

MedWet/Com 13
Festival Arena, Dubai (UAE), 21 – 28 October 2018

**Report and decisions of the 13th Meeting of the Mediterranean Wetlands
Committee (MedWet/Com 13)**

Members and observers present:

The following MedWet/Com members were represented at the meeting:

Parties to the Ramsar Convention: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, The FYR of Macedonia, Tunisia and Turkey

Other MedWet/Com members: International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN); World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF); Tour du Valat Research Institute for the Conservation of Mediterranean Wetlands, France; Ramsar Convention Secretariat;

The following observers were present: MAVA Foundation for Nature (Switzerland); University of Malaga (Spain);

General note: all the MedWet/Com 13 documents noted or adopted by the meeting, as well other documents related to the meeting, are available in the MedWet web site at <https://medwet.org/documents/medwetcom-meetings/>

Introductory note: MedWet/Com 13 meeting was planned on Sunday 21 October, 18,15 - 21.00. However, due to substantial issues and difference of opinions among members, it was not easy to reach an agreement on several documents, the MedWet/Com13 was conducted in 4 sessions:

Session 1: Sunday 21, 18,15 - 21.00

Session 2: Monday 22, 12.00 -14.00

Session 3: Tuesday 23, 13.15 -15.00

Session 4: Sunday 28, 13.00 - 13.30

Introductory note of the Chair, Ms Gordana Beltram

As a Chair of the meeting I take the liberty to add my observations to the MedWet/Com13 sessions taking place in Dubai. I would like to thank all the members, my friends and the MedWet Secretariat for their support and trust during the intersessional period between MedWet/Com12 and MedWet/Com13. I welcome all the positive and constructive contributions made by all the participants during the MedWet/Com13. At the same time, I regret that we spent too much time on an argument raised repeatedly instead of talking about our future activities, improving members' involvement and exchanging the good examples and great work done by MedWet and the members so far, and particularly, its rebirth after being established in Tour du Valat in France. I acknowledge that MedWet membership depends primarily on devoted individuals that work for the benefit of wetland conservation and sustainable use in the region. I commend to everyone who is working in that spirit. Although not all members have the same view of the future of MedWet I am positive that if MedWet continues towards achieving its vision it can contribute significantly to the protection of natural wetland resources and people depending on them. Climate change and biodiversity loss are unavoidable facts. MedWet community can be powerful enough, we have the knowledge and we have the vision. We can be strong only acting together to fight the threatening environmental changes, and therefore, it is critical that we do not get caught in our national differences, but think and work for the benefit of the Mediterranean region, our wetlands and our people.

Report of the Meeting

SESSION I – 21/10/18

Session I started at 18.15

1. The plenary sessions of the meeting were chaired by Ms Gordana Beltram, Slovenia, and co-chaired by Jean-Marie Quemener (France). They were conducted with simultaneous interpretation in English and French.

Item 1 – Opening of the meeting and adoption of the Agenda (Doc. MedWet/Com13 – 1)

2. The Chair opened the meeting on 21 October 2018 at 6.15 p.m. and welcomed the participants. She stated that it was a crucial meeting for the Initiative due to the significant issues that were on the agenda and wished the meeting would be productive and successful.

3. Italy inquired whether the meeting was following Ramsar procedures or MedWet Rules of Procedures (RoP). The Chair explained that the MedWet/Com13 applies the RoP as defined in the Terms of References approved during MedWet/Com12 in Paris.

4. The Chair introduced the MedWet Secretary, Alessio Satta who was contracted part-time to work with MedWet in 2018 in preparation for the MedWet/Com13 and Ramsar COP13.

DECISION 1. The Provisional agenda is adopted.

Item 2 – Report of MedWet since MedWet/ Com 12, including the Financial Report and the Report of the Steering Group (Doc. MedWet/Com13 – 2, parts 1-4)

5. The Chair started the first Session by inviting all the members to watch the video made at the Training on Visitors Management in protected wetlands held in Segovia in August 2017. The Chair congratulated Spain for its support to this successful initiative.

