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International Environmental Law and Turkey

Among these, UNEP's the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) is the most comprehensive instrument devised to date and the first comprehensive action plan formulated by UNEP in close cooperation with Mediterranean governments and other specialised UN agencies such as UN Economic Committee for Europe.¹⁷ Adopted in Barcelona in February 1976 at an intergovernmental meeting, it marks the first among ten UNEP Regional Seas Programmes.¹⁸ The Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Sustainable Development of the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean is currently implemented by 21 coastal countries and the European Union. Turkey is an active participant of this Plan ever since its genesis.

The legal components of the MAP are as follows: The framework convention is the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution.¹⁹ There are six protocols that have been signed hitherto: (1) Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft;²⁰ (2) Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency;²¹ (3) Athens Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources;²² (4) Geneva Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean);²³ (5)

¹⁷ For more information, see <http://www.unepmap.it/>.

¹⁸ The Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean (MAP Phase II) was adopted by the Contracting Parties at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in Barcelona, Spain from 9 to 10 June 1995. The Conference also adopted the Barcelona Resolution on the Environment and Sustainable Development and a Priority Fields of Activities for the period to the year 2005. The Action Plan (MAP Phase II) and the Priority Fields of Activities are appended to the Barcelona Resolution. For more information about MAP see <http://www.unepmap.it/> (19 November 2006).

¹⁹ ILM (1976), 290. Entered into force 12 February 1978. Amended in Barcelona, Spain, 9-10 June 1995. New title has been "Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean". Turkey signed on 16 February 1976, ratified on 6 April 1981, entered into force on 12 June 1981. Official Gazette, no. 1736A. For status and ratifications of the MAP treaties see <http://www.unepmap.it/documents/instruments.pdf> (11 January 2004).

²⁰ ILM (1976), 290, 16 February 1976, entered into force on 12 February 1978. Amended in Barcelona, Spain, 9-10 June 1995. New Title has been "Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea". Turkey ratified on 6 April 1981; entered into force on 12 June 1981. Official Gazette 1736A.

²¹ ILM (1976), 290, 16 February 1976, entered into force on 12 February 1978. Turkey ratified on 6 April 1981; entered into force on 12 June 1981. Official Gazette, 1736A. The emergency protocol was ratified 20.05.2003. However, Turkey made a notification saying that a ratification pending ratification from the depositary country.

²² ILM (1980), 869. Entered into force on 27 June 1983. Turkey ratified on 10 February 1985; no. 1746A. Official Gazette, Annex IV of the Protocol was ratified on 13 March 1995. Official Gazette, no. 22236. Turkey ratified the amendments on 14.02.2002.

²³ Adopted in Geneva, Switzerland, 3 April 1982. Entered into force 23 March 1984; Amended in Barcelona, Spain, 9-10 June 1995. The new Protocol includes Annexes which

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