



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

EP



UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/8
18 September 2007

ENGLISH



**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN
MED POL**

Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators

Hammamet (Tunisia), 25-28 June 2007

Report

Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Report of the meeting

Annex I: List of Participants

Annex II: Speech by H. E. Mr. Nadhir Hamada, Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development of Tunisia

Annex III: Agenda of the meeting

Annex IV: Operational document of MED POL Phase IV (2006-2013)

Annex V: Adopted Decision under Agenda Item 5.2

Annex VI: Chart on the procedure for requesting and obtaining data access (prepared by INFO/RAC)

Annex VII: Proposed activities to be carried out during the 2008-2009 biennium as part of MED POL

REPORT OF THE MEETING

Introduction

1. The Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators was held at the Hotel Le Royal Hammamet, Hammamet, Tunisia, from 25 to 28 June 2007, at the kind invitation of the Tunisian authorities.
2. National Coordinators or their representatives from the following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention attended the meeting: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Community, France, Greece, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Monaco, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey. Observers from Montenegro and the Palestinian Authority were also present.
3. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations were represented: the Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA-MESL), and the World Health Organization (WHO).
4. The following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were represented: Eurochlor and Legambiente.
5. MAP's Regional Activity Centres for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC), Information and Communication (INFO/RAC) and Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) were also represented.
6. The full list of participants is attached as **Annex I** to this report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

7. Mr. Paul Mifsud, MAP Coordinator, thanked the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development of Tunisia for his presence, which was evidence of Tunisia's strong support for the work of MAP. He outlined the tasks to be undertaken by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in December 2007, one of which would be to approve the MED POL work plan for the coming biennium, which was to be discussed at the present meeting. The Parties would also be asked to adopt the text of the draft protocol on integrated coastal zone management that had been approved two weeks earlier by a meeting of legal and technical experts, with reservations expressed by several countries, including Tunisia. He hoped that those countries would withdraw their reservations before the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, so that the protocol could be approved by consensus.
8. The Parties would also consider two financing programmes for the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and National Action Plans (NAPs) to reduce pollution from land-based sources. The first was the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean, which had been approved recently by the GEF Council, and the second was the Horizon 2020 Initiative, within the European Neighbourhood Policy for de-pollution of the Mediterranean. He thanked the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development of Tunisia for having received recently a team from MED POL and the European Investment Bank

that was visiting eligible countries to identify projects that could be considered for financing under the Horizon 2020 Initiative. On that occasion, he had been pleased to learn that, within its 10th Development Plan, Tunisia had initiated the implementation of its NAP and would continue to do so under the 11th Development Plan which was under preparation. He looked forward to a fruitful meeting.

9. Mr. Nadhir Hamada, Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development of Tunisia, welcoming participants to the meeting, recalled the diverse initiatives that had been put in place to ensure cooperation for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean as a region of shared prosperity. His country had signed and ratified all the relevant international treaties and agreements and had adopted strong national environmental policies. The efforts of MAP, and of MED POL in particular, sustained national actions to reduce the pollution of the Mediterranean. He said that Tunisia had always considered that economic and social development and environmental protection went hand in hand, and environmental concerns were fully integrated into sectoral policies and programmes for development, reflecting his Government's conviction that ecological concerns did not discourage economic development. The full text of the Minister's address is attached as **Annex II** to this report.

10. Mr. Francesco Saverio Civili, MED POL Coordinator, after thanking the Tunisian authorities for their support, drew attention to the scope and purpose of the current meeting, namely to review activities over the previous biennium, to agree on activities for the forthcoming biennium and to review and discuss the work carried out by the Secretariat as a follow-up to the Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators held in Mytilini, Greece, in March 2007.

Agenda item 2: Election of officers

11. The Meeting unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairperson: Mr. Mustafa Terhzaz (Morocco)

Vice-Chairpersons: Mr. José Rizo-Martin (European Commission)
Ms Valentina Turk (Slovenia)

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdulfatah Mohamed Boargob (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

**Agenda item 3: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
(UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/1 and 316/2)**

12. Mr. Civili informed the meeting that, under item 7, "Other business", two presentations would be made, on the ecosystem approach and on cooperation with IAEA-MESL, respectively. He proposed that the report of the meeting should be short and concise, reflecting positions of participants and conclusions. The meeting agreed to that proposal, subject to a clear indication of conclusions agreed upon and topics still open for further discussion. On that understanding, the meeting adopted the agenda contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/1, which appears as **Annex III** to this report.

**Agenda item 4: Review of work carried out during the 2006-2007 biennium
(UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/Inf.3)**

13. Mr. Civili, introducing the item, presented the progress report on the implementation of MED POL activities in 2006-2007, which he said was submitted for comment.

14. In the ensuing discussion, caution was urged in pre-empting European Union Member States' decisions or recommendations by suggesting, prior to any formal decision on the matter, that financial benefits could accrue to Mediterranean States that were not Members of the European Union from the European Marine Strategy, or, further, by specifying the role of MED POL in the implementation of the Strategy in the region. It was also suggested that in future, in order to ensure better follow-up to the work carried out, the Secretariat should provide a table comparing the recommendations of the Contracting Parties with the results actually achieved.

15. Concerning the structure of the policy and coordination section of the activities report, it was said that substantive questions should take precedence over management matters such as internal appointments. One representative reported that his country had not received official notification through its Focal Point of the opening to recruitment of the post of MED POL Programme Officer. It was suggested that use might be made of the MAP mailing list or webpage to disseminate recruitment notices. The Secretariat said that the recruitment notice for the MED POL Programme Officer post had been brought to the attention of the MAP Focal Points and had also been placed on the United Nations Galaxy website. The representative concerned reaffirmed that the vacancy notice had not been received by his country's Focal Point.

16. When reviewing the MED POL activities relating to NAPs, Mr. Civili recalled that the proposed Strategic Partnership (SP) between MAP, GEF and the World Bank had now been approved by the GEF Council. Implementation would therefore commence in 2008. Responding to points raised concerning the SP, he said that the sum of US\$ 30 million mobilized for its regional component was not made up of cash alone, and that countries had been kept regularly updated concerning development of the SP. Other initiatives such as the Horizon 2020 Initiative were mooted as potential sources of funds mobilization for the implementation of the NAPs.

17. The observer for the Palestinian Authority questioned the omission of the Authority in the progress report, in view of its long-standing participation in MED POL activities. Mr. Mifsud stressed that the Palestinian Authority was regularly invited to participate in MED POL activities and that its contribution had been particularly evident in the implementation of the SAP. He also confirmed that efforts to ensure Palestine's eligibility for GEF funding had been successful.

18. Mr. Fouad Abousamra, MED POL Programme Officer, described the activities that had been carried out during the previous biennium with regard to coastal solid wastes and litter. The MED POL strategy for addressing coastal litter comprised a regional action plan for solid waste management in coastal areas, with targets and timeframes, which was outlined in document UNEP(DEP)/MED WG. 316/Inf.8, and medium-term awareness and education strategies to target groups (document UNEP(DEP)/MED WG. 316/Inf.7).

19. Mr. Civili said that MED POL, in cooperation with CP/RAC, had prepared a guide for non-European Union Mediterranean countries for a system of pollution control, which was summarized in document UNEP(DEP)/MED WG. 316/Inf.9.

20. Ms Virginia Alzina, Director of CP/RAC, said that the guide, which was addressed to the environmental authorities of the various MAP countries, particularly the non-European Union countries, aimed to provide a tool for the design of new prevention-based environmental control systems that were not prejudicial to essential economic development. National experts from Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Slovenia and the Syrian Arab Republic had helped to determine the approach used in the guide and to carry out a preliminary analysis of the starting situation with respect to the implementation of the Pollution Prevention and Control System (PPCS).

21. The guide was a response to the need for industry, recognized as a driving force of economic development, to progressively incorporate mechanisms to avoid or reduce pollutant emissions and the impact on the environment as a whole. In the framework of the LBS Protocol, those mechanisms were defined as Best Available Techniques (BATs) and Best Environmental Practices (BEPs). The document proposed a country-level methodology for: identifying the relevant industrial sectors; adapting legal and institutional frameworks for controlling environmental impacts; creating mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing the PPCS; and establishing support mechanisms to help industry adapt to the PPCS.

22. In the ensuing discussion, it was asked whether there were plans to extend the PPCS process to other countries, and how the PPCS was intended to link up with the broader LBS process, in particular with the projected legally binding measures and timetables, the NAPs and the concept of shared but differentiated responsibilities. Two NGO observers welcomed the CP/RAC initiative, calling respectively for closer cooperation with the manufacturers of chemical products in the interest of environmentally friendly use and for increased provision for representation by NGOs and environmental authorities in the institutional arrangements envisaged by the guide.

23. The representative of CP/RAC emphasized that participation in the PPCS process was voluntary and that the Centre was not involved in the selection of the industries concerned. While it currently involved some non-European Union countries, the project could be extended to other countries at a later date. There should be no problem in integrating the PPCS in any LBS process that was still ongoing.

24. Mr. Civili reported that in 2004-2005 MED POL had prepared guidelines for national regulations on the release of industrial pollutants. In response, the Moroccan Ministry for Physical Planning, Water and the Environment had conducted a pilot project for setting national standards for releases from the metals industry, which could serve as a model for other countries.

25. The Chairperson, speaking in his capacity as representative of Morocco, said that, in the process of preparing legislation on environmental wastes, his country had requested assistance from MED POL in respect of the highly diversified sector of the metals industry. A project for setting limit values for liquid and atmospheric emissions for the country's iron and steel plants on the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts had been conducted in collaboration with the two main companies in the country, the results of which were presented in detail in document UNEP(DEP)/MED WG. 316/Inf.10. He reported that the collaboration had been excellent, and both companies presently had programmes for treatment of their wastes. Analyses conducted by the plants themselves had resulted in proposed emission limit values for certain components of the wastes, which had been agreed upon by other concerned ministries, such as those for industry, fisheries and health, and would shortly be translated into a decree.

26. Mr. Civili recalled that the Contracting Parties in 2005 had agreed that MED POL's programme of activities for 2006-2007 should include the preparation of regional plans on five topics. Those plans had been deferred, however, until a decision was reached on the overall policy for pollution reduction which included negotiations on the differentiation approach and on the legally binding measures and timetables under Article 15 of the LBS Protocol.

