



Council of the  
European Union

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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

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Subject: 19th ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 19) to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (Barcelona Convention) (Athens, 9-12 February 2016)

– Information from the Greek delegation

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Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Greek delegation on the above subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Environment) meeting on 16 December 2015.

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**19th ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 19) to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (Barcelona Convention)  
(Athens, 9-12 February 2016)**

**- Information from the Greek delegation -**

The nineteenth meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 19) for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean will be held in Athens from 9 to 12 February 2016. The Barcelona Convention was adopted in 1976, one year after the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), the first-ever Regional Seas Programme under the umbrella of UNEP, which acts as Secretariat to the Convention.

The Convention has proved to be an effective framework for regional cooperation, supporting peace and stability in the region even in times of political turmoil.

COP 19 is expected to examine a number of strategic matters, such as the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, the revised Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan and the Regional Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production, and to adopt relevant decisions.

COP 19 coincides with the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Barcelona Convention. It will include a Ministerial Segment on 11 February 2016, with the theme: 'Forty years of cooperation for a healthy and productive Mediterranean Sea and coast: a collective journey towards sustainable development'. The theme encompasses the long experience of UNEP/MAP in contributing to the protection of the Mediterranean environment and the current progress being made in the field of sustainable development, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and COP 21 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Greek Alternate Minister for Environment and Energy, Mr Tsironis, will make a brief presentation during the next Council (Environment) and personally invites his colleagues to the next COP.