



UNEP



# medwaves e-newsletter

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

### UNEP NEWS

**Biological Diversity Convention mets in Bonn** The Conference of Parties of the Biological Diversity Convention took place in Bonn, Germany at the end of May.

### Kicking the CO2 habit on World Environment Day 2008

To mark World Environment Day 2008, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) launched a "Kick the CO2 Habit" campaign to encourage low-carbon lifestyle choices worldwide.

### MAP COMPONENTS and BARCELONA CONVENTION

#### Barcelona Convention Ministerial meeting 2009 to be hosted by Morocco

During a visit to Morocco, MAP Coordinator Paul Mifsud met with Abdelkbir Zahoud, Minister for the Environment and Water, to discuss the terms of the host country agreement concerning the 2009 Conference of Parties of the Barcelona Convention.

#### PRTR projects developed in the Mediterranean

A workshop to transfer knowledge and know how on the implementation of the PRTR system (Pollutant Release and Transfer Register) outside the Mediterranean region was attended by MEDPOL representative in Porto Alegre, Brazil on 2—26 June.

#### Handbook on Maritime Spatial Planning

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### ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

#### Energy and climate change at the heart of the EU French presidency

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#### 5th Conference of the Water Directors

The Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works in coordination with the European Commission and the French Presidency of the European Union organise the "5th Conference of the Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean and Southeastern European Countries" that will take place on 21 and 22 July 2008, in Athens, Greece.

## UNEP NEWS

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Kicking the CO<sub>2</sub> habit on world environment day 2008

## BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY CONVENTION MEETS IN BONN



The Conference of Parties of the Biological Diversity Convention took place in Bonn, Germany at the end of May.

Of particular relevance to the overall work of UNEP and of UNEP/MAP in particular are the decisions made during the meeting on 2010 targets, marine and coastal species, ecosystem approach, monitoring and assessment. DEPI Director Ibrahim Thiaw, who attended the COP, recommended that such decisions be looked at and integrated in the UNEP Programme of Work 2010-2011.

## KICKING THE CO<sub>2</sub> HABIT ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2008

To mark World Environment Day 2008, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) launched a "Kick the CO<sub>2</sub> Habit" campaign to encourage low-carbon lifestyle choices worldwide.

The main celebrations of what is a global event – World Environment Day – took place on 5th June in Wellington, New Zealand, one of five countries that have pledged to become "climate neutral", including also Costa Rica, Iceland, Barcelona Convention Contracting Party Monaco, and Norway. (2008 WED online is at: <http://www.unep.org/wed/2008/english/>)

In Athens, Greece, through the cooperation between the QualityNet Foundation and the Alluminium Cans Recycling Centre and the support of UNEP, an educational programme for primary schools targeting the environment and recycling was launched one year ago and the closing festival for the event was launched in Maroussi on WED.

Some quite simple measures can more than halve the daily emissions of an individual, with even bigger cuts possible if sectors like power suppliers and automobile makers as well as aviation and appliance

manufacturers contributed more to the greening of global lifestyles.

For example studies indicate that if every airline passenger reduced to below 20Kg the weight of goods and items carried and bought what they needed on arrival at a duty-free lounge, this could cut global greenhouse gas emissions by two million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) a year.

Other low-carbon lifestyle choices at home and when traveling include:

- Backing campaigns to encourage airlines to give free coach and rail miles instead of free air miles in order to promote switches to more environmentally-friendly forms of transport.
- Waking up with a traditional wind-up alarm clock rather than the beep of an electronic one—this can save someone almost 48 grams (g) of CO<sub>2</sub> each day.
- Choosing to dry clothes on a washing line versus a tumble dryer—a daily carbon diet of 2.3 Kg of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Replacing a 45-minute workout on a treadmill with a jog in a nearby park. This saves nearly 1 Kg of the main greenhouse gas.

These are the findings from two reports launched on World Environment Day by UNEP under the theme "Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy".

One of the reports, a kind of Rough Guide to low carbon living, is entitled "Kick the Habit: The UN Guide to Climate Neutrality".

The other, compiled by experts in collaboration with UNEP and the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), is entitled "Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in the Tourism Sector".

It focuses on the challenges and opportunities facing the world's biggest industry including those linked with flying—both long and short haul.

Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director, said: "Greenhouse

gas emissions are continuing to rise across the globe with transport including aviation one of the fastest growing sources. Yet there are countless management, policy and technological opportunities for dramatically changing this trajectory through more intelligent choices by governments, industry and the global public".

"Some of these choices are big—from smart taxes to encourage offshore wind farms as opposed to more coal-fired power stations to national policies that favour cleaner and greener forms of mobility up to ones that promote energy efficiency rather than energy consumption," he said.

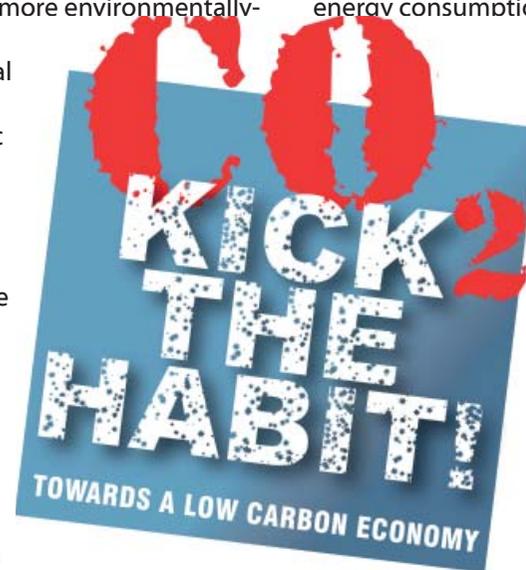
"Others are small, such as perhaps thinking about which appliances we buy, how we travel and where we source our energy. But multiplied across the world and acted upon by 6.7 billion people, the public have the power to change the future—have the power to personally and collectively influence economies to 'Kick the CO<sub>2</sub> Habit,'" he said.