6. The Secretary briefly reported on the main activities carried out by MedWet in the last 3 years and pointed out that the written reports include all the details. The documents that were first distributed to the members in July 2018 informally, amended by comments received, officially sent out in September 2018 and are since then available on the website (Doc. MedWet/Com13 – 2, parts 1-4).

7. The participants expressed gratitude with the activities undertaken and achievements of MedWet in the last two years. France expressed its willingness to continue supporting the MedWet Initiative. Additional 30,000 euros will be provided by France to the MedWet budget in 2018 to further develop its activities. Chair expressed her gratitude to France for the additional financial support.

8. Italy argued that, in line with the RoPs of MedWet and with all international similar processes, the recruitment process of the Secretary should have been approved by the Committee and carried out through a public tender.

9. The Chair pointed out that the ToR of MedWet require that recruitment process for the MedWet Coordinator and other staff of the MedWet Secretariat is carried out according to the laws of the hosting country and added that a public procedure was formally applied to recruit a new Coordinator. Since no coordinator has been selected and appointed, the MedWet Steering Group decided to select a part time consultant, as a secretary of the Steering Group, through a public consultation. The Steering Group communicated the selection procedure to the Committee members. The Chair added that due to the resignation of the former Coordinator, Delmar Blasco, in February 2017, and lack of appointing a new coordinator, the Steering Group had to get more involved. Thus, some members of the Steering Group, notably Thymio Papayannis, Jean Jalbert, Antonio Troya, Tobias Salathé (Friends of the Chair) and herself, took up the coordination of MedWet. The Secretary was recruited in January 2018 in order to support the Chair in the preparation of the MedWet/Com13 and the follow up. No further questions were raised by the members.

DECISION 2: The Report on MedWet activities including Financial Report and the Report of the Steering Group are approved.

Item 3 – Report of the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (MWO) since MedWet/Com 12 (Doc. MedWet/Com13 – 2, part 5)

10. The coordinator of the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (MWO), Ilse Geijendorffer, presented the activities of the MWO in the last 3 years and the progress that was also included in the Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook 2. She invited all the participants to the Side Event “Monitoring the Status and trends of wetlands in the Mediterranean region: the Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook 2”.

11. The participants expressed their interest and appreciation to the work carried out by the Observatory and particularly the MWO2. Algeria stated that the trends emerged in the report call countries to an immediate action for reversing wetland loss and added that MedWet had to play a crucial role in supporting countries towards that aim.

Item 4 – MedWet Strategic Work Plan 2019-2021: discussion and adoption (Doc. MedWet/Com13 – 3)

12. The Secretary briefly introduced the Strategic Work Plan and explained that this new format adopted was inspired by the suggestions provided by Italy.

13. Italy argued that some figures were not yet clear, as for example the need to better clarify the sources of funding. The Secretary explained that the precise sources of funding are to be indicated in the annual budgets. The Chair concluded that the Strategic Plan would be elaborated in annual plans according to modus operandi that were always used by MedWet.

14. Other members expressed satisfaction with the structure and contents of the Strategic Work Plan.

DECISION 3. The Strategic Work Plan was approved, and it will be implemented through annual work plans.

Item 5 – MedWet Provisional Budget 2019-2021: discussion and adoption (Doc. MedWet/Com13 – 4)

15. The Secretary briefly introduced the Provisional Budget and explained the budget scenario “business as usual” considering country contributions of 134,500 euro and a “new” budget scenario considering country contributions of 160,000 as proposed in Malaga (See Doc. MedWet/Com13 – 4 for details). The Secretary also introduced a new allocation of contributions based on the updated UN Scale of assessments.

Comments were made by Italy, France, Tour du Valat and IUCN.