27. He recalled the preparation of an evaluation of national capacity to assess marine pollution indicators, reported in document UNEP(DEP)/MED WG. 316/Inf.11. With respect to that document, Mr. Abousamra said that information from various sources had been used to analyse countries' capacity to assess chemical, biological and ecological indicators of marine pollution. The main conclusions had been that countries differed widely in their capacity to assess the indicators and that MED POL should give more attention to addressing their difficulties through capacity-building programmes.

28. After highlighting the main issues related to monitoring and the information system, he said that, among activities related to implementation of the Dumping Protocol (Section 5), the report on dumping sites of ordnance in the region (UNEP(DEP)/MED WG. 316/Inf.12) was the first of its kind and would be disseminated to port authorities, fishermen's associations and other interested sectors through the MED POL National Coordinators.

29. A number of speakers commended the wide range of MED POL's activities and the comprehensive reporting on its work. One representative said that, although his country had not yet submitted a report on its monitoring activities during 2006-2007, it had much useful information, which he said would soon be transmitted to MED POL. Another participant cautioned that the report might give the impression that some activities undertaken would automatically be continued. Terms such as "guidelines" should be used more parsimoniously and only for those formally adopted by the Contracting Parties. Another speaker said that setting priorities for future activities was essential, but difficult to do without some idea of the budget available.

30. It was suggested that ways and means of stepping up cooperation with NGOs at the regional level with a view to increasing their participation in MED POL activities and strengthening their back-up role should be explored, for instance with regard to awareness campaigns on the issue of coastal litter and more broadly to dissemination of information on MED POL's activities. Financial support to ensure their participation in meetings should also be considered. Mr. Abousamra drew attention to the formal participation of three regional NGOs in coastal litter awareness campaigns, and Mr. Civili said that financing MAP-accredited NGO participation in meetings could be considered if States Parties so wished. One speaker, pointing to the budgetary implications, suggested that NGOs willing to prepare papers for meetings might qualify for financing, while another cautioned that the strict relevance of NGOs' activities to MED POL's work must be borne in mind. In the same vein, a representative of industry expressed appreciation for MED POL's activities and willingness to collaborate in its work.

31. In response to other comments, Mr. Civili assured participants that it was by no means taken for granted that the activities carried out or begun in the previous biennium could be carried over to the next. Intentions were expressed and proposals made for the forthcoming work plan, but it was for the Parties to decide. Moreover, since budget decisions were taken at a higher level, MED POL's approach was to put forward what it considered to be the priorities and then allocate funds accordingly once the budget figures were known. It was agreed, following a suggestion from the floor, that use of the

term “technical document” might be preferable to “guidelines” when the document in question did not refer to the formal guidelines approved by the Contracting Parties.

Agenda item 5: Follow-up to the Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators (Mytilini, 26-28 March 2007)

Agenda item 5.1: Review and approval of the Operational Document of MED POL Phase IV (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/3)

32. The MED POL Secretariat said that the operational document of MED POL Phase IV (UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG.316/3), prepared on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations of the Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL Coordinators held in Mytilini in March 2007, needed to be approved by the current meeting for transmission to the forthcoming meeting of the MAP Focal Points prior to its adoption by the Contracting Parties. MED POL Phase IV, which should be seen as extending rather than replacing Phase III, provided for maintaining or improving the implementation of existing activities and proposed the expansion of activities in response to evolving needs. Important new issues not fully covered under Phase III were listed in the introduction. Activities envisaged, expected results, target dates, information and verification sources, responsibilities and possible partnerships and related initiatives were summed up in tabular form at the conclusion of the text.

33. A number of representatives requested clarifications or refinements of drafting. It was said for example that the question of atmospheric inputs of pollutants and pollutant inputs from groundwater discharges called for further definition and explanation. It should be made clear, it was suggested, that the data quality assurance programme covered all MED POL participating laboratories.

34. Several speakers pointed to apparent omissions in the report. Reference should be made, it was said, to the problem of ballast waters. There was a need to mention subregional cooperation, as applied for example to integration of the ecosystem approach. In that connection, one participant wondered what had become of the pilot project expected to test the implications of the application of the ecosystem approach in the region.

35. In response to observations and questions, the MED POL Coordinator asked that all suggested amendments be communicated in writing to the Secretariat at the earliest possible opportunity, preferably before the end of the meeting. As for the inclusion of a reference to ballast waters, the topic was to some extent covered under the environmental effects of maritime transport and moreover fell rather within the Specially Protected Areas (SPA) Protocol.

36. Concerning the scope of its remit, MED POL simply carried out those activities assigned to it by the Contracting Parties. It had been by decision of the Contracting Parties that MED POL had implemented on behalf of MAP the project financed by the European Commission to assist in the gradual application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities in the Mediterranean region. The associated road map, drawn up by two consultative meetings of experts and approved by a regional meeting of government-designated experts, would be presented by the MAP Coordinator to the next meeting of MAP Focal Points and later to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption.

37. In response to a suggestion that the progress report should include guidelines and criteria for the involvement of NGOs in the proposed MED POL activities, Mr. Civili said that only NGOs accredited to MAP could be invited to participate in those activities. Such participation was bound to be limited in practice, however, as very few NGOs were focused on the subject of marine pollution. Concerning a question raised about duplication of activities, he said that MED POL had always made efforts to foster cooperation with appropriate partners in order to avoid overlap, as in the case of its work with various RACs and convention secretariats on a range of subjects.

38. During a discussion of the table contained in the operational document, various proposals for amendment were made. In particular, it was agreed that activities which had financial implications for the Contracting Parties were beyond the responsibility of MED POL and should be presented accordingly. In respect of the differentiation approach, several representatives supported a proposal for deletion of the reference to the Kyoto Protocol and the European Union emission trading directive as related initiatives, in which context the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution was suggested as an alternative.

39. Mr. Civili said in response to a query that the establishment and implementation of national monitoring programmes was an obligation under the LBS Protocol and the Barcelona Convention. In response to another query relating to the Dumping Protocol, Mr. Abousamra said that, while not explicitly covered by the Protocol, guidelines for the placement of artificial reefs had been requested and later adopted by the Contracting Parties. Their implementation could therefore be properly included as an activity under that Protocol. It was further pointed out that, in constructing artificial reefs, countries were in any event under obligation not to contravene the aims of the Dumping Protocol.

40. Mr. Abousamra said in reply to a concern raised by one participant that the target of launching the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) in all countries was feasible in view of the positive results already achieved and the fact that European countries were covered by the European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER) system.

41. Concerning cooperation, one representative stressed that MED POL was not a financing facility. As an activity, its involvement in "implementation" of the Horizon 2020 Initiative and of the European Marine Strategy was consequently out of the question. Its role was instead to provide technical information relevant to the implementation of such initiatives and catalysing countries' participation. The relevant text in the document had therefore to be amended.

42. In response to suggestions for changing the entries in the table concerning fisheries, to make them more specific, one representative pointed out that the involvement of MED POL in that field had already been indicated by the Contracting Parties when adopting the content of MED POL Phase IV. The agreed commitment was to monitor the pressures on ecosystems of fisheries in general, with the clear political implications of that remit. The Secretariat said that a wider range of specific activities could be defined at a later stage by the Contracting Parties once the consequences of application of the ecosystem approach were clear. It was finally agreed that MED POL activities should fall within its specific competence, which was to monitor pollution of the marine environment from, for instance, aquaculture and dumping of industrial fish wastes.

43. Introducing the section on energy production and in response to a question, Mr. Civili recalled that, in response to a decision taken by the Contracting Parties at their 14th

Meeting, all MAP components were now required to address energy issues within their fields of competence. MED POL had proceeded with caution in proposing energy-related activities that came solely within the process of implementation of the SAP and entailed added value. As it was an entirely new field for MED POL, the relevant section was rather more detailed and explanatory than others, but could be shortened if necessary.

44. Several speakers considered the proposals over-ambitious, questioning MED POL's financial and human resource capacity to develop, for instance, the financial facilities and large project portfolio proposed. More information was needed before the Parties could agree to embark on such a wide range of activities. It was suggested that they should be confined initially to pilot projects, subject to available resources.

45. Mr. Civili explained that the proposals had been made after consultation with other stakeholders. MED POL would have an essentially catalytic and partnership role, and the proposed activities were not expected to require substantial human or financial resources. Following suggestions from the floor, it was agreed that the proposals could be refined and simplified.

46. With regard to the section on institutional arrangements and following an exchange of views, it was agreed that the main activity proposed should focus on the improvement of effective participation by countries in MED POL activities, which would possibly include contributions in kind and/or cash.

47. Summing up the discussion, Mr. Civili informed participants that a revised version of the table incorporating agreed changes would be available for final review before the end of the session. At a later session, the participants reviewed a revised version of the Operational Document of Phase IV, including the table, which was approved after amendment (see **Annex IV**).

Agenda item 5.2: Review of steps made in the process of preparation of the new legally binding text containing measures and timetables (Art. 15 of the LBS Protocol) (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/4 and 316/5)

48. Mr. Civili recalled the decisions of the Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL Coordinators and in particular those related to the proposed content of the future legally binding measures and timetables. It had been decided that the Secretariat would prepare two documents (a comparative analysis of the commitments of the current SAP with related international and regional instruments and a model describing possible measures for the reduction of inputs of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) from one industrial sector) and the Coordinators would transmit to the Secretariat their position on the proposed content. In view of the short time available for response, very few countries had submitted their position.

49. Mr. Civili said that the two documents (UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG.316/4 and WG.316/5), were not to be approved but were only intended to provide background information to be used in the process of preparation of the legally binding measures and timetables. He stressed that the document on the model describing the possible measures for the reduction of BOD from one industrial sector also responded to the request by the Contracting Parties to update the Regional Plan adopted in 2003.

50. He introduced the first document (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/4) presenting a comparative analysis of the current SAP commitments and related international, regional

and European legal instruments and agreements. The gaps analysis also contained in the document indicated an increasing interconnection between MAP and the European Union, in addition to growing European interest in protection of the Mediterranean environment, as evidenced by the large number of European initiatives designed to achieve that goal. For its part, MED POL was continuing its efforts to harmonize its own policies with those of the European Union. To that end, it would be essential to reconsider the protection philosophy, the priority substances and sectors to be controlled and timetables. Given the inherent differences shown by the comparative analysis, the only option would be to combine the MED POL strategies and European philosophies as far as possible. The closure of gaps in data generation and monitoring was another issue for consideration that could be addressed through use of the MAP reporting system. A positive factor brought to light by the analysis was the similarity of implementation tools used under the Barcelona system, the LBS Protocol and the SAP with those used under European legislative texts.

