

REPORT
OF THE MEETING ON THE MEDITERRANEAN OF THE
CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

The representatives of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, the Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Yugoslavia met at the CSCE Meeting on the Mediterranean held in Palma de Mallorca from 24 September to 19 October in accordance with the relevant provisions contained in the Concluding Document of the Vienna CSCE Follow-up Meeting 1986.

The representative of the German Democratic Republic attended the Meeting until 2 October.

Representatives of the non-participating Mediterranean States (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia) and of the competent international organizations (UNESCO, ECE, UNEP, WHO, ITU and IMO) were invited to participate in the Meeting in accordance with the Concluding Document of the Vienna CSCE Follow-up Meeting 1986 and participated in the work of the Meeting under the procedure set out in the invitation.

The representative of Albania attended the Meeting as observer.

The formal opening was attended by H.M. the King of Spain. The Meeting was opened by the Spanish Foreign Minister and closed by the Spanish Minister of Public Works and Urban Development, also responsible for the environment.

At the plenary meetings, statements were made by delegates of the participating States, among them members of governments as well as a member of the Commission of the European Communities. Contributions were also made by representatives of Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, and of UNESCO, ECE and UNEP.

In the course of the Meeting, references were made to fundamental political changes that have occurred in Europe since the conclusion of the Vienna CSCE Meeting and to their positive relevance to the Mediterranean region.

The participating States recognized that the CSCE process had contributed significantly to bringing about these changes and that those developments had greatly advanced the implementation of the Final Act and of the other CSCE Documents.

The participating States reaffirmed their commitment to all ten principles of the Final Act's Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States and their determination to respect them and put them into practice.

The participating States expressed their conviction that full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the development of societies based on pluralistic democracy and the rule of law were prerequisites for progress in setting up a lasting order of peace, security, justice and co-operation.

They also supported continued efforts to implement the relevant recommendations of the CSCE Meetings on the Mediterranean held in Valletta in 1979 and in Venice in 1984.

The participating States reaffirmed their commitment to, and stressed the continuing relevance of, the provisions of the CSCE concerning security and co-operation in the Mediterranean. They reiterated their conviction that security in Europe was to be considered also in the broader context of world security and was closely linked with security in the Mediterranean area as a whole.

They expressed their concern over the continuing tensions in the region and renewed their determination to intensify efforts towards finding just, viable and lasting solutions, through peaceful means, to outstanding crucial problems, based on respect for the Principles of the Final Act.

In the course of the Meeting a suggestion was made that, when circumstances allowed, a meeting outside the CSCE could take place that, inspired by experiences of the CSCE process, could discuss a set of generally accepted rules and principles in the fields of stability, co-operation and the human dimension in the Mediterranean.

The participating States during their exchange of views on item 3 of the Agenda, reaffirmed their will to strengthen their co-operation and intensify efforts aimed at further enhancing various aspects of co-operation, including the protection and improvement of Mediterranean ecosystems, with the objective of widening the scope of their co-operation with the non-participating Mediterranean States and contributing to the strengthening of stability in the region.

The presence of the eight non-participating Mediterranean States and their contribution to the Meeting were a positive development.

The participating States expressed the wish to promote favourable conditions for a harmonious development and diversification of relations with the non-participating Mediterranean States. They expressed their intention to work together with the non-participating Mediterranean States to expand their co-operation in various fields in order to promote favourable political, cultural and economic conditions.

The importance of developing intra-Mediterranean relations and, in particular, trade and economic co-operation in this region was stressed. That perspective, as well as the promotion of sustainable development aimed at bringing the coastal countries closer, required national efforts in order to ensure the identification of adequate priorities, strengthen the trend towards market economies and underline human rights. Based on respect for the Helsinki principles, such efforts should rely on political, cultural, religious and economic conditions, leading to active co-operation between the participating States and the non-participating States.

The participating States noted the increasing significance of ecological issues in the context of their co-operation within the CSCE framework. They recognized the need to provide for ecological stability in the Mediterranean region. At the same time they

underlined the importance of the global aspects, including the preparatory work for the 1992 United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development.

The marine environment and that of watercourses as well as terrestrial ecosystems in the Mediterranean region had today become so fragile that the future of the region and its socio-economic development required an increased effort in different fields: protection of the sea; conservation of water resources; air pollution prevention; sound waste management, especially for toxic waste; forest-fire fighting and policies against desertification; protection of biological diversity, particularly of ecosystems and species; and development of environmentally sound tourism. The deterioration of the environment including the cultural heritage would be an additional risk for the political, social and economic balance in the region.