16. Italy argued that as formally communicated on several occasions, for Italy it is not possible to fund a private NGO operating according to the French law and that a proper solution for the legal status of MedWet had to be found. Italy argued for an effective structure for the Initiative under an international legal status to be able to pay its contribution to MedWet.

17. France reminded that MedWet was created for the sake of Mediterranean wetlands and on voluntary contributions made by countries. France declared that MedWet has a legal status under the French law. France reiterated the decision of MedWet/Com12 in Paris and a solution to adopt the Ramsar Resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives. Other country members supported France and expressed their full support to MedWet work, and particularly wished that MedWet continued its activities on the ground.

18. Italy stated that even if the resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives was to be approved, it would not resolve the issue of the legal status of MedWet, because according to Italy it won't imply a legal recognition of the status of the Regional Initiatives. Italy repeated that a process to establish MedWet as an international organization had to be started otherwise it will lack the legal basis to justify a contribution from Italy.

19. France expressed its firm opposition to transforming MedWet into an international organization, and reminded that following the MW/Com12, the MW/Secretariat asked for a legal analysis of the different existing status: the result was a Ramsar report that concluded that the only international status was at least the same as the one of the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention itself : the MW/Com12 having analysed the different options for developing and obtaining a legal status for the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative and having concluded that the best option would reside in an

appropriate type of arrangement within the framework of the Ramsar Convention, decided not to change status. The MW/Com12 considered that the French legal status was enough to make MW work on the ground, and to seek for a better basis in a Ramsar resolution, as to help countries to pay their contribution on an official Ramsar document. France stressed the real added value of MedWet as a unique platform of dialogue between decision makers, civil society and scientific research institutions. France continued on affirming that the main strength of MedWet was its nature of an informal network of governments, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations that had agreed to work together for a common cause: wetlands conservation.

20. TdV stated that the results of the MWO2, witnessing a fast degradation of Mediterranean wetlands and their services, and calling for urgent action, joining the efforts of governments and civil society. It was pointed out that, MedWet was fit for purpose, could cope with the challenges and members should focus their energy on enhancing its operational capacity.

21. Italy reiterated that its national legislation doesn't allow to pay regular contributions to a mechanism that has not an international legal status and therefore, under those conditions, it could not financially contribute to MedWet Secretariat. Nevertheless, in line with its key role in the creation and implementation of MedWet, Italy expressed its willingness to continue cooperating with the Initiative and supporting the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory in kind or on particular activities.

22. France challenged Italy also to clarify its position on MedWet operational structure and to propose an alternative option. Italy reiterated its opposition on a Secretariat composed of two staff members and a coordinator. Italy would prefer to substitute the Secretariat with just one staff member, the "network facilitator".

23. France reiterated its firm opposition to the proposal made by Italy stressing that it would lead to the weakening of the Initiative, as such a broad initiative (of more than 30 members) could not be run by only one person. Instead, France firmly supported the current Secretariat structure composed by a coordinator and two staff members. According to France there was no viable alternative for MedWet if the Initiative intended to achieve all the expected results defined in the Strategic Work Plan already adopted. Moreover, France did not find any other legal arrangement for MedWet than an association established according to the French law when France accepted to host the Initiative: as reminded earlier, this item had already been analysed and solved.

24. MAVA asked Italy why it could pay the IUCN and Ramsar but not MedWet. Italy replied that they could not pay MedWet as it is an informal mechanism that has never been ratified by the Italian Government and that has not an international legal status. Moreover, Italy stressed that even if the Ramsar Convention included MedWet's budget in its own budget, this would not imply the attribution of a legal status allowing the Italian Government to pay regular contributions.

25. The Chair addressed again all participants and referring to the the Ramsar Resolution on RRI asked them whether they agreed to add an annex to the Resolution on the contributions of country members of MedWet and the three-year budget. All the countries but Italy approved.

