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ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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27th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Athens, Greece, 8 February 2016

Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2016

Table of contents

Report		Pages
		1
Annexes		
Annex I	List of Participants	
Annex II	Agenda	

I. Agenda item 1: Preparation of the COP 19

1. The 27th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held in Athens, Greece on 8 February 2016. The meeting was attended by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator, Deputy Coordinator, MED POL Programme Officer and the Directors of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs), namely the Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre (INFO/RAC), the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (PB/RAC), the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Activity Centre (SCP/RAC) and the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC). The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, Coordinator opened the meeting and introduced the provisional agenda. He presented the main objectives of the COP 19 preparations.

II. Agenda item 2: Any other issues

3. Mr. Gaetano Leone, Coordinator informed ECP members that Albania, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, and Tunisia and have shown interest in beholding the Bureau. It was highlighted that this meets geographic requirements and rotation.
4. The Coordinator informed ECP members that Mr. Lorenzo Galbiati, MedPartnership Programme Officer, will be representing the Secretariat in the Athens Declaration Working Group. In addition, Ms. Zeljka Skaricic, was asked to support Mr. Galbiati in this task, and she accepted.
5. Reference to the Climate Change Adaptation Framework document mention in regard to its political nature and its guidance role. Its quality was highlighted, as well as the fact that it provides a roadmap for the future.
6. ECP members discussed the issue of budgeting operational costs in the 2016-2017 budget and raised questions on how it was prepared. According to ECP members, the allocation in the Budget was not sufficient. Some emphasized that a broader consultation process should have taken place. They referred to the fact that when administrative and operational costs are cited, salaries are not the only topic at stake but that there are also shortages of other nature. It was suggested to initiate well in advance the discussions on the budget for the 2018-2019 between the Secretariat and the Component.
7. Both Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator showed their understanding to the ECP members' comments. Although the CU did not feel that consultations had been insufficient, they agreed that the results were less than optimal. However, the Deputy Coordinator recalled that there had been an increment in the allocation based on 2015.
8. The Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator would bring the concerns of the RACs to the attention of the COP. However, they also stressed that the political message repeatedly given by the Parties at previous COP meetings, i.e. to reduce the ratio of operational costs versus activity costs, could not be ignored and had to be put in practice.
9. The Coordinator closed the meeting at 18.00

Annex I

List of participants

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Annex II

Agenda

Agenda

- I. Agenda item 1: Preparation of the COP 19
 - a. Provisional Annotated Agenda Rev.1
 - b. Tasks and Responsibilities
- II. Agenda item 2: Any other issues