51. Participants deemed the information contained in the document to be very useful; not least, the comparison of legal frameworks demonstrated the complicated nature of the issues involved in preparing the future legally binding measures and timetables. One such issue concerned resolving difficulties posed by the fact that some of the priority substances listed in Annex 1 of the LBS Protocol no longer constituted a priority for the European Union. Given such differences, detailed consideration of each individual substance and activity would be essential before examining proposals and measures that imposed obligations. Equally essential was the need to update the information contained in the document. Mr. Civili agreed that the issues mentioned merited particular attention in the context of preparing the future legally binding measures and timetables and invited the submission of relevant updated information.

52. Mr. Jordi Pon, MED POL expert, gave a presentation on the Regional Plan and possible measures for the reduction of input of BOD by 50% by 2010 from industrial sources, summarizing the content of document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/5. He said that the sources of data used would allow analysis not only at regional and national level but also at sectoral level. The data had shown wide regional variation in emissions and release intensity, but the priority sectors identified had been similar to those listed in the SAP.

53. In the ensuing discussion, a number of speakers said that the exercise had been a useful one, illustrating a logic that could be used to prepare action on other substances and environmental pressures. Several participants, however, questioned the validity and comparability of the data on which the plan was based. The Secretariat said that the data had been provided officially by countries, and MED POL had therefore not been in a position to question them, apart from requests for clarification of apparent discrepancies.

54. In response to speakers who asked why BOD and not another pollutant had been chosen for the exercise, the Secretariat recalled that the topic had been selected by the MED POL National Coordinators in Mytilini. The National Coordinators could propose that further regional plans be developed for different substances and sectors, in the context of their proposals for the work of MED POL in the coming biennium and in the framework of the overall strategy up until 2010.

55. Several participants suggested that cost-benefit analysis should be included in such plans, to guide countries in deciding on the techniques to be used in reducing inputs of pollutants into the marine environment. Once a cost-benefit analysis had been

conducted, socioeconomic aspects could be considered, and the differentiation approach to responsibilities could be applied.

Proposed draft decision on agenda item 5.2

56. Mr. Civili invited participants to consider the text of a draft decision on item 5.2 for submission to the Contracting Parties. The purpose of the text was to present the complex process of preparing the new legally binding measures and timetables to follow up the current SAP in an integrated, synoptic manner. The text made it clear that implementation of the NAPs would continue until their revision in 2011. Such revision would be effected taking into account the results of three parallel but interacting processes: the identification of priority substances and sectors, of a differentiation mechanism including a process for promotion of technology transfer, and of elements arising from initial application of the ecosystem approach. The entire process would form the basis for formulation of the legally binding measures and timetables provided for under Article 15 of the LBS Protocol.

57. Following an exchange of views, it was agreed that a small open-ended drafting group should meet to redraft the text in the light of comments and report back on the following day.

58. At a subsequent meeting, a revised version of the draft decision was submitted for the consideration of participants. Mr. Civili stressed the importance of consensus, bearing in mind the intention to transmit the draft decision, if approved, for consideration by the next meeting of MAP Focal Points and subsequently for adoption by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties. On the subject of the differentiation approach, he said with regard to concerns raised by one representative that the steps followed for its formulation and approval would be identical to those used for the ecosystem approach. In other words, a decision on the subject would be developed during the next biennium for submission to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2009.

59. At the conclusion of the discussion, the decision was adopted by consensus, on the understanding that the Secretariat would draft a preamble, taking into account comments made, for incorporation into the decision prior to its discussion at the meeting of MAP Focal Points. The text of the decision, as adopted, is attached as **Annex V** to this report. One representative said the decision, if adopted by the Parties, should be adopted as a whole and not point by point.

Agenda item 5.3: Review of data policy in the framework of the MED POL Information System (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/6)

60. Mr. Marco Montuori, representing INFO/RAC, presented document, in keeping with the request of the Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators held in Mytilini in March 2007, setting out the MED POL Information System proposed data management policy. It covered: the need for a MED POL data policy, the data covered by the policy, user profiles, guiding principles for user access, user profile definition, procedures for requesting data access and MED POL data access procedures.

61. The document was generally welcomed by the participants as a concise and precise draft policy statement. User profiles and permissions were well defined, and a

clear distinction was made between public and restricted data, including raw data. It was stressed that access to restricted data by outsiders should require the permission of the country concerned, and that raw data supplied by national authorities must be for internal use until processed by MED POL. It was asked how data deriving from research institutes and similar bodies would be treated, whether an attempt was being made to harmonize formats with those of other relevant organizations and conventions, and whether the processing of data by MED POL would take place as previously.

62. In reply, Mr. Civili said that data from institutes and research bodies published in the open literature was by definition public but that only data officially submitted by the MED POL Coordinators would be used; work on harmonizing data policy with related Conventions was proceeding; and processing methods were unchanged apart from being effected online.

63. One representative questioned the urgency of approving the document at the present session. Some countries had legal provisions governing access to data, and more time would be required to consider such a complex matter. He was in favour of organizing a seminar of experts to clarify the issues involved, as had been suggested at the previous meeting. Others saw no reason for delay, pointing out that the proposed system on no account allowed the disclosure of data against the wishes of the data providers.

64. Mr. Civili pointed out that a policy decision was expected during the meeting as the proposed system was to become operational as planned in 2008. The annotated agenda was clear on that point.

65. The representative of INFO/RAC presented a chart outlining the procedure for requesting and obtaining access to data in the Med POL database, which is attached as **Annex VI** to this report. In response to several questions about whether MED POL would be able to confirm that a country agreed to use of its data by another country, he said that a country, when submitting data, would specify whether they were for public or for restricted use. The procedure, therefore, was that each country would provide data to MED POL, specifying whether they were for public use, could be exchanged only with other Contracting Parties or were for the use only of MED POL. It would therefore not be necessary to consult countries again.

66. One participant asked whether the generator of data could be informed of the purpose for which they were to be used. The Secretariat said that country data were usually used by MED POL to conduct assessments, which were always submitted to countries for remarks and approval before publication.

67. As an outcome of the discussion, it was decided on the Chairperson's initiative to accept the document in principle while allowing sufficient time for countries to submit their observations by the end of 2007.

Agenda item 6: Review and approval of the work plan for 2008-2009 MED POL activities (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/7)

68. Mr. Civili, introducing document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/7, said that the proposed activities of MED POL for the next biennium were destined for submission, following review and amendment by the meeting, to the forthcoming meeting of the MAP Focal Points and then to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption. While MAP budget allocations were not yet decided, the priorities identified by the National

Coordinators should find reflection in the programme finally adopted. It was understood that certain changes to the document would be required to take account of the earlier amendments to the Operational Document for Phase IV.

69. In the ensuing discussion on sub-programme 1 (Implementation of the LBS Protocol), some representatives voiced concerns in connection with the development of a differentiation approach. One cautioned against anticipating agreement that had yet to be reached on the question. Another remained concerned about reconciling a differentiation approach for revision of the NAPs under the SAP with the elaboration of new legally binding measures and timetables. Mr. Civili said in reply that pursuit of the differentiation approach was naturally dependent on the prior agreement of the Contracting Parties. He reiterated that there was room for convergence of the two objectives within the LBS process.

70. Several participants raised the issue of the reliability and comparability of data on pollution sources, which were a prerequisite for programme effectiveness. On the question of comparability, one speaker argued that strict comparability of data was not essential within a differentiation approach when the method used was the same. Mr. Civili indicated that MED POL was, however, continuing to work on improving the methodology and updating the database.

71. One representative wondered whether the programme might be able to accommodate other topics, such as the identification of control measures linked to mercury, refineries and the metal industry. In spite of some obvious budgetary constraints, the suggestion that background information might be prepared in the meantime on such issues was noted by the Secretariat.

72. Introducing sub-programme 2 (Implementation of the Dumping Protocol), Mr. Civili said that much attention would be devoted to the subject during the next biennium, notably through cooperation with the Secretariat of the London Convention and the organization of further meetings of national stakeholders, the worth of which had already been proven.

73. In the ensuing discussion, Mr. Abousamra said that the MED POL data on munitions dumping was derived mainly from international literature on account of the general lack of response to the questionnaire which had been distributed to countries on the subject. Willingness to submit the relevant data was expressed by numerous participants, and it was consequently agreed to recirculate the questionnaire to the National Coordinators with a view to the compilation of more comprehensive data on munitions dumping on the basis of the responses received.

74. Concerning dredged materials, he pointed to discrepancies between the data provided by environment ministries through the national reporting system and those provided by transport ministries to the Secretariat of the London Convention. Improved coordination at the national level was therefore essential. Beneficial contact between MED POL and the London Convention had already taken place and was set to increase during the next biennium, when attention would also be devoted to the major issue of placement.

75. Mr. Civili then reviewed the objectives and content of sub-programme 3 (Implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol), in which connection he highlighted the launch of several PCB-management projects in the framework of the GEF Strategic Partnership aiming at the disposal of 1100 tons of PCBs, of which MED POL was particularly proud. Emphasizing the need for formal support for those projects, he urged

countries to mobilize in conveying their endorsement to GEF. One representative agreed that the PCB projects indeed represented a benchmark in the work of the Barcelona Convention, adding that collaboration at the highest level was vital to their success. CP/RAC would also shortly be requesting the endorsement of its bid to serve as the regional centre for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the aim being to avoid duplication of work and mobilize additional resources. A stakeholders' meeting on issues relating to the Stockholm Convention was also seen as an important activity for inclusion within the sub-programme.

76. With regard to sub-programme 4 (Assessment of the implementation of the LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Wastes Protocols), one representative said that the monitoring system should include operational monitoring and observation systems. Several representatives stressed the importance of having standardized, reliable sampling and analytical methods to ensure that the results were comparable. Mr. Civili assured participants that the updating of the methodology for NBBs and their content would not result in fundamental changes.