26. The Chair additionally introduced the written comments sent by Israel since they could not attend the meeting and their proposal to increase the minimal country contribution to 1000 euro and consequently to adopt option 2 of the budget. Bulgaria refused the proposition to increase the minimum country contributions to 1000 euro.

DECISION 4: All the member countries but Italy agree to add an Annex to the Ramsar COP13 Resolution on Regional Initiatives on the MedWet Budget and a table of country contributions.

Session 1 ended at 21:00

SESSION 2 – 22/10/18

Session 2 started at 12:00

27. The Chair continued the second session following the agenda and in particular to the point related to country contributions. The Chair summarized previous discussions reminding that the minimum contribution affects 17 countries out of 27 and that one country (Bulgaria) explained that it could not raise its contribution to 1000 euro.

28. Italy argued that almost 75% of total contribution is ensured by 3 countries: France, Italy and Spain and that, according to UN rules, one country should not contribute more than 22%. France pointed out that it would continue to pay more than 22% of the total contribution (currently 32%). France stressed the need for MedWet to be able to rely on a solid and continuous contribution from the countries to be able to multiply this contribution with projects funded by the EU.

29. The Chair asked the Secretary to prepare a new table for Country Contributions considering a minimum contribution of 870 euro (1000 Swiss Francs). Spain supported this option. Tunisia also supported this option but asked to work in parallel with the current level of contribution updated to the UN assessment scale for 2019.

30. The Chair stressed the importance of approving the table on Country Contributions as an Annex to the RRI resolution. The Chair reminded participants that some countries, explicitly Turkey, had clearly expressed the need for such a Ramsar Resolution to be able to pay their country contributions, a common practice done in the past COPs. Spain supported this option.

31. Italy clearly opposed and expressed its intention to challenge this proposal during the Ramsar COP plenary session. Italy also argued that if one country disagrees the Committee cannot take this decision and stated that a full assent was needed for MedWet/Com to approve a decision.

The Chair postponed a decision on budget in view of preparing a new table of country contributions.

Item 6 – MedWet Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure: discussion and adoption of the revised ToR and RoP, including proposal on ToR and selection procedure for a new MedWet Coordinator (Doc. MedWet/Com13 – 5, 6)

Item 7 – Draft Resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021 and their operational Framework (Ramsar COPI3 Doc.18.8)

32. The Chair proposed to proceed to the next Item: The Terms of Reference and the Rules of Procedure. She informed the members that most amendments received by members were included in the revised version. Certain amendments proposed by Italy were indicated (included as comments) to be discussed by members. The Chair supported the notion that the MedWet Secretariat as a French association has a legal status. Italy argued again that MedWet had no international legal status as emerged in the Report prepared by two consultants hired by the former MedWet Coordinator, Mr Delmar Blasco, in 2016.

33. The Chair replied that the option of having an international legal status was rejected by the MedWet/Com12 with the formal Decision. Instead “the MedWet/Com12 invited the Ramsar Standing Committee to: 1) study options for providing legal coverage to well-established Ramsar Regional Initiatives, such as MedWet, as part of the arrangements for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention; 2) to consider possible arrangements for the operation of the secretariats of well-established Ramsar Regional Initiatives; and 3) to submit a draft Resolution on this matter to the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention”. The Chair explained that that was exactly what the MedWet/SG had been doing in the intersessional period by supporting a new resolution for RRI. This process started after Paris and continued with the 54th Ramsar Standing Committee in Gland (April 2018) and with the preparation of an Annex to this Resolution as requested by all members but Italy. Additionally, a report on the legal status of RRIs was presented by a legal advisor at the 55th Ramsar Standing Committee preceding the Ramsar COPI3.

34. France asked Italy to better explain its point on legal status and to specify which kind of legal status Italy had in mind, and in respect of which legal basis. France expressed a strong concern that the position of Italy could intend to undermine the Initiative and its future. Italy replied that there was no intention to threaten the existence of the Initiative, but its concerns and disapproval were related to the pointlessness of the Secretariat operating as a private association under the French law.