The participating States recognized the work under way to tackle the major environmental problems facing the Mediterranean region. Since the adoption of the Mediterranean Action Plan co-ordinated by UNEP in 1975, a major international effort had been put in hand involving several United Nations agencies, including ECE, UNEP, UNESCO, WHO, ITU, IMO, UNDP and FAO, as well as the European Communities and major international institutions such as the World Bank and the European Investment Bank. A number of key international instruments, notably the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, had also been put in place. Those activities provided a solid platform for the proposals set out below, which are intended to support and, where necessary, to augment them.

The participating States recognized that all sectors of society, including governments, the public and industry, bore a responsibility for integrating environmental considerations into economic and social policy- and decision-making, thereby contributing to sustainable development. Policies should be guided, *inter alia*, by the Polluter Pays Principle and the Precautionary Principle. The participating States found it necessary to promote greater environmental awareness in the countries concerned by means of educational and vocational training measures and by information campaigns. They also underlined the importance of the contribution of persons and organizations dedicated to the protection and improvement of the environment. They stressed the need to respect the right of such persons and organizations freely to express their concerns.

The participating States reaffirmed their willingness expressed at the Sofia CSCE Meeting on the Protection of the Environment to continue to promote exchanges of information and environmental data. Such co-operation should be of special significance for increasing the effectiveness of environmental protection measures in the Mediterranean region.

Mediterranean co-operation would benefit from closer relations between participating States and non-participating States and should include equally training, scientific and technological research, utilization of energy resources, statistical harmonization and environmentally sound technologies.

Subsidiary Working Body I dealt with item 4 of the Agenda: Specific aspects of co-operation.

Subsidiary Working Body II dealt with item 5 of the Agenda: Protection of Mediterranean ecosystems.

A. SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF CO-OPERATION

1. Examination of the opportunities offered to contribute to the faster social and economic development of the countries of the region, in particular those which are developing from an economic point of view

1.1 Positive political changes in Europe and economic dynamism, combined with improved market access, have been an important external factor for the economic, social and human rights development of the Mediterranean region. The participating States confirm their willingness to continue to co-operate, where appropriate, through a policy of friendly and open relations, with the non-participating Mediterranean States. It is also necessary that the non-participating Mediterranean States broadly liberalize intra-Mediterranean trade. Regional and subregional integration under way in the Mediterranean area among some non-participating Mediterranean States, especially if combined with an easing of political tensions, should lead to more intensive trade. Initiatives along those lines should be supported.

1.2 Co-operation projects and financial measures in this region should be co-ordinated, when appropriate, among and between donors and recipient States and other relevant bodies, in order to avoid duplication. In some cases, projects should be carried out at the multilateral level to ensure maximum effectiveness. One of the main requirements for the creation of millions of jobs is the economic and political stability of the region. This in turn will only come about if there is a freer and more equitable political and economic environment, based on sustainable economic growth.

1.3 The participating States are prepared to co-operate with the non-participating Mediterranean States in meeting those challenges. To this end they will examine possibilities for achieving equitable market access and for improved financial, technical and economic co-operation, when considered appropriate by individual participating States. The guidelines for action in these fields in the Mediterranean should entail in particular:

- support for regional co-operation and integration among Mediterranean countries;
- intensified efforts regarding environmental projects in the countries concerned;

- further support for private investment and joint ventures as a means of creating new employment opportunities;
- effective use of forms of co-operation such as Mediterranean concerns, consortia, and trade and business associations;
- more intensive dialogue with Mediterranean partners on fundamental issues of economic policy in particular;
- the need for policies aimed at economic and social development to incorporate environmental considerations and thereby promote sustainable development.

1.4 Financial assistance and other forms of co-operation alone cannot constitute an adequate response. The solution to the problems of the Mediterranean region will be facilitated through far-reaching economic reforms, the introduction of market mechanisms, a real effort to tackle demographic problems, the promotion of political reforms aimed at achieving democracy and a multi-party system, and guarantees of human rights for all citizens. It is the economic, fiscal, legal and social infrastructure and political conditions that determine the extent to which economic operators are prepared to engage in economic and industrial co-operation. The Mediterranean countries are encouraged to assess their possibilities and interests in this regard.

