

MINUTES

OF THE 12th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE ADRIATIC SEA WATERS AND COASTAL AREAS

Portorož, October 27-28, 2011

COMMISSION
ON COOPERATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ADRIATIC SEA WATERS AND
COASTAL AREAS

The 12th Ordinary Meeting of the Commission on cooperation for the protection of the Adriatic Sea Waters and Coastal Areas (hereinafter: the Commission) was held on October 27 and 28, 2011 in Portorož, Slovenia. In addition to the representatives of Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia as countries constituting the Commission, a representative of Albania as the observer country, also participated in the meeting, as well as representatives of DG MARE and PAP/RAC.

The Ordinary Meeting was opened by Mr. Mitja Bricelj, the President of the Slovenian delegation. He welcomed the participants and proposed the program of work.

The discussed topics were:

1. Non-paper on the Strategy for the Adriatic Sea
2. Future work of the Commission
3. PEGASO Project for ICZM North Adriatic
4. ICZM
5. Ballast water Management (BWM)
6. Contingency plan
7. Other business

Upon discussion on each of the items, the 12th Ordinary Meeting of the Commission reached the following conclusions:

Discussion on the proposals

1. Non-paper on the Strategy for the Adriatic Sea

Following the Joint statement on environmental protection of the Adriatic Sea of the Commission in 2008, the parties of the Commission support the process to establish a common frame for the definition of a Strategy for the Adriatic Sea on the basis of national strategies.

The framework is of relevance for the cooperation on the sub-regional level.

The Slovenian presidency presented a non-paper for the Adriatic Strategy. The Commission expressed gratitude to the Slovenian Presidency for preparing the Non-paper and took note of it. The Commission agreed that, without prejudice as to the contents of a future strategy for the Adriatic Sea, the expert sub-commissions intensify their work towards a proposal of

coordinating activities in implementation of ECAP, ICZM and MSFD in the sub-region of the Mediterranean: the Adriatic Sea.

2. Future work of the Commission

The Member States decided to rename the existing three sub-commissions as follows:

- Sub-commission for implementing the MSFD,
- Sub-commission for the ICZM and sustainable development, and
- Sub-commission for the Ballast water management and contingency plan.

The work of the sub-commissions needs to be intensified within the roadmap consisting of short-term deadlines: considering inter-linked table timelines for all three processes (ECAP, ICZM, and MSFD); and medium-to-long term considerations: setting the time scenario that is consistent with the Barcelona Convention work plan and the Barcelona process.

The Sub-commission for the Ballast water management and contingency plan should be focused on a possible early entering into force of the Ballast Water Convention and the finalization and submission of the PSSA Proposal for the Adriatic.

To make sub-commissions operational, it is necessary to determine the following: composition of national delegations, focal points, mandates and work programs. All Adriatic countries should be included in the process.

Each country should submit to the Croatian Presidency the name of the national representative (focal points) for each of the sub-commission by 11 November 2011. They will establish their programs of work and take care of the implementation of their mandate. The observer countries are also invited to nominate their representatives.

The Commission tasked the Croatian presidency to officially invite Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina to join the Commission.

2.1 Sub-commission for implementing the MSFD

For the implementation of ECAP, the first step is to assess and evaluate the already existing data and information in the Mediterranean (with particular reference to the Barcelona Convention) with the aim of evaluating how to define the indicators related to the ecosystem approach, taking into account and considering the indicators included in the MSFD.

The questions to be answered are:

- What do we have?; What do we need?; Where are the gaps?
- How to prepare a socio-economic analysis relevant for the Adriatic?
- Develop operational proposal for the mechanism of the indicators development for the implementation of ECAP and, as far as possible, MSFD. The problem is timing (Initial assessment of MSFD should be prepared by July 2012).

The first step should be completed in 4 months. All the countries should cooperate and provide relevant data.

2.2 Sub-commission for the ICZM and sustainable development

The mandate of this sub-commission is to promote sub-regional and transnational cooperation and coordination for the timely implementation of the ICZM Protocol and its Action Plan.

The objectives of the sub-commission are:

- to assess the current available data based on the stock take, and to take into account the ongoing impact assessment ICZM/MSP of the EU, as to identify baseline, priorities and gaps;
- to establish/build an effective mechanism to work together for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol and Action Plan;
- to establish an interdisciplinary think tank to develop the establishment of ICZM;
- to prepare a proposal to ensure synergy and coordination among national strategies («references» to article 17 and 28 of the Protocol).