35. WWF expressed its satisfaction with the work carried out to date by MedWet and its consensus for the current legal status of the Initiative and for a Secretariat as a French association. IUCN also confirmed its full support to the current status of the Initiative and of the Secretariat. Moreover, IUCN stressed the importance to have a strong Secretariat capable of responding to the challenges defined by the strategic plan and the preparation of funding proposals.

36. MAVA, as MedWet's main donor, expressed its great concern that the existence and the functioning of the Initiative were questioned so vehemently. This situation of uncertainty and instability and considering having a non-physical

Secretariat composed only by a network coordinator as proposed by Italy, would seriously undermine the Initiative and would put at risk the capacity of MAVA to continue its financial contribution to the Initiative.

37. France argued that that precious time was wasted on purely formal matters when the real MedWet priority was to conserve the wetlands of the Mediterranean. The dramatic trends described in the last Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook should call countries to immediate actions. France continued explaining that it is crucial that MedWet returns to the fundamentals to work on the ground to give concrete answers to the countries in terms of wetlands conservation and wise use. It considered important that this Regional Initiative continued to exist as a voluntary agreement of the countries and with a spirit of positive collaboration with the main objective of protecting wetlands.

38. After a long discussion on the ToR and RoP, the Chair, noting that no progress was made, proposed to close the Session and to form a small voluntary contact group, including the Chair, Spain, Italy, France, to revise the ToR and RoP particularly reviewing the comments and amendments proposed by Italy. The new draft was to be brought for consideration and adoption to all members. Session 2 was closed, and the group continued its work.

Session 2 ended at 14.00 hours.

The restricted group on ToR and RoP met during 5 hours in the evening to prepare the next session.

SESSION 3 – 23/10/18

Session 2 started at 13.15

39. The Chair summarized the main outcomes of Session 2 including the 5-hour meeting of the restricted group on the revision of the ToR and the RoP. She pointed out that much progress was made and the text in some points improved, but some fundamentally different views of Italy still remained. Thus, the Chair asked all the members whether they want MedWet to continue existing. All the members expressed their full support to the MedWet Initiative.

40. The Chair thanked the members and stated that the key documents had to be approved for MedWet to continue. Consequently, the Chair proposed the 3-year budget and the countries contributions table (Annex 1) for approval. The countries approved the table of countries contributions as an Annex to the RRI resolution. Italy, in a spirit of compromise and in order to approve the country contributions table and the provisional budget, asked to add a footnote in correspondence to its contribution clarifying that the payment of contributions is under the condition of annual approvals in compliance with the Italian legislation, as a voluntary contribution. The 22% threshold has been applied to the Italian contribution at the request of Italy.

DECISION 5: The provisional budget 2019-2021 and the countries contributions table (Annex 1) were adopted by all members. A reservation was made by Italy to adopt the annual budget yearly and including the footnote in correspondence of the Italian contributions stating that their payment will be under the condition of annual approvals in compliance with the Italian legislation, as a voluntary contribution.

41. The Chair proposed to review amendments on the ToR as agreed in the group composed by Italy, France, Spain and Slovenia.

42. Tour du Valat expressed its concern on the amended text of the ToR since there were substantial changes related to membership. In particular, TdV firmly disagreed on the proposal of Italy to change the status of the IGOs (IUCN and WWF) and the Honorary member, Mr Thymio Papayannis, from members to permanent observers without voting rights. IUCN and WWF supported TdV.

43. Given that there was no consensus on these modifications, France proposed to adopt the ToR and the RoP as they were originally formulated and submitted to the MedWet/Com. Spain, Tunisia, Morocco, Turkey, Tour du Valat, IUCN, and WWF supported the proposal of France. Italy objected to the proposed change.