1.5 The participating States emphasize that rational development of transport infrastructure is of importance for co-operation with and within the Mediterranean region. They believe it is useful to continue the analysis of the current and potential transport flows, in particular multimodal transport in the Mediterranean region. They note the fruitful work of the ECE and UNDP, and the appropriateness of continuing this activity.

1.6 The participating States note the importance of continued comprehensive discussion of issues relating to the social and economic development of the countries of the region and co-operation among them. With this purpose in mind, relying on the work of the United Nations and other relevant international organizations, they also believe it is useful to seek

adequate fora (conferences, expert meetings, round tables, study visits) on economic co-operation of the Mediterranean and other States concerned.

1.7 The participating States welcome the Environmental Program for the Mediterranean initiated in 1990 by the World Bank and the European Investment Bank.

2. Examination of possibilities for the harmonization of statistical methods

The aim is the publication and availability of comprehensive, comparable and updated economic, commercial and demographic data as an instrument for co-operation and as a basis for efficient business relations. To this end, the participating States express their view that a meeting of statistical offices of the Mediterranean countries could be convened by an appropriate institution, such as the ECE Conference of European Statisticians, to discuss harmonization of statistical methods and to consider possible assistance in the field of statistics.

3. Encouragement of contacts at various levels (expert meetings, round tables, study visits) with a view to contributing to the implementation of concrete programmes for co-operation

Contacts and co-operation among all the Mediterranean countries should be systematically encouraged since they are a source of peace, stability and economic development in the region. Such contacts should take place at governmental, non-governmental and people-to-people levels. Contacts in the form of expert meetings, round tables and study visits could deal with cultural, religious, human-rights, demographic, environmental, agricultural, water-resources, transport, communication and economic subjects, including small and medium-sized enterprises. They have a special role in the development of economic infrastructure in the region. The need for establishing economic, legal, banking and other conditions that would take into account the requirements of such enterprises could also be discussed in this context together with arrangements providing these enterprises with appropriate conditions.

4. Co-operation in the field of solar and wind energy

The Mediterranean region offers excellent climatic conditions for the application of solar and wind energy. The uses of solar and wind energy as well as of other alternative and renewable energy sources, the adoption of energy savings measures and the setting up of pilot plants should be intensified. Consideration should be given to setting up - with suitable environmental precautions - solar, wind, biomass, geothermal and hydroelectric power plants to help solve the problems connected with environmental hazards and the depletion of fossil fuels. Exchange of information and regional co-operation in this field should thus be encouraged.

5. Consideration of questions relating to the conservation and restoration of historic centres and the preservation of cultural heritage, including marine archaeology

The protection, conservation, restoration and preservation of the cultural heritage, including historic monuments and their environment, are of great importance for the balanced development of the Mediterranean countries. The participating States appreciate and encourage the efforts to achieve these aims, *inter alia*, within international organizations such as UNESCO or the programme within the Mediterranean Action Plan dealing with coastal historic sites of common interest. They appreciate and encourage contributions and expert co-operation towards the restoration of historic centres. The cultural, social and educational role of museums, the protection of submerged archaeological remains, the scientific work in this respect and the fight against the illegal sale and illicit traffic of antiquities should also be encouraged. Meetings of experts from all countries concerned, including non-participating Mediterranean States, should be promoted for the exchange of views and information in the field of cultural heritage, including underwater archaeology and the illegal sale and illicit traffic of antiquities and, if deemed necessary, for the introduction of effective measures to reinforce co-operation in a practical way.

B. PROTECTION OF MEDITERRANEAN ECOSYSTEMS

1. Urban, agricultural and industrial water uses and requirements in the Mediterranean countries

1.1 It is essential for all the Mediterranean countries to draw up and implement coherent long-term water supply policies which take account not only of the actual needs of the population and the production sectors concerned, but also of the need to preserve the environment and, in particular, to ensure that the ecological potential of the Mediterranean wetlands is not lost. Such policies should promote the efficient use of water, avoiding needless waste, and be based on a thorough analysis of the quantity and quality of available water resources. Particular attention should also be paid to establishing appropriate means for assessing the environmental impact of dams, aqueducts and other water resource development works.

