

Date 06.07.2023
Reference TH/SA/ic
Subject **Appointment of the Director of the Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre**

Dear State Secretary Šiljeg,

Following our previous correspondence on the matter, I am writing to you regarding the appointment of the new Director of the Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), hosted by Croatia.

Let me first express my appreciation to the Croatian Government for taking the necessary measures for the appointment of the current Director, Ms. Željka Škaričić, as Director ad interim of the PAP/RAC, for a duration of maximum one year starting from 1st June 2023.

I would kindly like to highlight the importance of initiating the procedure for the appointment of the new Director the soonest possible, so as to allow sufficient time for a proper handover from the current Director, as well as to ensure the effective leadership of the Centre by the new Director to be appointed.

Allow me also to bring to your kind attention the conclusion of the 94th Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties (Izola, Slovenia, 20-21 June 2023) which *"encouraged the Host Countries of Regional Activity Centres to ensure that the new Directors of the Centres are selected in a timely manner to allow an efficient transition, taking into account national legislation as well as the "Common Operational Principles for MAP Components" adopted at COP 22 and in consultation with the CU in line with relevant COP decisions"*.

I would also like to recall the relevant Recommendation of the 10th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Tunis, 18-21 November 1997) which, in Appendix I, Section C, paragraph 9, reads as follows: *"(..) the appointment of the Director of a Centre is to be undertaken in consultation between the responsible authority and the Coordinating Unit. In the case when a Director of a Centre is paid by MTF, a vacancy announcement shall be jointly prepared by the host country and the Coordinating Unit"*, as well as the *"Common Operational Principles for MAP Components"*, adopted by COP 22 (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021), with Decision IG. 25/3 on Governance, attached to the present letter.

I am confident that the Government of Croatia will timely take all the necessary measures to ensure the continued proper and effective functioning of PAP/RAC, being one of the most important Centres of UNEP/MAP, established at the onset of the adoption of the establishment of MAP, with an important mandate, which has been enriched over the years especially with the support for the implementation of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management and the application of the Marine Spatial Planning in the Mediterranean region.

May I take this opportunity to reiterate UNEP/MAP appreciation to the Croatian Government for its effective collaboration with and support to UNEP/MAP.

Yours sincerely,

Tatjana Hema
Coordinator



Mr. Mario Šiljeg,
Secretary of State
Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development
Zagreb, Croatia

Att: COP 22 Decision IG.25/3 on Governance