77. The comment was made that the term 'hot spot' was perceived by the public as indicating one type of situation, whereas hot spots differed widely in respect of their source and the degree of hazard they represented. It was suggested that more precise language be used.

78. The participants agreed to a suggestion by Mr. Civili that the next meeting on monitoring activities should include in its agenda the preparation of marine pollution indicators.

79. Mr. Civili, introducing sub-programme 5 (Use of implementation tools), said that the objective of developing a mechanism for transfer of technology would be amended in the light of the discussion on MED POL Phase IV activities. He acknowledged the important intellectual, technical and financial contributions of ICS-UNIDO to implementation of PRTRs.

80. One representative raised the problem of maintenance of laboratory equipment, which had been provided previously by the IAEA. He suggested that MED POL provide training in calibration, analysis and maintenance. Mr. Civili replied that that type of assistance provided in the past by IAEA-MESL to all laboratories had been discontinued for budgetary reasons. Mr. Jae Oh, IAEA-MESL, said that he would investigate whether training could be included in one of his organization's technical cooperation programmes. He would send a questionnaire to countries to elicit information on their priorities for funding. Another participant commented that training would also be required in techniques for measuring biological indicators.

81. During the discussion on sub-programme 6 (Physical alteration and destruction of habitats), one representative asked that the issue not be presented only in its negative aspects. Mr. Civili replied that MED POL recognized the contribution of desalination to development, but considered that MED POL's remit to reduce pollution of the marine environment was the priority. The representative of SPA/RAC reported on its ongoing studies on the impact of brine on the habitat, through a CAMP activity conducted together with PAP/RAC. The studies suggested that effects might be more significant than initially supposed. SPA/RAC offered to collaborate with MED POL in activities relating to habitat alteration by desalination plants. The representative of an NGO said that NGOs would wish to be involved in both objectives of the sub-programme, in which they had already proved their efficacy.

82. Introducing sub-programme 7 (Public health), Mr. Kamizoulis said that its objectives were: to assist countries in the better management and operation of municipal wastewater treatment plants and use of treated water; and to assist countries in the monitoring of bathing waters and shellfish-growing areas. Participants suggested that reference should be made to the European Union Directive on Bathing Waters and that provision should be made for greater involvement of NGOs in public health activities.

83. With regard to sub-programme 8 (Cooperation and institutional arrangements), Mr. Civili observed that the effectiveness of MED POL would greatly benefit from closer cooperation with all relevant international, regional and national actors. Special consideration would be given to increased partnership with RACs, the European Union and the EEA in the framework of the Horizon 2020 Initiative.

84. Presenting sub-programme 9 (Stakeholder involvement and public outreach), Mr. Civili said that the objectives of the sub-programme included developing involvement of the private sector in close cooperation with CP/RAC and assisting in the establishment of national websites on MED POL to promote improved public outreach.

85. In relation to sub-programme 10 (Energy production and maritime transport), Mr. Civili made it clear that the stated objectives of the programme would need to be amended to take account of the earlier discussion on the subject.

86. One representative informed the meeting that, in the CP/RAC work programme there were additional activities to those presented in the MED POL work plan for 2008-2009, aimed at facilitating the implementation of the LBS Protocol.

87. The work plan for the 2008-2009 biennium, as amended, was approved (see **Annex VII**).

Agenda item 7: Other business

88. Mr. Gabriel P. Gabrielides (MAP/MED POL Consultant) gave a presentation on the process of application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities by MAP. Now complete, a European Community/MAP project, known as ECOMED, had been designed to facilitate the implementation of that approach by MAP and its components and to deliver a road map to that end for use by MAP and the Contracting Parties. In the context of that project, which had been coordinated by MED POL on behalf of MAP, a working group of experts had held two meetings in 2006 to prepare proposals for discussion at a regional meeting of government-designated experts in February 2007.

89. Having set forth the commonly agreed definition of the ecosystem approach, he gave examples of international instruments, both binding and non-binding, which explicitly or implicitly referred to the ecosystem approach, together with examples of regional organizations that had already begun to implement the approach. The ecosystem approach demanded ecosystem-related objectives and adherence to such principles as integration and stakeholder involvement. The first stage of the approach was to convert the ecological vision for the Mediterranean from a descriptive status to a quantified target and subsequently to redraft existing management plans accordingly. He outlined the recommendations proposed by the meeting of government-designated experts for submission to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties. The recommendations included a road map, as well as an ecological vision for the Mediterranean and three

strategic goals, the most relevant of which to MED POL involvement was that relating to the reduction of marine pollution.

90. All future work on the ecosystem approach would now be undertaken at the MAP level. Subject to approval of the recommendations and road map by the Contracting Parties, an experts' meeting would be held in the spring of 2008 to tackle the hitherto undiscussed issues of management areas and pilot studies. Lastly, he said that implications for MAP in terms of, inter alia, its institutional framework and capacity had also been studied by the working group, which considered that no changes were necessary for the time being.

91. Responding to questions, Mr. Gabrielides said that no decisions had been taken as far as management areas and pilot projects were concerned; those matters would be addressed in the spring of 2008.

92. Mr. Jae Oh, representative of IAEA-MESL, presented a number of activities carried out by his laboratory. The IAEA-MESL was the only marine laboratory in the United Nations system. Its function was to provide Member States with: research for the protection of the marine environment from radioactivity and pollution; applications of nuclear and isotopic techniques and solutions for tracking oceanic processes, marine ecosystems and pollution impacts; relevant expertise, training and reference materials for the sustainable development and monitoring of their marine environment; and strategic partnerships with international and other United Nations ocean agencies. He went on to describe the online Marine Information System (MARiS), consisting of a relational database bringing together verified institutional databases, reports and published scientific literature, accessible to identified users subject to respect for intellectual property rights. He proceeded to describe the forthcoming International Scientific Cruise to the Adriatic and North Ionian Seas (16-30 September 2007), involving 25-30 specialists from Eastern and other Mediterranean countries, aimed at studying oceanographic processes through scientific measurements and sampling of water, sediment and marine organisms. He concluded with an overview of emerging issues and pollutants and the activities of his laboratory in building new capacities.

93. Mr. Civili, thanking the representative of IAEA-MESL for his presentation, remarked on the contribution made by the laboratory to MED POL and the huge potential that the database presented for monitoring and emerging issues. Possible integration with the MED POL database being set up by INFO/RAC would provide an invaluable source of information.

94. Mr. Jacques Verdier, representing Eurochlor, described the work of his organization in relation to reducing pollution in the Mediterranean. Eurochlor was a federation of professionals of the European chlorine industry, representing 45 companies, ranging from some of the largest in the world to small industries. Chlorine was one of the major raw materials for the chemical industry and was the basis of numerous derivatives for the production of many articles used in the electronics, pharmaceutical, automobile and aeronautics industries and in water treatment.

95. The forerunner of Eurochlor had been the International Chlorine Technical Bureau, which had addressed the safety of production processes, workers and the transport of chlorine. Eurochlor was concerned with reducing emissions from chlorine production sites and from user industries so as to minimize their impact on the environment. To that end, it worked closely with various European Commission entities and international environmental conventions. Chlorine was produced by the electrolysis

of mercury and by diaphragm and membrane systems. One of the main activities of Eurochlor was to improve and also to reduce emissions of mercury through voluntary agreements, and much progress had been made towards that goal. Eurochlor also conducted risk evaluation studies within and around industrial sites.

96. Mr. Civili said that Eurochlor could provide useful information relevant for implementation of the SAP. Two representatives commended the partnership of MED POL with industry, which could be a good source of background information.

Agenda item 8: Review and approval of the draft report

97. The Coordinators adopted the draft report in English and French on Thursday, 28 June 2007.

98. They also adopted the revised version of the document containing proposed activities to be carried out during the 2008-2009 biennium as part of MED POL, as amended (see **Annex VII**).

Agenda item 9: Closure of the meeting

99. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the chairperson declared the meeting closed at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, 28 June 2007.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**ALBANIA
ALBANIE**

Ms Zamira Dana

Director of Directory of the References and Analyzes
Agency of the Environment and Forestry
Rruga "Halil Bega", Nr.23
Tirana, Albania

Tel: +355 4 371237

Fax: +355 4 371243

Mob.: +355 68 24 29727

E-mail: radazamira@yahoo.com,yllidana@interalb.net

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
BOSNIE ET HERZÉGOVINE**

Ms Sabina Hadziahmetovic

Hydro – Engineering Institute
1 Stjepana Tomica Str.
71 000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tel: +387 33 207 949

Fax: +387 33 207 949

E-mail: sabina.hadziahmetovic@heis.com.ba

**CROATIA
CROATIE**

Mr. Nenad Smodlaka

Rudjer Boskovic Institute
Centre for Marine Research – Rovinj
5 Giordano Paliaga
P.O. Box 150, HR-52210
Rovinj, Croatia

Tel: +385 52 804 701

Fax: +385 52 813 496

E-mail: smodlaka@cim.irb.hr

**CYPRUS
CHYPRE**

Ms Marina Argyrou

Department of Fisheries and Marine Research
(DFMR)
Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and
Environment
101 Bethleem Street, Strovolos, 1416 Nicosia,
Cyprus

Tel: +357 22807852

Fax: +357 22775955

E-mail: margyrou@dfmr.moa.gov.cy

**EGYPT
ÉGYPTE**

Ms Fatma AbouShouk
Head of Environmental Management Sector
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)
Cabinet of Ministers
30 Misr-Helwan El-Zyrae Road
P. O. Box 955 Maadi
11728 Cairo
Egypt

Tel: +20 2 5256450
Fax: + 20 2 5256454, +20 2 5256475
E-mail: faboushouk@mailcity.com

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
COMMISSION EUROPEENNE**

Mr. Jose Rizo-Martin
Principal Administrator
Directorate General for Environment
European Commission
200 rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Tel: +32 2 2950106
Fax: +32 2 2968825
E-mail: jose.rizo-martin@ec.europa.eu

**FRANCE
FRANCE**

Ms Sylvie Ravalet
Chef du Bureau de la Mer
Direction de l'Eau
Ministère d'Ecologie et du Développement Durable
20 Avenue de Ségur
75302 Paris 07 SP, France

Tel: + 33 1 42 19 22 34
Fax: + 33 1 42 19 12 22
E-mail: Sylvie.ravalet@ecologie.gouv.fr