1.2 The participating States declare their readiness to:

- encourage the exchange of information on water resources in the Mediterranean Basin, taking advantage of the experiences of relevant organizations as well as the methodology of the CORINE programme of the European Community and other programmes;
- encourage consideration of the impact on the Mediterranean environment - including transboundary effects - of policies regarding water supply and the exploitation of water resources;
- promote research and exchange of experience regarding the assessment of the environmental impact of water supply works and the exploitation of water resources;
- support moves to ensure the efficient use and conservation of water resources, including awareness promotion campaigns.

2. Pollution of surface and underground water and of the Mediterranean Sea

2.1 Controlling water pollution in the Mediterranean Basin is both an environmental policy objective and an economic necessity. Pollution of surface and underground water not only damages the environment, it also destroys an extremely scarce resource. The preparation and implementation of effective measures to protect watercourses and aquifers against pollution is therefore an absolute priority for the Mediterranean countries and should form a fundamental part of an integrated water-management policy.

2.2 The participating States intend to:

- encourage the Mediterranean countries concerned to set up a legal and regulatory framework to help combat the pollution of surface and underground water and to set up appropriate administrative structures;
- promote exchanges of information, and the establishment of arrangements to facilitate appropriate transfer of environmentally sound technologies to prevent and reduce the pollution of surface and underground water;
- intensify international co-operation on the environmental protection of the Mediterranean, including co-operation among the participating States and non-participating Mediterranean States concerned.

2.3 Controlling the pollution of the Mediterranean is a key objective of the Barcelona Convention and the protocols on pollution from land-based sources, dumping at sea and measures to control pollution by oil and other harmful substances, as well as of the Mediterranean Action Plan. Broader international support for these agreements could contribute to their more effective realization. Parties to these agreements are encouraged to strengthen implementation based on a substance-oriented approach, focusing on individual sectors or industries, as well as on a source-oriented approach, in order to maintain the quality of the marine environment in the Mediterranean and guarantee sustainable development.

The Genoa Declaration and the Charter on Euro-Mediterranean Co-operation concerning the environment in the Mediterranean Basin, referred to as the Nicosia Charter, stressed the reduction of pollution from land-based sources, in particular by adopting concrete measures concerning urban sewage and waste treatment and disposal.

2.4 The participating States should:

- call on the Mediterranean coastal countries to continue implementation of the Barcelona Convention as well as the protocols on pollution from land-based sources and dumping at sea and on co-operation in combatting pollution by oil and other harmful substances;
- call on all States to terminate the dumping of harmful wastes, as well as incineration activities, at sea in accordance with appropriate global and regional agreements;
- encourage - taking into account, in particular, the Genoa Declaration and the guidelines proposed by the signatories to the Nicosia Charter - the setting-up of urban-sewage treatment plants with at least biological treatment, where possible and appropriate; the establishment of emission limits based, to the extent possible, on the best available technologies, not entailing excessive costs, specifically applicable to individual sectors or industries or to specific substances; the management reduction and possible elimination of hazardous and toxic industrial waste; and the investment efforts undertaken in this respect;
- encourage the use of clean production methods in order to reduce the generation of waste at source and encourage appropriate technology transfers and the acquisition of means for the prevention and reduction of sea pollution and for the treatment and disposal of waste;
- urge the adoption of appropriate measures to apply the precautionary principle to waste management policy;
- call on all States which have not yet done so to accede to and/or ratify as soon as possible the Basel Convention on the control of the transboundary movements of

hazardous wastes and their disposal, in order to reduce the transboundary movements of such wastes and ensure their disposal in an environmentally sound way;

- express their support for the work of the contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention on the monitoring of the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes in the Mediterranean region and on the elaboration of a regional agreement in accordance with the spirit of the Basel Convention;
- encourage the reduction of the negative impact on Mediterranean ecosystems of agricultural practices that are not environmentally sound.

3. National, bilateral and international action to control and prevent pollution by national and transboundary waterways flowing into the Mediterranean and pollution by ships

3.1 The prevention, reduction and control of polluting waste from land sources which reaches the Mediterranean via watercourses is one of the basic objectives of the Protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from land-based sources. However, in spite of the measures adopted by the Contracting Parties pursuant to the Protocol, they are still a long way from bringing this type of pollution completely under control, since more investment is needed to treat household and industrial wastes and waste water which are currently discharged without adequate treatment.