Halving Your Carbon Footprint—Every Little Counts The UN Guide suggests there are many small 'no regrets' choices that together could reduce daily emissions by someone in Australasia, Europe and North

America—the major contributors to global warming historically—from say 38 Kg to 14 Kg.

"The public have the power to change the future — have the power to personally and collectively influence economies to 'Kick the CO<sub>2</sub> Habit,'" said Achim Steiner, UNEP executive director.

The knowledge and technology to dramatically reduce carbon emissions already exist, mainly through improvements in energy efficiency. What have been lacking in most countries are incentives to make changes. Now the hard stick of high-energy prices has given the public new interest in reducing energy costs, which also reduce carbon emissions.



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### BARCELONA CONVENTION MINISTERIAL MEETING 2009 TO BE HOSTED BY MOROCCO



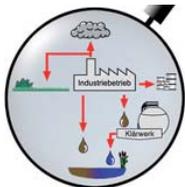
During a visit to Morocco, MAP Coordinator Paul Mifsud met with Abdelkbir Zahoud, Minister for the Environment and Water, to discuss

the terms of the host country agreement concerning the 2009 Conference of Parties of the Barcelona Convention.

During the meeting, a number of MAP initiatives were discussed, in particular the entry into force of the amendments to the LBS Protocol, the new ICZM Protocol, CAMP Morocco, the cooperation with Horizon 2020 and the GEF Strategic Partnership.

This year the main celebration of the Coast Day 2008 (launched by PAP/RAC in 2007) will be organized in Morocco, under the auspices of HRH Princess Lalla Hasnaa, in her capacity as the appointed Ambassador for the Coast.

### PRTR PROJECTS DEVELOPED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



A workshop to transfer knowledge and know how on the implementation of the PRTR system (Pollutant Release and Transfer Register) outside the Mediterranean region was attended by MEDPOL representative in Porto Alegre, Brazil on 2—26 June.

The Mediterranean experience is the result of the cooperation between MAP component MEDPOL and UNIDO.

Following the workshop, it was agreed that UNIDO will prepare a handbook on the PRTR for Mediterranean countries, while MEDPOL will contact Egypt, Syria, Morocco and Turkey in order to launch the full scale projects at national level, following the successful implementation of the pilot projects in these countries.

### HANDBOOK ON MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING



The final output of the PlanCoast project, i.e. the Handbook on Integrated Maritime Spatial Planning, has been published and is currently being disseminated through the PAP/RAC network. The handbook summarises the experience of the PlanCoast project (INTERREG IIIB CADSES) gained through various activities, such as conferences, workshops, trainings and, most of all, the 20 pilot projects covering areas of the Adriatic, Baltic and the Black Seas.

The first section of this document addresses decision-makers at all levels explaining the needs for and benefits of Integrated Maritime Spatial Planning (IMSP). The intention was to provide the project partners and relevant stakeholders with good arguments to push the introduction of IMSP higher on the political agenda. The second part is intended as a practical guide for planners and coastal managers. It takes the reader through the different stages of the IMSP process, and highlights the elements necessary for success. The overview of current European marine policy developments and of other key stakeholders concludes the publication. The Handbook is available online for downloading, and can be ordered online.

## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

### ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE AT THE HEART OF THE EU FRENCH PRESIDENCY

France has placed the environment, and in particular the energy and climate change issue at the top of its priorities for the Presidency of the European Union.

The objective is to reach an agreement by the end of 2008, with a definitive vote at the European Parliament by December or January 2009 at the latest.

According to French sources, this is a real challenge but not an impossible one, given that the Slovenian Presidency "made a good job of clearing all the obstacles"

Among the proposals to be tackled is the revision

of the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS), the sharing of burdens between member states for non-ETS sectors, carbon capture and storage, and renewable energies.

The French Presidency will continue to work on the basis of the progress report and texts prepared by the Slovenian Presidency following an orientation debate by the Environment and Energy Councils of 5 and 6 June, when the most delicate points for negotiation were identified.

The other key line of work for the French Presidency is sustainable production and consumption, for which France is planning to at least launch the debate that will then be carried over by the next presidencies by Czech Republic and Sweden.

### 5TH CONFERENCE OF THE WATER DIRECTORS

MEDA Water



The Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works in coordination with the European Commission

and the French Presidency of the European Union organise the "5th Conference of the Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean and Southeastern European Countries" that will take place on 21 and 22 July 2008, in Athens, Greece.

The main objective of the 5th Conference of the Water Directors will be the discussion and the reaching of agreement on technical issues relating to the preparations of the special ad hoc Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water, to take place in Jordan, on 29 October 2008.

### Forthcoming Key Dates

13 July

Summit for the Union for the Mediterranean  
Paris, France

21-22 July

5th Conference of the Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean and Southeastern European Countries"  
Athens, Greece