Mr. Richard Berridge
Bureau de la Mer
Direction de l'Eau
Ministère d'Ecologie et du Développement Durable
20 Avenue de Ségur
75302 Paris 07 SP, France

Tel: + 33 1 42 19 12 66
Fax: + 33 1 42 19 12 22
E-mail: richard.berridge@ecologie.gouv.fr

**GREECE
GRECE**

Ms Anastasia Bakali-Lazarou
National Coordinator for MED POL Head
Central Water Agency
Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and
Public Works
147 Patission Street
11251 Athens
Greece

Tel: +30 210 8650106
Fax: +30 210 8662968
E-mail: a.lazarou@dpers.minenv.gr

**ITALY
ITALIE**

Mr. Damiano Luchetti
Expert
Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea
Via Capitan Bavastro 174
Rome 00145
Italy

Tel: + 39 06 57225375
E-mail: Luchetti.Damiano@minambiente.it

**LIBYA
LIBYE**

Mr. Abdulfatah Mohamed Boargob
Ministry of Environment
Environment General Authority
P.O. Box 83173a
Tripoli
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Tel:+218 912112236
Fax:+218 21 4839991
E-mail: aboargob@yahoo.co.uk

**MONACO
MONACO**

Mr. André Veglia
Coordonnateur National MEDPOL
Direction de l'Environnement, de l'Urbanisme et de
la Construction
Les Terrasses de Fontvieille
23 avenue Albert II
98000 Monaco

Tel: +377 98 988179
Fax: +377 98 988802
E-mail: aveglia@gouv.mc

**MOROCCO
MAROC**

Mr. Mustafa Terhzaz
Chef de la Division de la Surveillance et de la
Recherche
Direction de Surveillance et de la Prévention des
Risques
Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Eau,
et de l'Environnement
n°2, Rue Oum Er Rbia
Agdal, Rabat
Maroc

Tel: +212 37 772656
Fax: +212 37 681641
E-mail: terhzaz_env@yahoo.fr

**SLOVENIA
SLOVENIE**

Ms Valentina Turk
Marine Biological Station Piran
National Institution of Biology
Fornace 41
P.O. Box 22
SI-6330, Piran
Slovenia

Tel: +386 5 6712916
Fax: +386 5 6712901
E-mail: turk@mbss.org

**SPAIN
ESPAGNE**

Mr. Victor Escobar
Jefe de Area de Coordinación Institucional
Subdirección General Calidad del Aire y de
Prevención de Riesgos
Ministry of Environment
Plaza de San Juan de la Cruz s/n
28071 Madrid
Spain

Tel: +34 91 4535355
Fax: +34 91 5340583
E-mail: vaescobar@mma.es

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
RÉPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE**

Mr. Khaldoon Mourad
Environmental Engineer
MED POL National Coordinator
General Commission for Environmental Affairs
Ministry of Local Administration and Environment
P.O. Box 3773
Damascus
Syrian Arab Republic

Mob.: +963 955 436 841
Fax: +963 11 44 61 0 79
E-mail: khaldoonmourad@yahoo.com

**TUNISIA
TUNISIE**

Mr. Samir Kaabi
Chef de Département Contrôle et Intervention
Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement
15 rue 7051 Cité ESSALEM
Centre Urbain Nord
2080 Ariana, Tunisie

Tel:+216 71 750 822
Fax:+216 71 753 991
E-mail: dt.Ctl@anpe.nat.tn

Mr. Lassaad Chouba
Chercheur
Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la
Mer Salammbô
Port de pêche La Goulette
2060 Tunis, Tunisie

Tel: + 216 71 735848
Fax: + 216 71 732622
Mob.: +21698 426234
E-mail: lassaad.chouba@instm.rnrt.tn

Mr. Mohamed Ben Hassine

Chef du projet de contrôle de la pollution de l'eau
Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement
Rue de Caméroun – Belvédère
BP 52
1002 Tunis, Tunisie

Tel:+ 216 71 289281
Fax:+ 216 71 845479
E-mail: bhassinegr@yahoo.fr

Mr. Mabrouk Nedhif

Directeur de l'Hygiène du Milieu et de la Protection
de l'Environnement
Ministère de la Santé Publique
Bab Saadun
Tunis, Tunisie

Tel:+ 216 71 576115
Fax:+ 216 71 576010
Mob.:+ 216 22940111
E-mail: mabrouk.nedhif@rns.tn

Ms Mounira Hamdi

Ingénieur
Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement
Centre Urbain Nord, 15 Rue
7051 cité Essalem 2080 Tunis
BP 52 Belvédère
Tunisie

Tel:+ 216 71 233600
Fax:+ 216 71 232811
Mob.: +216 99 58442
E-mail: hamdim76@yahoo.fr

Mr. Ahmet Rifat Ilhan

Expert of Environment and Forestry
CP/RAC National Focal Point
T.R. Ministry of Environment and Forestry
General Directorate of Environmental Management
Department of Marine and Coast Management
Sogutozu Caddesi No: 14/E Bestepe
Ankara, Turkey

Tel: +90 312 207 66 28
Fax: +90 312 207 66 95
Mob.: +90 5359438656
E-mail: armidoarmido@yahoo.com

Mr. Mehmet Askiner

Assistant Expert
T.R. Ministry of Environment and Forestry
General Directorate of Environmental Management
Department of Marine and Coast Management

**TURKEY
TURQUIE**

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/8
Annex I
page 6

Sogutozu Caddesi No: 14/E Bestepe
Ankara, Turkey

Tel: +90 312 207 52 37
Fax: +90 312 207 66 95
Mob.: +90 532 4782137
E-mail: mehmetaskiner@gmail.com

**OBSERVERS
OBSERVATEURS**

**MONTENEGRO
MONTENEGRO**

Mr. Pavle Djuraskovic
Head
Department for Environmental Protection
Hydrometeorological Institute
Proleterska 19
81000 Podgorica
Montenegro

Tel: + 381 81 247973/ +381 81 246509
Fax: + 381 81 247973
E-mail: pavle.djuraskovic@meteo.cg.yu

**PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY
AUTHORITE PALESTINIENNE**

Mr. Mohammed Eila
Deputy Director General of Projects and
International Relation
MED POL National Coordinator
Environment Quality Authority
Palestinian Authority

Tel: +972 8 2847208
Fax: +972 8 2847198
Mob.: +970 599 254767
E-mail: meila@gov.ps

**UNITED NATIONS BODIES AND SECRETARIAT UNITS
SECRETARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES**

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME
COORDINATING UNIT FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES
POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT
UNITE DE COORDINATION DU PLAN
D'ACTION POUR LA
MEDITERRANEE**

Mr. Paul Mifsud
Coordinator
Tel: +30 210 72 73 101
E-mail: paul.mifsud@unepmap.gr

Mr. Francesco Saverio Civili
MED POL Coordinator
Tel: +30 210 72 73 106
E-mail: fscivili@unepmap.gr

Mr. Fouad Abousamra
MED POL Programme Officer
Tel: +30210 72 73 116
E-mail: fouad@unepmap.gr

Mr. Gabriel P. Gabrielides
MAP/MED POL Consultant
Tel: +30 210 72 73 132
E-mail: gabriel@unepmap.gr

Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan
P.O. Box 18019
48 Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue
116 10 Athens, Greece
Tel: +30 210 7273100
Fax: +30 210 7253196/7
E-mail: unepmedu@unepmap.gr
<http://www.unepmap.org>

MED POL Expert

Mr. Jordi Pon
Enresa Enviro Chair of Sustainability and Waste
Management
Edifici B2, UPC Campus Nord
c. Jordi Girona, 1-3
08034 Barcelona
Spain

Tel: +34 93 401 70 76
E-mail: jordi.pon@upc.edu

**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN
CENTRES D'ACTIVITES REGIONALES DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA
MEDITERRANEE**

**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR CLEANER
PRODUCTION
CENTRE D'ACTIVITÉS RÉGIONALES POUR UNE
PRODUCTION PROPRE**

Ms Virginia Alzina
Director
Regional Activity Center for Cleaner Production
Mediterranean Action Plan - United Nations
Environment Program
C/ Dr. Roux, 80
08017 Barcelona - Spain

Tel: +34 93 5538790
Fax: +34 93 5538795
E-mail: valzina@cprac.org
<http://www.cprac.org>

**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
CENTRE D'ACTIVITÉS RÉGIONALES
INFORMATION ET COMMUNICATION**

Mr. Marco Montuori
INFO/RAC
Via Cagliari, 40
00198 Rome
Italy

Tel: + 39 06 85305147
Fax: +39 06 8542475
E-mail: mmontuori@inforac.org
<http://www.inforac.org>

**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPECIAL
PROTECTED AREAS
CENTRE D'ACTIVITÉS RÉGIONALES POUR LES
AIRES SPÉCIALEMENT PROTÉGÉES**

Mr. Abderrahmen Gannoun
Director SPA/RAC
Boulevard du Leader Yasser Arafat
B.P. 337
1080 Tunis Cedex
Tunisia

Tel: +216 71 206649, 206485, 206851
Fax: +216 71206490
E-mail: car-asp@rac-spa.org
<http://www.rac-spa.org>

Mr. Daniel Cebrian Menchero
SAP BIO Programme Officer
Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas
Boulevard du Leader Yasser Arafat
B.P. 337
1080 Tunis Cedex
Tunisia

Tel: +216 71 206649, 206485, 206851
Fax: +216 71206490
E-mail: car-asp@rac-spa.org, daniel.cebrian@rac-spa.org
<http://www.rac-spa.org>

Ms Christine Pergent Martini
Directeur Scientifique
SPA/RAC
Boulevard du Leader Yasser Arafat
B.P. 337
1080 Tunis Cedex

Tunisie

Tel: +216 71 206649, 206485, 206851

Fax: +216 71206490

Mob.: +216 23 815451

E-mail: christine.pergent@rac-spa.org

<http://www.rac-spa.org>

**REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
REPRESENTANTS DES INSTITUTIONS SPECIALISEES DES NATIONS UNIES ET AUTRES
ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES**

**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
AGENCE INTERNATIONALE POUR L'ÉNERGIE
ATOMIQUE**

Mr. Jae Oh
Head
Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory
IAEA-Marine Environment Laboratories
Department of Nuclear Sciences Applications
4 Quai Antoine 1er MC 98000
Principality of Monaco

