

**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



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ENGLISH



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Third meeting of the Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts for the implementation of Guidelines for the Determination of Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Pollution of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean Sea Area

Athens, Greece, 22-23 January 2009

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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Introduction

1. At their last meeting held in Almeria (Spain) on 15-18 January 2008, the Contracting Parties adopted Decision IG 17/4 on Guidelines for the Determination of Liability and Compensation for Damage resulting from Pollution of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean Sea Area and decided to establish a Working Group to facilitate and assess their implementation.
2. In this regard, the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties approved a number of activities and also requested the Secretariat to hold two meetings of the Working Group. The Third meeting of the Working Group will be held at the Park Hotel, Athens, Greece (10 Alexandras Avenue, Tel: 30-210-8832711-19; Fax: +30-210-8238420).
3. The objectives of the meeting are:
 - a) to discuss general issues related to liability and compensation regimes applied at the Contracting Party level, achievements, difficulties and challenges ;
 - b) to draft and agree on a programme of work based on priority needs of the Contracting Parties in view of promoting and facilitating the implementation of MAP Guidelines on Liability and Compensation at the regional, sub regional and domestic level, as appropriate;
 - c) to induce a debate on possible future developments with regard to further strengthening of the liability and compensation regime established under Barcelona Convention/Mediterranean Action Plan.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

4. The meeting will be opened on Thursday, 22 January 2009 at 09.30 hrs by the MAP Coordinator and will be closed at 18.00 hrs on Friday, 23 January, 2009.

Agenda item 2: Election of Officers

5. In accordance with Rule 20 of "Rules of Procedures of the Barcelona Convention", the Meeting will elect a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and organization of work

6. The Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat was distributed as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.329/1 and its annotation is contained in the present document.
7. The meeting will review and adopt the proposed Provisional Agenda and the timetable.
8. The working languages of the meeting will be English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Agenda item 4: **State of the art of liability and compensation regimes applied by the Contracting Parties**

9. The Secretariat and the consultant will make a concise presentation of the main findings on the basis of the answers provided to the questionnaire, focusing on achievements, gaps and challenges. Members of the Working Group will be invited to take the floor and make short presentations on their own situation.

10. The Secretariat will also make a short presentation with proposals by the countries on their needs for capacity building, training on specific subjects, etc. The meeting is expected to address and decide on priority needs.

Agenda item 5: **Possible future development in view of strengthening the Mediterranean cooperation on liability and compensation issues and promoting the relevant MAP Guidelines implementation**

11. The Secretariat and the legal consultant will present a document addressing possible future developments. The meeting will be invited to an open debate on these issues and advise the Secretariat as appropriate.

Agenda item 6: **Reporting format on the implementation of MAP Liability and Compensation Guidelines**

12. The Secretariat will propose the current questionnaire as a base for developing a reporting format on the implementation guidelines. The meeting will be invited to make proposals and suggestions in this regard, and decide as appropriate.

Agenda item 7: **Elaboration of a draft programme of work to facilitate the implementation of MAP Guidelines on Liability and Compensation**

13. The Secretariat will submit for discussion a short/medium term draft programme of work with actions to be taken at the regional, sub regional level and or party level to assist the countries to implement the guidelines (to be drafted on the spot on the basis of the discussions under agenda item 4). Possibilities for synergy, collaboration and financial support for its implementation will be also addressed.

Agenda item 8: **Next meeting of the Working Group and its main agenda items**

14. The meeting will discuss the dates and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group and its main agenda items.

Agenda item 9: **Other matters**

15. The meeting will discuss any other issue that might arise.

Agenda item 10: **Adoption of conclusions**

16. The meeting is expected to adopt the conclusions, while the draft report of the meeting will be disseminated electronically.

Agenda item 11: **Closure of the meeting**

17. The meeting will be adjourned by the MAP Coordinator at 18.00 hours on Friday, 23 January 2009.

TIMETABLE

Thursday, 22 January 2009	
0930-0945	Opening of the Meeting
0945-1100	Agenda items 1,2, 3, 4
1100-1130	<i>Coffee break</i>
1130-1300	Agenda item 4 (continuation),
1300-1430	<i>Lunch</i>
1430-1600	Agenda items 4 (continuation), 5
1600-1630	<i>Coffee break</i>
1630-1830	Agenda item 5 (continuation)
Friday, 23 January 2009	
0900-1100	Agenda item 6
1100-1130	<i>Coffee break</i>
1130-1300	Agenda item 7
1300-1430	<i>Lunch</i>
1430-1800	Agenda items 8, 9, 10, 11