranean Sea, the designation of historic sites of special Mediterranean interest, and the protection of threatened Mediterranean species.

★ THE EARLY ratification by the Contracting Parties of the MARPOL 73/78 Convention — which considers the Mediterranean Sea to be a "special area" — was urged by some delegations.

★ THE ADOPTION of a new protocol on the prevention of pollution from off-shore exploration and exploitation was proposed by some Mediterranean countries; others expressed the view that there is no need to establish new protocols before existing ones are implemented.

★ THE VIEW was expressed that the function of the Regional Oil Combating Centre in Malta should be widened to include other harmful substances.

★ SEVERAL DELEGATIONS expressed appreciation and paid tribute to UNEP for its dedicated efforts to ensure the success of the Mediterranean Action Plan, and voiced their hope that support would continue and be intensified.

★ THE REDUCTION of administrative costs was also one of the questions raised in the meeting.

★ READINESS to accept the Executive Director's recommendations for 1986-87, including the proposed programme and budget for the forthcoming biennium, was expressed by some delegations.

★ THE IMPORTANCE of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from Land-based Sources was strongly supported by certain delegations.

★ THE PARTICIPANTS to the Genoa Meeting welcomed the publication of the MAP Bulletin MEDWAVES as a significant step towards ensuring the exchange of information among the Contracting Parties and contributing to the public awareness.

★ SOME DELEGATIONS expressed the view that developing countries Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention were in need of equipment, materials, and training programmes for their nationals in order to participate more actively in the various activities of the Mediterranean Action Plan. Other delegations considered that the transfer of know-how was an important element in the whole exercise of the Mediterranean Action Plan and that the mechanisms necessary for its realization should be launched ■

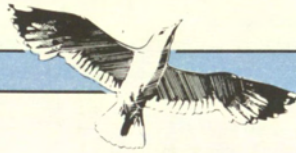
### VOTE OF THANKS

*At the conclusion of its work, the Genoa Meeting unanimously expressed its deep appreciation and sincere thanks to the Italian Government, the Regione Liguria and the city of Genoa for the open-hearted and bountiful hospitality shown its members and for the efficient services placed at its disposal. It much appreciated the proposal to hold at Genoa in 1988 an International Exhibition on the Mediterranean Sea, to be devoted to the major components of the Mediterranean Action Plan: natural environment, Mediterranean peoples and technologies for the ecological protection of the sea. Welcoming the Italian suggestion, the Meeting was very pleased that the Exhibition is to be held under the high patronage of the Mediterranean Action Plan.*









# THE GENOA DECLARATION

ON THE SECOND MEDITERRANEAN DECADE

**T**HE Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its related protocols, meeting in Genoa on 9-13 September 1985;

— having reviewed their co-operation in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan over the past ten years and the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) therein;

**1. Consider** that the actions already taken and the progress achieved are positive developments, while noting that the state of the environmental quality of the Mediterranean Sea requires great acceleration of action to improve it;

**2. Firmly believe** that their co-operation in the protection of the Mediterranean is a good example of the contribution of environmental protection towards sustainable development, and better understanding among the people of the region;

**3. Consider** that the health of the Mediterranean is of paramount importance to the well-being of the peoples of the Mediterranean in their totality;

**4. Further consider** that the political will and solidarity of all countries concerned are already in place and that the foundation is already established for more concrete action to protect their common heritage;

**5. Reaffirm** their commitment to the protection of the Mediterranean Sea through the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan which is a very useful mechanism to ensure their common action;

**6. Reaffirm** their determination to co-operate for the protection of the Mediterranean environment and the rational use of its resources, especially through the harmonization of legislation and developing common standards; strengthening research and monitoring centres; the establishment of training programmes; the transfer of know-how; and broadening the scope of technical co-operation with developing countries of the region to enable them to meet their obligations in the protection of the Mediterranean;

**7. Commit themselves** to accelerate the implementation of national and international programmes in order to achieve the objectives of the various components of the Action Plan;

**8. Commit themselves** to increase in-

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The Declaration on the Second Mediterranean Decade, adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention on their Fourth Ordinary Meeting, in Genoa, September 1985, crystallises the hopes, the concerns and, above all, the determination of Mediterranean peoples to secure a healthy marine environment for them and for the future generations

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vestment to combat pollution and to increase their vigilance on the application and adherence to the legislation on the protection of the environment;

**9. Decide** to use the budget of the Action Plan in a catalytic way in projects with organizations willing to contribute their own resources;

**10. Decide** to increase efforts, through all appropriate information channels, to make the aims and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan more widely known;

**11. Recognize** that the provisions of the Action Plan should constitute an important framework for national development activities;

**12. Further recognize** that the support of the international, regional and non-governmental organizations is essential for the full achievement of the goals of the Mediterranean Action Plan;

**13. Consider** that the protection of the Mediterranean requires major support of governments' efforts through a much greater acceleration of the action-oriented activities of parliaments, local authorities, industries, non-governmental organizations, the scientific community, the media and the public at large to reverse the trend of deterioration of the sea and of its coastal areas;

**14. Appeal** to the 350 million inhabitants of the Mediterranean Coastal States and to the

100 million tourists visiting the region, to become more aware of the exceptional natural, economic and cultural values of the Mediterranean and to commit themselves individually and collectively to its protection;

**15. Invite the governments** to proclaim an annual Mediterranean Environment Week to serve as the rallying point for local, national and regional initiatives for its protection;

**16. Decide** to launch a new phase of their co-operative efforts to accelerate ongoing activities and to achieve concrete targets during the second decade of the Mediterranean Action Plan;

**17. Adopt** the following ten targets to be achieved as a matter of priority during the second decade of the Mediterranean Action Plan:

(a) Establishment of reception facilities for dirty ballast waters and other oily residues received from tankers and ships in ports of the Mediterranean;

(b) Establishment as a matter of priority of sewage treatment plants in all cities around the Mediterranean with more than 100,000 inhabitants and appropriate outfalls and/or appropriate treatment plants for all towns with more than 10,000 inhabitants;

(c) Applying environmental impact assessment as an important tool to ensure proper development activities;

(d) Co-operation to improve the safety of maritime navigation and to reduce substantially the risk of transport of dangerous toxic substances likely to affect the coastal areas or induce marine pollution;

(e) Protection of the endangered marine species (e.g. Monk seal and Mediterranean sea turtle);

(f) Concrete measures to achieve substantial reduction in industrial pollution and disposal of solid waste;

(g) Identification and protection of at least 100 coastal historic sites of common interest;

(h) Identification and protection of at least 50 new marine and coastal sites or reserves of Mediterranean interest;

(i) Intensify effective measures to prevent and combat forest fires, soil loss and desertification;

(j) Substantial reduction in air pollution which adversely affects coastal areas and the marine environment with the potential danger of acid rains. ■