Tel: + 377 97 97 72 36
Fax: + 377 97 97 72 76
E-mail: J.Oh@iaea.org

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE**

Mr. George Kamizoulis
WHO/MED POL Senior Scientist
P.O. Box 18019
48, Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue
116 35 Athens, Greece

Tel: +30 210 72 73 105
Fax: +30 210 7253196/7
E-mail: whomed@hol.gr

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
ORGANISATIONS NON GOUVERNEMENTALES**

**EURO CHLOR
EURO CHLOR**

Mr. Jacques Verdier
Counsellor
Avenue Van Neuwenhuyse,4
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium

Tel: +32 2 6767251
Fax: +32 2 2311301
E-mail: jacques-verdier@wanadoo.fr

**LEGAMBIENTE
LEGAMBIENTE**

Mr. Daniele Calza Bini
Policy Advisor
403 Via Salaria
00199 Rome
Italy

Tel: +39 06 86268330
Fax: +39 06 86218474
Mob.: +39 3351357422
E-mail: d.calzabini@mail.legambiente.com,
protezionecivile@mail.legambiente.com
<http://www.legambiente.com>

ANNEX II

**SPEECH BY H. E. MR. NADHIR HAMADA, MINISTER FOR
THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
OF TUNISIA**

République Tunisienne
Ministère de l'Environnement
et du Développement Durable

*Discours de Son Excellence
Monsieur Nadhir HAMADA
Ministre de l'Environnement et du Développement
Durable
à l'ouverture de
la réunion des coordonnateurs du MEDPOL*

Hammamet 25 juin 2007

Monsieur Paul MIFSUD
Coordonnateur du Plan d'Action pour la Méditerranée,

Monsieur Francesco Saverio CIVILI
Coordonnateur du Programme d'Evaluation et de Maîtrise
de la Pollution dans la Région Méditerranéenne, MED
POL,

Monsieur George Kamizoulis
Coordonnateur du bureau de l'Organisation Mondiale de la
Santé auprès du Plan d'Action pour la Méditerranée.

Mesdames et Messieurs les coordonnateurs nationaux du
Programme MED POL.

Mesdames et Messieurs.

Je voudrais, tout d'abord, adresser mes souhaits de bienvenue en Tunisie, aux honorables personnalités qui participent à cette importante réunion. Mes remerciements vont aussi au Plan d'Action pour la Méditerranée, au Programme d'Evaluation et de Maîtrise de la Pollution dans la Région Méditerranéenne, MED POL, l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé et à toutes les Organisations régionales qui agissent pour une meilleure coordination entre les pays euro-méditerranéens dans le domaine de l'environnement et du développement durable.

Mesdames, Messieurs.

L'action de nos pays pour concrétiser les différents objectifs d'un développement durable pour un environnement, s'inscrivent dans l'esprit du Partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen, lancé en 1995 avec la Déclaration de Barcelone afin que la Méditerranée redevienne une « région de prospérité partagée » et une zone de libre échange entre les 27 pays concernés soit établie à l'horizon 2010. Ce qui suppose un dialogue politique et une coopération accrue entre les partenaires.

De plus, l'organisation de cette réunion me donne l'occasion de rappeler la déclaration du Caire pour la Conférence Ministérielle Euro- méditerranéenne sur l'environnement, tenue le 20 novembre 2006. Cette déclaration a approuvé le calendrier élaboré pour l'initiative Horizon 2020 en faveur de la dépollution de la mer méditerranée d'ici à 2020 et a appelé à une mobilisation prévisible et durable des ressources financières nécessaires pour soutenir et mettre en œuvre la stratégie de l'environnement pour la méditerranée.

Mesdames et Messieurs ;

Il est évident, pour nous, citoyens de pays méditerranéens, que les dernières décennies ont été marquées par des pressions considérables sur les ressources naturelles, souvent malheureusement limitées, de notre région et sur ses écosystèmes marins et terrestres, très fragiles.

Ces pressions, qui peuvent être historiquement attribuées au développement des activités économiques, seraient amplifiées par des phénomènes globaux tels que les changements climatiques auxquels l'humanité toute entière devrait faire face et œuvrer pour s'adapter à ses conséquences potentielles.

Marquant sa ferme volonté de participer activement à la protection de l'environnement mondial, la Tunisie a signé et ratifié l'ensemble des traités et accords internationaux en la matière. En outre, elle a su adopter, sous l'égide la politique clairvoyante et avant-gardiste de son excellence le Président de la république Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, des stratégies environnementales et de développement durable à même de contribuer efficacement à l'effort régional de préservation de la mer méditerranée.

Ces stratégies s'appuient, entre autres, sur la gestion écologiquement rationnelle des déchets liquides et solides, la lutte contre la pollution et le transfert des technologies propres,

la maîtrise de l'énergie, la promotion des énergies renouvelables et le développement de la couverture végétale et forestière.

La Tunisie a toujours considéré que le développement économique et social et la protection de l'environnement sont indissociables. Animé par ce souci, elle a adhéré à la Convention pour la protection de la mer Méditerranée contre la pollution (Convention de Barcelone) et ses Protocoles et les amendements qui y sont relatifs en vue de protéger la région méditerranéenne et de contribuer à l'amélioration de la qualité de la vie de ses citoyens.

Dans ce cadre, les efforts du Plan d'Action pour la Méditerranée ainsi que du Programme MED POL, sous l'égide du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement, sont louables et méritent notre respect.

Le soutien aux efforts du PAM a été et restera une constante dans notre politique de coopération dans le domaine de l'environnement. D'ailleurs, je rappelle à cette occasion, que l'Agenda MED 21 fût élaboré à Tunis dès 1994. C'est sur la base de cet agenda que la Commission Méditerranéenne du Développement Durable (CMDD) a été mise en place.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Depuis Le Changement de 1987, la Tunisie s'est engagée dans un nouveau projet de société qui situe les droits des citoyens et sa promotion sociale et économique au centre de ses préoccupations. Le gouvernement, sous l'impulsion du **Président Ben Ali**, et tout en poursuivant et en amplifiant les actions positives du passé, les a incluses dans une politique globale du changement visant la concrétisation d'un projet ambitieux de société, dont l'un des axes principaux est de soutenir un mode de développement intégral, fondé sur l'équité sociale et la garantie du bien-être de chacun, dans un environnement sain et préservé.

Ainsi, et depuis bientôt une vingtaine d'années, notre pays a esquissé et mis en œuvre les principales composantes d'une politique de développement durable fondée sur l'intégration de l'environnement dans les politiques et programmes sectoriels de développement, fidèle en cela à l'esprit des différentes résolutions internationales et régionales, et soucieuse de favoriser un dialogue efficace pour une coopération fructueuse et durable dans le monde.

D'autre part, et déterminée à poursuivre les objectifs du développement et de croissance dans le cadre de l'économie globale, la Tunisie - qui a opté pour l'intégration économique avec l'Europe, partenaire privilégié pour le développement - est, tout particulièrement, préoccupée par la réalisation d'un saut qualitatif au niveau de ses performances économiques globales par la promotion de ses exportations et la nécessité d'une mise à niveau environnementale des différents secteurs de production afin de faire face à la concurrence et à se positionner sur le marché européen.

Elle s'est également attachée à achever « sa transition environnementale » par l'intégration de la durabilité dans les différents secteurs de l'économie, une gestion écologique de ses ressources naturelles (eau, sol, littoral) et l'harmonisation de sa législation environnementale avec la réglementation européenne conformément à l'accord d'association, ce qui constitue de nouveaux défis pour un pays émergent qui aspire, en fait, à une croissance économique soutenue.

A vrai dire entre l'économie et l'écologie, la Tunisie a toujours opté pour une stratégie de conciliation dans un contexte particulièrement difficile marqué par la rareté des ressources, la fluctuation des cours internationaux et une conjoncture économique défavorable ; ce qui constitue le mérite d'un pays, certes petit par sa géographie, mais qui se veut grand par l'ingéniosité de ses hommes et la volonté de son peuple sous la conduite avisée du Président de la République.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Les questions relatives à la protection de l'environnement tiennent une place de choix dans la stratégie de développement économique et social de la Tunisie. Nous oeuvrons avec beaucoup d'ardeur pour concilier développement et environnement à travers une sage politique d'utilisation des ressources et une action préventive contre toutes les formes d'atteinte à l'environnement.

Toutefois, nous ne pouvons nous empêcher de constater que la conciliation entre environnement et développement, si elle apparaît facile à concevoir, s'avère souvent laborieuse à mettre dans la pratique.

Ce sont là les difficultés d'assurer l'adaptabilité de la Tunisie aux changements climatiques, de lutter contre la désertification, de préserver la biodiversité et le patrimoine génétique.

A ces questions d'environnement global, s'ajoutent en fait d'autres préoccupations qui sont spécifiques à la région tels que la lutte contre la pollution marine générée par les navires.

En effet, l'instauration des zones de protection et de sauvegarde au Nord de la méditerranée ne font que déplacer le problème de la pollution marine vers le Sud, ce qui nécessite des pays riverains de revoir leur stratégie de coopération en la matière.

Par ailleurs, la lutte contre la pollution hydrique et solide constitue toujours une priorité de la politique nationale dans le domaine de l'environnement et ce malgré les réalisations de la Tunisie au niveau de l'assainissement hydrique et la gestion des déchets solides qui a fait d'elle un pays modèle dans la région arabe et africaine.

La réponse à ces différentes préoccupations en terme de politiques publiques suppose l'engagement des différents acteurs du développement durable (autorités gouvernementales, société civile, secteur privé, collectivités locales) afin de créer

les synergies nécessaires à la réalisation des ces objectifs ambitieux.

La Tunisie ouverte, qui tend à atteindre les standards internationaux en terme de développement humain et durable ne peut se passer, dans cette œuvre, de ses partenaires privilégiés en Europe et dans le monde.

A cet effet, nous espérons que les différentes formes de coopération bilatérale et multilatérale puissent se conjuguer sans effet de substitution ni de double emploi afin de contribuer à apporter une réponse satisfaisante, à l'ensemble des problèmes de l'environnement.

Renforcer la coopération bilatérale, régionale et multilatérale, tel est notre credo dans ce cadre. C'est ainsi que nous sommes parfaitement disposés à agir en concert avec les autres pays pour le développement durable de la Tunisie et de toute la région.