3.2 Pollution from ships and the danger of accidents at sea present a continuous hazard to the coastal States of the Mediterranean, many of which have invested heavily in industries that depend on a clean marine environment. Greater and more sustained efforts are required to implement various global and regional conventions aimed at preventing pollution from ships.

3.3 The participating States should therefore:

- call on the coastal States to continue the proceedings on the implementation of the Protocol on pollution from land-based sources;

- call on all States to prevent and phase out the discharges at sea from ships of oils and their mixtures and all noxious liquid substances, in accordance with global and appropriate regional standards and controls;
- reconfirm their support for the recommendations and conclusions elaborated in this field by the Vienna CSCE Follow-up Meeting 1986, the Bonn CSCE Conference and the Sofia CSCE Meeting, as well as the proceedings of the ECE, taking into account the work of the International Law Commission, with a view to drawing up conventions on the protection and use of trans-frontier watercourses and international lakes and on the prevention and control of the transboundary effects of industrial accidents that could supplement and enhance the effectiveness of the arrangements set up by the Protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from land-based sources, and also taking into account the ECE draft Convention on the application of environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context;
- encourage the efforts undertaken or under consideration by participating States and non-participating Mediterranean States to equip Mediterranean ports with reception facilities for ballast and bilge waters;
- promote the establishment of national surveillance systems to control pollution from ships in accordance with the relevant international conventions on marine pollution;
- encourage the Mediterranean States to adopt appropriate measures to establish the Mediterranean Sea as a special area with regard to garbage disposal at sea from ships, according to the principles established in the MARPOL Convention;
- encourage efforts to develop a co-ordination system among the existing structures to respond to emergency alerts occurring in the Mediterranean Sea which could involve serious consequences for the marine environment, taking into account the work in the ECE on elaboration of a legal instrument for the prevention and control of transboundary effects of industrial accidents and the Malta Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC);

- call on the countries concerned to accede to and/or ratify the international conventions on marine pollution, particularly the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the 1978 Protocol, with Annexes I, II, III, IV and V (MARPOL 73/78), the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Dumping Convention) and the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972.

4. Recycling of waste water and the use of other new technologies to obtain water resources

4.1 In response to the growing needs of the population and of production sectors, the Mediterranean countries should take new measures to ensure the best possible use of available water resources. It is certainly time to step up the recycling of waste water.

4.2 Certain participating States and non-participating Mediterranean States have already developed techniques for the treatment and recycling of waste water - for agricultural and industrial purposes - the economic feasibility of which has been fully confirmed. Other treatment and desalination techniques for the supply of water to population groups suffering from severe shortage have also been developed.

4.3 The participating States should encourage:

- research in the development of new technologies for the recycling and re-use of waste water and the creation of additional water resources, and exchange of the results of such research;
- the implementation of demonstration projects in this field and the exchange of experience between countries concerned.

5. Desertification and the struggle against it, including parameters and techniques; initiatives in international co-operation in this field; the role of forest conservation and reforestation

5.1 Deforestation, soil erosion, inappropriate farming practices and unfavourable climatic conditions explain the scale of this problem in the Mediterranean Basin. Desertification control thus calls for the implementation of an overall strategy including reforestation and erosion control measures and the development of farming practices better suited to soil type and climatic conditions. Research in this area should also be stepped up in order to improve understanding of the causes of desertification, including increased information, training and incentives for the farmers concerned.

5.2 The participating States should:

- promote the objective of a positive balance between the regeneration of plant cover and forest clearance by 1995;

- promote campaigns to increase public awareness and demonstration projects to develop new farming practices compatible with soil protection;
- step up the implementation of programmes to combat desertification, erosion and deforestation, and intensify co-operation for the development of research activities in this field;
- encourage the establishment of programmes to prevent the erosion and degradation of limestone regions in view of their sensitivity and ecological fragility;
- promote the dissemination and optimum use of the results of research on these subjects through, for example, the work initiated by the Sahara and Sahel Observatory.

6. International co-operation in the Mediterranean in preventing and extinguishing forest fires; the role of meteorology and communication networks; traditional and other techniques in the struggle against forest fires, including the use and international co-ordination of aerial means, land techniques, and standardization of fire-fighting methods; information and awareness campaigns

6.1 Forest fires represent one of the most serious environmental problems for the Mediterranean countries, in which hundreds of thousands of hectares of forest are destroyed by fire each year.

