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Athens, 01 October 2012

Dear Colleagues,

The First Meeting of Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Coordination Group agreed on a road-map on the activities to be undertaken by MAP under the EcAp process during this biennium. The Meeting also agreed to establish three Correspondence Groups on Good Environmental Status (GES) and Targets, Monitoring and on Economic and Social Analysis in the process of application of EcAp in the Mediterranean and to support EcAP Coordination Group.

The Correspondence Group on GES and Targets will be composed of national experts nominated by the Contracting Parties, and will be coordinated by the UNEP/MAP components and the Coordinating Unit. It will work to ensure efficient coverage and in-depth discussions and analysis of all Ecological Objectives (EOs) and it will be made up of 3 clusters: 1) Pollution and litter related EOs (EOs 5, 9, 10 and 11); 2) Biodiversity and Fisheries related EOs (EOs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6); and 3) ICZM and Hydrological Conditions related EOs (EOs 7 and 8). The expected outcome of the group is defining the methodology for Mediterranean targets, as well as identifying GES and targets through a participatory process involving contracting parties, stakeholders and MAP components, which once cleared by the EcAp Coordination Group will be submitted to COP 18.

The first meeting of the Correspondence Group on GES and Targets - Pollution and Litter Cluster will take place on 29-30 October 2012 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Please find attached the provisional agenda for your information.

In this first meeting, it is expected to discuss methodologies and approaches for setting state targets (as qualitative and quantitative elements of the determination of GES); consider relevant existing targets and underlying methodologies and discuss their suitability for use within the context of Barcelona Convention; and, take initial steps in identifying draft list of targets and corresponding GES.

By this letter, we would like to formally invite you to attend the meeting of the Correspondence Group on GES and Targets – Pollution and Litter Cluster. The venue and other logistic information will be communicated to you at a later stage.

We look forward to receiving your reply, and hope you can join us in Sarajevo for this important meeting.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

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