



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
MINISTRSTVO ZA OKOLJE IN PROSTOR

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**OPENING SPEECH OF THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND  
SPATIAL PLANNING OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MR JANEZ PODOBNIK  
(Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2005)**

Distinguished Heads of Delegation and Delegates, representatives of international governmental and non-governmental organizations, dear Mr. Mifsud and other representatives of the UNEP/MAP, distinguished guests and lastly dear representatives of the press,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you here in the northernmost part of the Mediterranean, at the junction of the Alps and the Dinaride mountains, in the ecoregion of the Adriatic.

Due to the increasing pressures and influences on the marine environment, the life in the sea is becoming more and more endangered and as a consequence, the quality of life on its coastal regions is decreasing. We are aware that it is us, who have the responsibility for stopping the negative trends, and that is why we are searching for partners and forming alliances.

The Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP) has 30 years of experience in integrating nations and cultures for achieving a common goal along our common sea, and that goal is preserving good, that is healthy ecological state.

14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention has a very special mission: by adopting the Mediterranean Strategy of the Sustainable Development we are opening a new chapter for an enhanced regional cooperation: how we write it, depends on us, who are here present. And of course the way how to implement it.

To all of you I therefore wish a successful and productive work for the most effective action in the future, which will be to the benefit of all of us.



**Morje potrebuje naš glas**  
The sea deserves our voice

30 let  
Sredozemskega akcijskega načrta  
14. redno zasedanje pogodbenic Konvencije  
o varstvu morskega okolja in obalnih  
območij Sredozemlja in njenih protokolov  
Portorož, Slovenija, 8. - 11. november 2005

30 years  
Mediterranean Action Plan  
14th Ordinary Meeting of the  
Contracting Parties to the Convention  
for the Protection of the Marine  
Environment and the Coastal Regions of  
the Mediterranean and its Protocols  
Portorož, Slovenia, 8 - 11 November 2005