44. The Chair asked the countries if they agree to finalize the ToR and the RoP inter-sessionally by the Steering Group and to have the new ToR and RoP to be adopted at the MedWet/Com I4 meeting. Members agreed.

45. ToR of the MedWet coordinator and the recruitment procedure were also considered. All the countries agreed with the proposal and stressed the need to launch the recruitment as soon as possible. Italy clarified that its agreement is under the condition to add in the procedure a declaration of absence of conflict of interests and to this aim provided a UN-organization standard declaration by email and added the following statement: "Italy expressed its deep concern noting that it is the first time that the Terms of Reference to appoint a Coordinator of an international mechanism foresee a non-full-time contract with a work percentage of 50%. Italy expressed the view that this option would undermine the full operationality of MedWet."

DECISION 6: Since no agreement was reached, the Committee decided to keep the current Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure as approved by the MedWet/Com12 in Paris. The incoming Steering Group are to work inter-sessionally to revise the ToR and RoP and submit to MedWet/Com14 for approval.

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DECISION 7: The ToR of the MedWet Coordinator and the recruitment procedure are approved, taking note of the statement made by Italy.

Item 8 – Election of the members of the MedWet Steering Group (Doc. MedWet/Com13– 7)

46. The Chair reminded the Committee that MedWet/SG is composed of:
- a) three country representatives (one MedWet/Com country from each of the following Ramsar regions: Africa, Asia and Europe);
 - b) a representative of the country hosting the MedWet Secretariat;
 - c) a representative of the Ramsar International Organization Partners (IOPs);
 - d) a representative of the institution hosting the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (MWO);
 - e) a representative of the Ramsar Secretariat;
 - f) the MedWet Honorary Member Mr. Thymio Papayannis; and
 - g) the MedWet Coordinator (ex officio).
47. After a brief consultation among participants, the following members were elected for the MedWet/SG:
1. France, as country hosting the Secretariat
 2. Jordan for Asia, Lebanon as alternate
 3. Morocco for Africa, Tunisia as alternate,
 4. Portugal for Europe, Spain as alternate,
 5. Tour du Valat, hosting the MWO
 6. Ramsar Secretariat
 7. WWF, alternate IUCN
 8. Mr. Thymio Papayannis as honorary member

The MedWet Coordinator will join the SG when appointed.

48. According to rule 19 of the current ToR of MedWet, the Chair of the MedWet/SG is designated by the MedWet/Com at the time of election of the MedWet/SG members among the representatives of the three countries. It was decided to report this decision to Session 4 after a further consultation among elected countries.

Session 3 ended at 15:00

SESSION 4 – 28/10/18

Session 4 started at 13:00

49. Following the consultation among the elected countries for the MedWet SG it was proposed as follows:
- France, represented by Mr Jean-Marie Quemener, will chair the MedWet/SG starting from today and until the selection of the new MedWet Coordinator and the official beginning of her/his mandate.
 - As soon as the MedWet/Coordinator will begin its mandate, Tunisia, represented by Ms Hela Guidara, will Chair the MedWet/Com in the inter-sessional period until the closure of the MedWet/Com14 meeting.

DECISION 8: France (Mr Jean-Marie Quemener) will chair the MedWet/SG starting from the 28/10/18 and until the selection of the new MedWet Coordinator and the official beginning of her/his mandate. As soon as the MedWet/Coordination will begin its mandate, Tunisia (Ms Hela Guidara), will Chair the MedWet/Com in the inter-sessional period until the closure of the next MedWet/Com meeting.

Item 9 – The Mediterranean Wetland Alliance (Doc. MedWet/Com13– 8)

50. Tour du Valat presented the Mediterranean Wetlands Alliance and its objectives. After a brief discussion, the members acknowledged the existence of the Alliance and its potential to effectively contribute to achieving MedWet’s mission and authorized the MedWet Secretariat to act as a permanent observer to the Mediterranean Wetland Alliance.