Mesdames et Messieurs ;

En raison de son climat aride à semi aride, la Tunisie a adopté, depuis l'évènement du changement du 7 novembre 1987, une politique intégrée et a entrepris des efforts considérables pour la préservation de ses ressources naturelles contre toutes les formes de dégradation, de gaspillages et de pollution.

Ces efforts furent marqués, ces dernières années, par la construction de plusieurs stations d'épuration susceptibles d'être prises en charge par l'ONAS (Office National d'Assainissement). Ainsi la Tunisie dispose actuellement de plus de 95 stations d'épuration des eaux usées avec une capacité de 217 Millions de mètres cubes/an. Ces stations ont permis de traiter plus de 87% des rejets sanitaires en Tunisie. Les eaux épurées sont valorisées dans le but d'économie d'eau pour irriguer près de 7.000 Ha d'arboriculture, de terrains de golf, de cultures industrielles et d'espaces verts, et sont soumises à un contrôle sanitaire permanent. En outre, il est prévu

l'accroissement des surfaces irriguées par les eaux usées traitées pour atteindre 22.000 Ha et ainsi minimiser les rejets de ces eaux dans la mer méditerranéenne.

De plus, le Fonds de Dépollution représente un outil important pour encourager et inciter les entreprises à réaliser des investissements pour dépolluer et pour la création d'unités de collecte et de valorisation des déchets. Ce Fonds a, depuis sa création en 1994, fourni plus de 25 millions de dinars sous forme de subventions pour un total d'investissements de plus de 125 millions de dinars.

En outre, dans le cadre du Programme National de Gestion des Déchets, 9 décharges contrôlées sont en cours d'être aménagées à côté des 4 autres décharges contrôlées situées dans la zone de grand Tunis et du bassin du Medjerda qui sont déjà en exploitation. Ce qui permettra de traiter la majeure partie des déchets ménagers en Tunisie conformément aux standards internationaux.

De ce fait, les actions au profit de l'environnement réalisées en Tunisie nous ont permis de minimiser **les coûts de dégradations** des catégories environnementales les plus importantes eau, air, sol, littoral et déchets à **2,1% du PIB selon la dernière étude effectuée par la Banque Mondiale**. Ce chiffre, appelé à baisser davantage au vu des performances de notre pays dans le domaine de l'environnement, est le plus bas à l'échelle de la mer méditerranéenne.

L'étude a précisé que la part des investissements environnementaux représente 1,2% de notre PNB .Ce chiffre reflète l'engagement de la Tunisie pour la sauvegarde et la préservation de l'environnement dans une optique de développement Durable.

Mesdames et Messieurs ;

Cette réunion de la grande famille des coordinateurs du MEDPOL, représente pour nous tous une occasion de choix pour débattre du travail et des efforts accomplis dans le cadre du MEDPOL et de son rôle à venir pour appuyer les efforts que déploient nos pays en matière de protection de l'environnement et de concrétisation des objectifs de durabilité du développement.

Le dialogue que vous allez engager lors de cette rencontre et les recommandations que vous proposerez aideront sans nul doute à faire fructifier les politiques nationales visant une meilleure approche des questions environnementales et des moyens à même d'y faire face. Ces questions sont nombreuses et de plus en plus compliquées à élucider.

En effet, et alors que plus de 100 millions d'habitants vivent sur ses rivages, la Méditerranée est une des mers les plus polluées du globe à cause de son quasi enfermement, tout d'abord - sa masse d'eau n'étant renouvelée par l'Atlantique qu'une fois tous les 70 ans -, ensuite, pour le grand nombre de bateaux de commerce qui la traversent, les trois quart du commerce mondial se faisant à travers ses eaux.

Dès 1976, et alors que 33% des rives méditerranéennes étaient impropres, quelques pays concernés ont signé un accord pour lutter contre la pollution de cet espace O combien vital pour les populations qui l'entourent. Mais la gravité de la situation due, notamment, à la menace qui pèse sur ses écosystèmes pour différentes raisons, à commencer par le trafic commercial massif, en passant par l'intense activité humaine sur les littoraux, appelle à la mise en place de stratégies communes pour la sauvegarde de ce bassin méditerranéen qui constitue notre richesse à tous, et celle des générations futures.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Je profite de cette occasion pour souligner l'importance des acquis du « PAM » qui a déployé de grands efforts pour protéger la méditerranée et je salue, également, les efforts de MEDPOL pour l'encadrement des experts nationaux et le suivi continu de la qualité des eaux en Méditerranée.

Je voudrais, aussi, saisir cette occasion pour vous informer que la Tunisie s'apprête à organiser à la fin du mois de Novembre de cette année, à l'instar de ce qui a été fait en 1994 sur la CMDD, une grande conférence internationale sur la solidarité méditerranéenne et africaine contre les effets des changements climatiques. D'éminentes personnalités seront y seront invitées. Nous aurons, ainsi, une occasion de choix pour assoire une stratégie en la matière.

Pour conclure, Je renouvelle mes souhaits de bienvenue à nos invités mes souhaits de plein succès aux travaux de la réunion dont j'espère qu'elle sera une occasion propice pour discuter le développement des programmes futurs du MEDPOL en vue de renforcer les acquis méditerranéens.

Permettez- moi, enfin, de dire que la région méditerranéenne a toujours été un cadre exemplaire pour le développement de la coopération régionale. Notre souhait est que les efforts de tous les pays méditerranéens se conjuguent pour que cette région demeure un espace exemplaire qui renforce la réconciliation entre un développement économique harmonieux et équitable, et une qualité de vie exceptionnel.

**Encore une fois, bienvenue à nos honorables invités.
Bonne continuation de vos travaux dont nous attendons beaucoup en termes d'idées et de recommandations en vue de développer et de promouvoir les programmes futurs du MED POL visant à consolider davantage les acquis pour l'environnement et la durabilité en Méditerranée,
Merci à tous de votre attention.**

ANNEX III

AGENDA

AGENDA

Hammamet, Tunisia, 25-28 June 2007

- Agenda item 1.** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda item 2.** Election of Officers
- Agenda item 3.** Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
- Agenda item 4.** Review of work carried out during the 2006-2007 biennium
- Agenda item 5.** Follow up to the Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators (Mytilini, 26-28 March 2007)
 - Agenda item 5.1** Review and approval of the Operational Document of MED POL Phase IV
 - Agenda item 5.2** Review of steps made in the process of preparation of the new legally-binding text containing measures and timetables (art. 15 LBS protocol)
 - Agenda item 5.3** Review of data policy in the framework of the MED POL Information System
- Agenda item 6.** Review and approval of workplan for 2008-2009 MED POL activities
- Agenda item 7.** Other business
- Agenda item 8.** Review and approval of draft Report
- Agenda item 9.** Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX IV

**OPERATIONAL DOCUMENT OF MED POL PHASE IV
(2006-2013)**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	1
1 INTRODUCTION.....	3
2 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT.....	5
3 SCOPE OF MED POL PHASE IV.....	6
3.1 Control and assessment.....	6
3.1.1 <i>Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the SAP MED</i>	6
3.1.2 <i>Implementation of the Dumping Protocol</i>	7
3.1.3 <i>Implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol</i>	8
3.1.4 <i>Assessment of the Implementation of Protocols</i>	8
3.1.4.1 <i>Overview of Monitoring Activities in MED POL Phase III</i>	8
3.1.4.2 <i>Programmatic Monitoring Components</i>	9
3.1.4.3 <i>Methodologies</i>	11
3.1.4.4 <i>Data Quality Assurance</i>	12
3.1.4.5 <i>Data Interpretation and Utilization</i>	13
3.1.4.6 <i>Indicators and data reporting</i>	13
3.1.5 <i>Implementation tools</i>	14
3.1.5.1 <i>Capacity Building and technical assistance</i>	14
3.1.5.2 <i>Database and Information System</i>	15
3.1.5.3 <i>Technology Transfer</i>	16
3.1.5.4 <i>Compliance and enforcement</i>	16
3.1.5.5 <i>PRTR</i>	16
3.1.6 <i>Physical alteration and destruction of habitats</i>	17
3.1.7 <i>Socio-economic roots of environmental degradation</i>	17
3.1.8 <i>Public Health</i>	17
3.2 Cooperation, Information and Public Participation	18
3.2.1 <i>Cooperation</i>	18
3.2.2 <i>Stakeholder Involvement</i>	19
3.2.3 <i>Public Outreach</i>	20
3.3 A Holistic Monitoring and Assessment Programme	20
3.3.1 <i>Application of the Ecosystem Approach to the management of human activities</i>	21
3.4 Scientific Collaboration.....	21
3.5 Fisheries	22
3.6 Energy Production and Maritime Transport.....	22
4 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	23
4.1 National level.....	23
4.2 MED POL Unit.....	24
5 MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF MED POL PHASE IV IMPLEMENTATION.....	25

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document provides the basis for implementing the MED POL Phase IV Programme. Rather than replacing Phase III, the implementation plan should be seen as an evolution and expansion of ongoing activities. Although countries have indeed made important and concrete steps towards the control of land-based pollution during the last years, the lack of the necessary ratifications of the 1995 Dumping Protocol, the 1996 Land-based Protocol and the 1996 Hazardous Waste Protocol, which did not allow them to enter into force, remains a very negative mark for the Barcelona Convention system. In the specific context of the MED POL Phase IV Programme, their entry into force would in fact provide the activities with a more solid legal strength and better prospects of implementation. Any efforts should therefore be made by the countries with the assistance of the Secretariat to overcome possible problems and complete the ratification procedures as soon as possible.

Apart from maintaining, and as required improving, the implementation of activities initiated during Phase III, the evolution of the MED POL Programme into Phase IV will attempt to better integrate its activities (e.g. monitoring) into the Strategic Action Programme and the Protocols (Land Based Sources, Dumping, and Hazardous Waste), and to operationally link with relevant international initiatives (European Marine Strategy and the Horizon 2020 Initiative, the Stockholm, Basel and London Conventions, and the Global Marine Assessment). MED POL will participate in the implementation of the ecosystem approach by MAP. Progress in the implementation of the SAP and the Protocols will be measured through monitoring of relevant indicators while implementation tools (data quality assurance programme, training, capacity building) will be modified accordingly. The environmental data will be integrated into an Information System to facilitate better interpretation in order to assess the state of the marine environment, the efficacy of pollution control measures, and compliance with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

The Secretariat will follow up and monitor the implementation of Sectoral Plans (SPs) and National Action Plans (NAPs) based on a continuous process of review and evaluation. MED POL will develop a policy and promote the transfer of technology and know how, and consequently to facilitate the implementation of NAPs. Assistance will continue to be provided to the countries for the priority actions described in the NAPs and access to existing financial sources will be facilitated.