2.3 Sub-commission for the Ballast Water Management and Contingency Plan

The Sub-commission for Ballast Water Management and Contingency Plan:

- should identify and prioritize the issues related to the implementation of the BWM Convention,
- should obtain the final confirmation of the 4th draft proposal of the PSSA and prepare it for submission,
- should identify and prioritize the issues related to the implementation of the sub-regional contingency plan,
- should consider all relevant environmental issues under IMO mechanisms, and
- should consider proposal for special marine areas under MARPOL Annex VI and other air-pollution related IMO instruments to allow the declaration of Special areas, and also to evaluate the proposal concerning other IMO mechanisms for the protection of the Adriatic marine environment.

2.4 Guidance for future work

ECAP (including MSFD) and ICZM are highly relevant for the accomplishment of the targets of the MSSD. Therefore, to ensure their timely and effective implementation, we call for a specific focus in the Barcelona Convention program of work on regional and transnational cooperation and coordination.

The countries members of the Commission consider the Protocol on ICZM for the Mediterranean an important legal tool for achieving sustainable development goals in the coastal areas and consider this as an important contribution to the Rio+20 outcomes.

Focus should be on the implementation of the work program of UNEP/MAP on regional and trans-national cooperation and coordination in support of the implementation of MSFD and ICZM Protocol and Action plan.

The members of the Commission should prepare projects to encourage International financial institutions to support sub-regional sustainable solutions for coastal and marine environment and local development.

The synergy of ECAP, ICZM and MSSD is highly recommended.

The Commission calls for the support of UNEP/MAP, MEDPOL, PAP/RAC, REMPEC in implementation of its activities.

The Commission welcomed recent developments concerning the proposal on the EU strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region. The macro-regional cooperation based on the bottom-up approach is crucial for an efficient implementation of sustainable development of coastal and marine areas.

For this process the involvement of all Adriatic countries is crucial for the definition and achievement of targets, goals and objectives.

The outcome of the work of sub-commissions should result in policy and project proposals to be approved by the Commission.

3. PEGASO Project for ICZM North Adriatic

The Commission welcomes the PEGASO project as a positive contribution to the efficient implementation of the ICZM Protocol and proposes the establishment of a think tank that could help science – policy interface in ICZM implementation.

4. ICZM

The delegations informed about the on-going ICZM projects and activities.

The Commission supports the process of cooperation on activities connected to the Protocol on ICZM, in particular for coordination, where appropriate, national coastal strategies, plans and programs related to contiguous coastal zone of trans-boundary nature.

The delegations reported on the procedures initiated with regards to the ratification of the Protocol.

5. Ballast Water Management (BWM)

The Commission highlighted the importance of the ballast water management issues.

6. Contingency plan

The Adriatic countries presented the on-going activities toward development of the national contingency plans.

The Commission calls for the Adriatic countries, signatories to the Agreement on Sub-regional Contingency Plan for Prevention of, Preparedness for and Response to Major Marine Pollution Incidents in the Adriatic Sea, to strengthen their activities towards its entry into force.

7. Others

A) The Slovenian presidency presented a draft version of the Amendments to the Statute of the Commission.

The Amendment to the Statute concerning the use of the English language as the working language of the Commission, as well as minor changes relevant to the involvement of Montenegro in the Commission was presented. Countries are invited to consider the text in order to adopt it at the next meeting of the Commission.

B) Montenegro is invited by the Commission to nominate its delegation in the Commission, and the experts to be the representatives in each sub-commission.

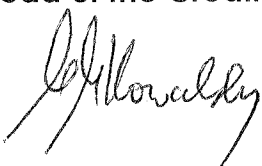
C) After Croatia the presidency will be taken over by Italy, to be followed by Montenegro and Slovenia. After that the order of the presidency will be decided according to the English alphabetical order.

D) The next meeting will be convened by Croatia, which will take over the Presidency of the Commission as of November 2011 for one year.

E) The following presidencies will follow the calendar year.

Done in Portorož, on 28 October 2011, in English language in four copies.

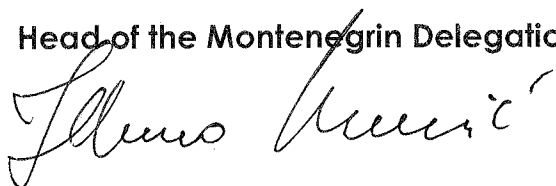
Head of the Croatian Delegation



Head of the Italian Delegation



Head of the Montenegrin Delegation



Head of the Slovenian Delegation