6.2 Action in this area should be based on an overall approach which includes the identification of causes, prevention, surveillance, fire-fighting and the extension of co-operation in the field of research, particularly into the influence of climatic factors on the risk of fires, this being one aspect of the EPOCH programme.

6.3 The participating States should:

- promote the establishment of integrated strategies for the prevention, surveillance and control of forest fires;

- encourage regional co-operation for the creation of communication networks including the exchange of meteorological data enabling fire-fighting measures to be made more effective, taking into account the work done by the European Community;
- assist, where possible, the non-participating Mediterranean States in their efforts to acquire the adequate means to fight forest fires;
- step up research into the causes of forest fires and the dissemination and use of results;
- encourage public awareness promotion campaigns on the danger of forest fires;
- envisage the setting up of forms of co-operation with the participation of all Mediterranean countries.

7. Atmospheric problems, in particular air quality in urban centres and the effects of air pollution on historical monuments and biological ecosystems; typical sources of air pollution in Mediterranean countries and the Mediterranean share in long-range air pollution

7.1 In a number of Mediterranean towns and regions which have seen large-scale industrial development or very rapid population growth, atmospheric pollution levels are too high, in particular as a result of the increase in road traffic. This leads to excessive concentrations of various pollutants, including SO₂, NO_x, CO_x, VOC, dust and photo-chemical ozone, which can cause damage to the historical and architectural heritage, can lead to forest decline, threaten crops and natural vegetation and endanger human health.

7.2 The situation, moreover, could worsen if the Mediterranean countries do not adopt appropriate measures to prevent the deterioration of air quality which may result from economic and industrial development. It is also essential for the Mediterranean countries to take into consideration other requirements, in particular the need to contribute to the action to be taken to prevent global climatic change, which could have particularly dramatic effects on the Mediterranean Basin. It therefore appears necessary to implement co-ordinated policies

to increase the use of renewable energy resources and the energy efficiency of non-renewable energy resources such as fossil fuels without thereby compromising economic development.

7.3 The participating States undertake to:

- promote, for example within the existing framework of activities such as the forthcoming Second World Climate Conference and the Mediterranean Action Plan, studies and the establishment of a monitoring network for the Mediterranean region on climate changes and on the effects of atmospheric pollutants and the elaboration of a programme to prevent adverse effects, and, in accordance with the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, to reinforce co-operative activities on air quality problems, including those associated with photo-chemical ozone and other secondary pollutants;
- encourage measures to improve air quality in urban centres and surrounding areas;
- encourage efforts for the abatement of atmospheric pollution in living spaces (indoor pollution) through new housing design, clean appliances, and building and furniture materials which do not release atmospheric pollutants;
- encourage the exchange of information on improved technologies available for the reduction of air pollution and their application in existing plants and to the design of new industrial complexes as well as to the control of emissions from mobile sources;
- intensify efforts to exchange atmospheric-pollution reduction technologies;
- support the implementation of measures to improve energy efficiency, energy saving and the increased use of renewable energy sources;
- improve the dissemination and application of the results of research programmes into the effects of pollution on human health, historical and architectural heritage and ecosystems.

8. The biosphere and related questions of ecology and human activities; nature conservation; study of coastal and island areas including urban development

8.1 The Mediterranean coastal areas, which are among the richest in terms of the diversity of habitats, species and landscapes, are subject to growing pressure. Mediterranean coastal wetlands play an essential role in the maintenance of biological diversity; unfortunately, however, a significant proportion of them has disappeared as a result of human activities. For this reason the Genoa Declaration and the signatories to the Nicosia Charter attach special importance to the protection and management of the Mediterranean coast. A number of key international instruments aimed specifically at protecting internationally important species and their habitats have been introduced in recent years, including the Berne, Bonn and Ramsar Conventions, the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas and the ECE and EC legal instruments.