DECISION 9: MedWet/Com proposed MedWet Secretariat to become a permanent observer of the Mediterranean Wetlands Alliance.

Session 4 ended at 13.30

Summary of decisions taken by the MedWet/Com13

- **DECISION 1.** The Provisional agenda is adopted.
- **DECISION 2.** The Report on MedWet activities including Financial Report and the Report of the Steering Group are approved
- **DECISION 3.** The Strategic Work Plan was approved, and it will be implemented through annual work plans.
- **DECISION 4.** All the member countries but Italy agree to add an Annex on the MedWet Budget and country contributions to the Ramsar COP13 Resolution on Regional Initiatives.
- **DECISION 5:** The provisional budget 2019-2021 and the countries contributions table (Annex 1) were adopted by all members. A reservation was made by Italy to adopt the annual budget yearly and including the footnote in correspondence of the Italian contributions stating that their payment will be under the condition of annual approvals in compliance with the Italian legislation, as a voluntary contribution.
- **DECISION 6.** Since no agreement was reached, the Committee decided to keep the current Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure as approved by the MedWet/Com12 in Paris. The incoming Steering Group are to work inter-sessionally to revise the ToR and RoP and submit them to MedWet/Com14 for approval.
- **DECISION 7.** The ToR of the MedWet Coordinator and the recruitment procedure are approved, taking note the statement by Italy.
- **DECISION 8.** France (Mr Jean-Marie Quemener) will chair the MedWet/SG starting from the 28/10/18 and until the selection of the new MedWet Coordinator and the official beginning of her/his mandate. As soon as the MedWet/Coordination will begin its mandate, Tunisia (Ms Hela Guidara), will Chair the MedWet/Com in the inter-sessional period until the closure of the next MedWet/Com meeting.
- **DECISION 9.** MedWet/Com proposed MedWet Secretariat to become a permanent observer of the Mediterranean Wetlands Alliance.

Annex I: Countries contributions

Country	UN 2018 All Countries	UN 2018 Med Countries	Euro	Percentage
Albania	0,008	0,056	514	0,4%
Algeria	0,161	1,123	1,466	1,1%
Andorra	0,006	0,042	514	0,4%
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0,013	0,091	514	0,4%
Bulgaria	0,045	0,314	514	0,4%
Croatia	0,099	0,690	901	0,7%
Cyprus	0,043	0,300	514	0,4%
Egypt	0,152	1,060	1,384	1,1%
France	4,859	33,889	44,235	34,2%
The f.Y.R. of Macedonia	0,007	0,049	514	0,4%
Greece	0,471	3,285	4,288	3,3%
Israel	0,43	2,999	3,915	3,0%
Italy*	3,748	26,140	28,500	22,0%
Jordan	0,02	0,139	514	0,4%
Lebanon	0,046	0,321	514	0,4%
Libya	0,125	0,872	1,138	0,9%
Malta	0,016	0,112	514	0,4%
Monaco	0,01	0,070	514	0,4%
Montenegro	0,004	0,028	514	0,4%
Morocco	0,054	0,377	514	0,4%
Portugal	0,392	2,734	3,569	2,8%
Serbia	0,032	0,223	514	0,4%
Slovenia	0,084	0,586	765	0,6%
Spain	2,443	17,039	22,241	17,2%
Syrian Arab Republic	0,024	0,167	514	0,4%
Tunisia	0,028	0,195	514	0,4%
Turkey	1,018	7,100	9,268	7,2%
	14,338	100	129,378	100%

*Under the condition of annual approvals in compliance with the Italian legislation, as a voluntary contribution. The UN 22% threshold has been applied to the Italian contribution at the request of Italy.

Note. Annual contributions from the countries participating in the MedWet Initiative are calculated using the UN Scale of Assessment 2018. When the UN Scale of Assessment will be updated through adoption by the UN General Assembly, the countries contributions will be modified accordingly.