



Council of the
European Union

156983/EU XXVII. GP
Eingelangt am 11/10/23

Brussels, 11 October 2023
(OR. en)

13805/23

ENV 1079
CLIMA 444
MED 31
ONU 73

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	23rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 23) (Portorož, Slovenia, 4-8 December 2023)
	- Information from the Slovenian delegation

Delegations will find in the Annex an information note from the Slovenian delegation on the above subject, to be dealt with under 'Any other business' at the Council (Environment) meeting on 16 October 2023.

23rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 23)

(Portorož, Slovenia, 4-8 December 2023)

- Information from the Slovenian delegation -

The 23rd Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean Sea (Barcelona Convention COP 23) will take place from **4 to 8 December 2023 in Portorož, Slovenia**.

COP 23 of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols is very timely in relation to the global agenda on sustainable development. COP 23 will be held after the pivotal outcomes of the CBD COP 15, the adoption of the resolution to create the Plastic Pollution treaty, the adoption of the BBNJ Treaty, the adoption of the UN Human Rights Council resolution on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the forthcoming UNFCCC COP 28, and ahead of the next UN Ocean Conference. In this respect COP 23 will offer a great opportunity for an exchange of views among diverse stakeholders, who will be able to engage in a comprehensive discussion, envisaging how these processes could and should be reflected in relation to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as the Convention nears its 50th anniversary.

This year's COP 23 ministerial theme will be '**Green transition in the Mediterranean: From decisions into actions**', with a focus on illuminating the steps of the green transition in the Mediterranean, with an emphasis on the promotion of action based on adopted decisions. It is urgent to implement decisions that have been adopted to reverse enduring trends and to increase the resilience of our ecosystems – a demand that also resonates strongly within civil society.

This will also be the main message of the Portorož ministerial declaration, which will focus on the need to enhance cooperation and dialogue focused on the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources, recalling the importance of the Mediterranean Sea at the regional, inter-regional and global levels, and the relevance of the regional dimension to the implementation of global strategies and agendas for sustainable development. During the Slovenian Presidency we will aim to further ensure a healthy Mediterranean Sea, with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations.

The shared objective of the contracting parties remains the sustainable utilisation and development of the Mediterranean Sea. This commitment is deeply embedded in our ongoing efforts, and is guided by the principles and goals outlined in the Barcelona Convention and its associated Protocols, which aim to achieve an environmentally sustainable and healthy blue and green sea.
