



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED CC.15/13



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

14 May 2019
Original: English

15th Meeting of the Compliance Committee of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

Athens, Greece, 25-26 June 2019

Agenda item 9: Draft Decision to the 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 21)

Draft COP 21 Decision: Compliance Committee: Biennium 2018-2019

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2019

Note by the Secretariat

1. In preparation for the 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), this document presents a preliminary draft COP Decision on “*Compliance Committee: biennium 2018-2019*” for the Compliance Committee’s consideration. It is proposed to attach the following documents to the draft Decision:

- (a) The Activity Report of the Compliance Committee for the biennium 2018-2019, as adopted intersessionally;
- (b) The Programme of Work of the Compliance Committee, as adopted at the 15th Meeting of the Compliance Committee;
- (c) The recommendations to improve the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as adopted at the 15th Meeting of the Compliance Committee, if the Committee so concludes;
- (d) The list of Members or Alternate Members of the Compliance Committee renewed or elected by the 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

[Draft decision IG.24/XX]
Compliance Committee: Biennium 2018–2019

The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols at their twenty-first Meeting,

Having considered the text of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols, in particular Article 27 thereof on Compliance,

Recalling Decision IG.17/2 of the fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 15) (Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008) on Procedures and Mechanisms on Compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as amended by Decision IG.20/1 of the seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 17) (Paris, France, 8-10 February 2012) and Decision IG.21/1 of the eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 18) (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013),

Recalling also Decision IG.19/1 of the sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 16) (Marrakesh, Morocco, 3-5 November 2009) on the Rules of Procedure of the Compliance Committee, as amended by Decision IG.21/1 of the eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 18) (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013),

Emphasizing the facilitative nature of the Compliance Committee in promoting compliance with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols by providing advice and assisting Contracting Parties, as well as the role of the Compliance Committee in considering specific situations of actual or potential non-compliance by individual Contracting Parties and, at the request of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, general compliance issues and any other issues,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the Compliance Committee during the biennium 2018–2019,

Seeking to promote the identification, as early as possible, of implementation challenges encountered by Contracting Parties, and the adoption of and recommendations on the most appropriate and effective measures addressing those challenges,

Stressing that the submission of national implementation reports by Contracting Parties, as per Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention, is instrumental in providing the Compliance Committee with the resources needed to perform its role in considering specific and general compliance issues,

Welcoming the submission of the national implementation reports for the biennia 2016-2017, using the new online Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS), and the progress made by Contracting Parties in implementing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols,

Recognizing the challenges faced by Parties in reporting and implementing, and the need to ensure that legal and technical advice is delivered to facilitate their reporting process and that, as resources allow and in collaboration with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, capacity building initiatives should be explored to enhance implementation,

Conscious of the need to continue enhancing the effectiveness of the compliance mechanisms and procedures, thus strengthening the role of the Compliance Committee in facilitating and promoting compliance with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols,

Having considered the meeting reports of the biennium 2018–2019 submitted by the Compliance Committee to the Contracting Parties at their twenty-first meeting,

1. *Take note* of the Activity Report of the Compliance Committee for the biennium 2018-2019, as contained in Annex I to the present Decision;
2. *Adopt* the Programme of Work of the Compliance Committee for the biennium 2018-2019, as contained in Annex II to the present Decision;
3. *Adopt* the recommendations to improve the implementation of the Barcelona

Convention and its Protocols, as contained in Annex III to the present Decision;

4. *Urge* those Contracting Parties who have not yet submitted their national implementation reports for the biennium 2018-2019 to do so by [March 2020];

5. *Invite* Contracting Parties to submit their national implementation reports for the biennium 2018-2019 using the new online Barcelona Convention Reporting System by [December 2020];

6. *Elect and/or renew*, in accordance with the Procedures and Mechanisms on Compliance, the membership of the Compliance Committee, as set out in Annex III to the present Decision;

7. *Request* the Compliance Committee to report to the Contracting Parties at their twenty-two meeting on the work it has carried out to fulfil its functions in accordance with paragraph 31 of the Procedures and Mechanisms on Compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.]