8.2 The participating States undertake to:

- co-operate with the non-participating Mediterranean States to encourage the establishment of more effective policies and appropriate instruments, such as environmental protection infrastructures for the integrated management of coastal areas;
- support work under way to identify sensitive coastal areas in need of protection and to set up a geographical database for the coastal zone also through remote sensing monitoring systems;
- support the work done by the General Council for Fisheries in the Mediterranean;
- encourage the establishment of procedures for the assessment of the environmental impact of development projects in order to prevent possible negative effects, including appropriate consultations in the spirit of good neighbourly relations with any State likely to be affected, taking into consideration the work of the ECE;

- give active support to the implementation of existing international instruments to protect key species and their habitats, in particular rare or endangered species;
- promote the establishment of monitoring and integrated management plans for the most endangered biotopes, especially in coastal wetlands;
- welcome the decision taken by, or under consideration in, some coastal States to ban pelagic drift-netting in the Mediterranean Sea;
- note the commitment by signatories to the Barcelona Convention to adopt all appropriate measures for the protection of Posidonia oceanica communities and all other marine phanerogams which are essential plants

for the Mediterranean ecosystem and to undertake to control and to regulate trawling and other activities destructive to Posidonia bottoms and all other marine phanerogams.

9. Environmental aspects of the development of tourism

9.1 The development of tourism places severe stresses on the environment and on natural resources, particularly in the Mediterranean, where seasonal saturation, over-occupation of the coastline and the destruction of nature have already reached alarming proportions. The maintenance of environmental quality is a precondition for the establishment and development of tourism. Great international co-operation aimed at a balanced development of tourism in the Mediterranean should be promoted.

9.2 For this reason, the Mediterranean countries - for which tourism is one of the most important economic activities - have compelling reasons for drawing up and applying more effective environmental protection policies and promoting environmentally sound tourism. In particular, in co-operation with all countries concerned, they ought to take appropriate steps to reduce seasonal tourist congestion on the coast, such as promoting cultural and low-season tourism and providing tourist facilities inland.

9.3 The participating States declare their readiness to:

- encourage the further development of integrated environmental-management programmes to assess in advance the environmental impact of tourist resorts;
- co-operate in the efforts of the Mediterranean countries to ensure better seasonal distribution and more balanced geographical distribution of tourism in order to reduce the pressure on the coastline through the encouragement of different kinds of tourism (culture, conferences, health spas, sports tourism, etc.);
- encourage the implementation of projects for the management and restoration of Mediterranean coastal areas damaged by tourism;
- promote exchanges of information aimed at ensuring a suitable quality of bathing waters;
- promote campaigns to inform tourists and make them aware of the need for responsible behaviour which respects the environment, using for this purpose, amongst other means, existing international organizations, such as the World Tourism Organization.

10. Review and improvement of exchanges of information relating to the protection of the environment

10.1 The setting up of a co-ordinated information system on the state of the environment and natural resources would facilitate the implementation of effective policies and the use of research and human resources in this field. Existing international organizations and institutions such as the ECE, MAP/UNEP and the newly established European Environment Agency, which is open to certain third countries, provide a basis for broadening and strengthening co-operation.

10.2 The exchange of information and experience relating to environmental protection between participating and non-participating Mediterranean States should be improved.

10.3 Co-operation and exchange of information on nuclear plant safety issues should be intensified.

10.4 The participating States should:

- seek opportunities to co-operate when appropriate among themselves and with the non-participating Mediterranean States in the creation of databases on the state of the environment and natural resources, especially in the priority areas listed in the Genoa Declaration and by the signatories to the Nicosia Charter;
- promote exchanges of information and experience acquired in drawing up and implementing environmental protection policies, drawing upon the experience of the ECE, in particular its monitoring programme EMEP, and of other relevant bodies such as UNEP;
- support the preparation of a document on the environmental rights of citizens as agreed in the Bergen Ministerial Declaration of 1990;
- encourage the dissemination of information on new, clean and pollution-control technologies, in particular through UNEP's Industry and Environment Office, the ECE, OECD, the newly established European Environment Agency and other appropriate bodies;
- support the continuation of the activities carried out in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan;
- encourage the exchange and dissemination of scientific information carried out through institutions such as the International Commission for Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea;
- support the organization, in co-operation with the non-participating Mediterranean States, of training programmes for environmental experts;

- encourage the examination of the possible establishment by participating and interested non-participating Mediterranean States of toxic emissions reporting programmes requiring that enterprises disclose to national and local officials information on the use, storage and routine or accidental release of toxic chemicals into the air, soil or water.

The representatives of the participating States express their profound gratitude to the people and Government of Spain for the excellent organization of the Palma de Mallorca Meeting and the warm hospitality extended to the delegations which participated in the Meeting.

Palma de Mallorca, 19 October 1990