Enhanced cooperation is envisaged between MED POL and private industry, stakeholders, civil society, competent international organizations. More in particular, closer links will be established with the MAP RACs and specific synergies will be set up to make better use of the available competencies within the MAP system and avoid overlaps. Phase IV anticipates improved collaboration between MED POL and the scientific community, a reciprocal relationship that will improve the interpretation of environmental monitoring data, thereby helping to elucidate gaps in the information, develop better predictive capabilities and improve the understanding of the marine and coastal ecosystems of the Mediterranean Sea in order to aid environmental policy makers and managers.

The Barcelona Convention and its Protocols stipulate a number of obligations that must be assumed by the Contracting Parties. Many tasks that were initiated during Phase III in fulfilment of such responsibilities will continue during Phase IV. Thus, countries will continue to ensure the coordination of policy-making, monitoring and pollution mitigation. Results from the monitoring programme will be integrated for purposes of environmental assessments and reporting to MED POL. MED POL Phase IV will increase the scope and importance of these activities.

The responsibilities of the MED POL Coordinating Unit have and will increase over time, particularly as the relevant Protocols will come into force. The management challenge of Phase IV is to achieve better integration of the various components into which MED POL has grown and to react to the recommendations made as result of the review of MED POL Phase III. An information and communication strategy, aimed at increasing the visibility of the monitoring programme at the local and national levels, will be developed as an integral part of the ongoing development of the MAP Information Strategy and the MED POL Information System.

1. INTRODUCTION

The scope of MED POL Phase IV was adopted at the Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Slovenia, 8-11 November 2005 (UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.16.5/Annex III). MED POL IV will retain most of the basic elements of MED POL III, and as such will continue to deal with marine and coastal pollution assessment and control by using the same tools (e.g. monitoring, capacity building, assessments, elaboration of control measures, etc.) that were successfully implemented in the past. However, considering the results of the evaluation of MED POL Phase III, based on the analysis of MAP's legislative framework and the contemporary initiatives and trends in environmental protection, and the recent policy developments at the region and the international levels, it appears that a number of important issues had not, or not adequately, been covered by the scope of MED POL III and will be gradually included in its Phase IV, as agreed by the Contracting Parties (see doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.16.5/Annex III). In particular:

- a) Control of sources of pollution in river watersheds and ground waters, as related to the inputs into the marine environment (as advocated by WSSD and the European Union, and as envisaged by the relevant articles of the LBS Protocol¹). Initially it may be reasonable to cover only the estuaries, particularly if they are declared also as hot spots, and move gradually upstream only in this case;
- b) Plans and programmes to counter physical alteration and destruction of habitats in cooperation with the competent regional bodies (as advocated by Agenda 21, SAP);
- c) Inclusion of the analysis of relevant social and economic factors such as the analysis of the social and economic roots of environmental degradation into the assessment of the state of the marine environment;
- d) A wider use of preventive and precautionary actions in pollution control, especially by preparation of environmental impact assessments, BAT and BEP for planned activities that may be a major source of marine pollution (as envisaged by the LBS and Dumping Protocols, and the SAP);
- e) More integration between the monitoring programme and the legal instruments;
- f) Development of financial tools to support the implementation of SAP/NAPs including strengthening operational contacts with regional and international donors;
- g) Meaningful involvement of, and collaboration, with the private sector and other stakeholders in designing and implementation of pollution control programmes and in the evaluation of their results;

¹ Article 3, paragraph (b) of the Protocol: The area to which Protocol applies shall be the hydrological basin of the Mediterranean Sea. Article 4, paragraph 1(a) of the Protocol: The Protocol shall apply to discharges from LBS point and diffuse sources and activities within the territories of the Contracting Parties that may affect directly or indirectly the Mediterranean Sea area. These discharges shall include those which reach the Mediterranean Area, as defined in Article 3(a), (c) and (d) of this Protocol, through coastal disposal, rivers, outfalls, canals, or other watercourses, including ground water flow, or through run-off and disposal under the seabed with access from land. Article 8 of the Protocol specifies that the Parties shall carry out at the earliest possible date monitoring activities, presumably covering the Protocol area, i.e. the hydrological basin of the Mediterranean.

- h) Intensified dissemination of information on the problems associated with the Mediterranean; mobilisation of public support to the goals of MAP/MED POL; preparation and wide distribution of reports addressed to general public, by making effective use of information technology (IT);
- i) Intensified and well-structured programmes that may facilitate cooperation for the transfer of technology between countries in order to reduce the existing technological gaps in the pollution reduction processes;
- j) Treatment of the “marine environment” in a holistic way, *i.e.* as an integral whole consisting of the sea area and the adjacent terrestrial coastal area (as advocated by Agenda 21 and the WSSD, and as implied by the revised title of the Barcelona Convention and envisaged by the amended Article 1 of the Convention²);
- k) Application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities, including pollution control (as advocated by a large segment of scientific community, proposed by SAP³ and the European Union, advocated by the MED POL Phase III evaluation and adopted by a number of regional pollution control programmes⁴);
- l) Intensified collaboration with natural and social scientists, and better use of scientific understanding of marine and coastal ecosystems as a functional basis for sound decision-making;
- m) Monitoring and assessment of the environmental effects and ecological implications of fisheries management, including aquaculture, on ecosystems (as advocated by the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities and practised by other Europe-based regional seas programmes) as well as of sea water desalination activities;
- n) Monitoring and assessment of environmental effects associated with energy production and maritime transport, in cooperation with other competent international and regional bodies;
- o) Assessment of the health risk associated with the quality of bathing and shellfish-growing waters, tourist establishment and facilities.

Some of the above issues may appear as beyond the scope of a programme initially designed for marine pollution control. However, while sectoral and narrowly defined control of marine pollution may have been seen in 1975 as an effective remedy to the woes of the Mediterranean basin, the changes adopted since 1995 in MAP’s legislative framework are a clear indication that the Parties to the Convention have shifted the focus of their attention. The focus is no longer only the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution but extends to a broader and more ambitious goal: to the protection of the marine environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean as a contribution to sustainable development. Agenda 21, the contemporary global and regional initiatives and trends in the approach to environmental protection, and the change in the

2 The title of the Convention: Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Convention: The application of the Convention may be extended to coastal areas as defined by each Contracting Party.

3 One of the targets proposed in the SAP is to safeguard the ecosystem function, maintain the integrity and biological diversity of species and habitats.

4 For instance: HELCOM and OSPAR.

philosophy underpinning the current legislative framework of MAP, justify certain adjustments in the present scope of MED POL.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The MED POL Phase IV Programme (2006-2013) was adopted at the Contracting Parties in Slovenia, 8-11 November 2005. The text comprised Annex III to the recommendations for 2006-2007 UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.16.5/Annex III. With respect to MED POL Phase IV, this document outlined:

- i) Overall principles and goals
- ii) Basic principles and assumptions
- iii) Scope
- iv) Modalities of implementation

The operational details of implementation were to be elaborated during a transitional period (2006-2007). The purpose of this document is to provide a basis for formulating the implementation plan for MED POL Phase IV.

In preparing this document, the Secretariat has taken into account a number of events/documents/meetings related to some components or to the Programme as a whole. In particular, the Third Review Meeting on MED POL – Phase III Monitoring Activities held in Palermo (Sicily, Italy), 12-15 December 2005 (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.282/5) that critically reviewed the implementation of the monitoring activities; the “Evaluation of MED POL Phase III Programme” (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/3), a far-reaching report with several criticisms and recommendations; the initial results of the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP MED) and the preparation of NAPs, which ushered into the region an era of effective collective pollution reduction, along with specific deadlines; the recommendation made by the Contracting Parties to MAP and MED POL to explore the gradual application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities; and the recent initiatives of the European Commission, namely the Marine Strategy and the Horizon 2020.

While this document is expected to provide the Contracting Parties with concrete indications of how MED POL Phase IV will ensure the implementation of the agreed activities, it is anticipated that certain aspects of the Programme will need further elaboration. In particular, while a number of technical and scientific details of the monitoring programme will need to be gradually formulated through a consultative process together with national scientists, regional experts and MED POL Coordinators, it is evident that the possible application of the ecosystem approach, the formulation of a new legally-binding Strategic Action Programme and the possible agreement on the use of a differentiated approach to the pollution reduction process, if achieved, would necessarily imply a further evolution and an adaptation of the management of the activities that will be appropriately discussed at a later stage with MED POL National Coordinators and Contracting Parties.

3. SCOPE OF MED POL PHASE IV

3.1 Control and assessment

As agreed by the Contracting Parties, MED POL Phase IV will retain most of the basic elements of MED POL Phase III, and as such will continue to deal with marine and coastal pollution assessment and control by using the same tools (e.g. monitoring, capacity building, assessments, elaboration of control measures, etc.) that were successfully implemented in the past, as appropriately revised. The implementation of the LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Waste Protocols and the SAP will remain the backbone of the control and assessment activities.

3.1.1 Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the SAP MED

The Contracting Parties will follow up and monitor the implementation of the Sectoral Plans (SPs) and the National Action Plans (NAPs) based on a continuous process of review and evaluation of all draft SPs, NAPs and will inform the Secretariat accordingly. MED POL will make every effort to ensure that the process is completed satisfactorily in all countries through contacts and country visits. Additionally, in order to ensure the sustainable implementation of the NAPs, the Secretariat will strengthen information campaigns on NAPs throughout the region and will work to obtain the maximum political support for the Plans in each country. It will also work closely with national authorities and donors on the long-term financing of NAPs and for the effective participation of civil society in their implementation.

MED POL, to complete the picture on potential diffuse sources of pollutants into the Mediterranean Sea, will initiate activities aiming at the estimation of (a) atmospheric inputs of pollutants, (b) pollutant inputs from submarine ground water discharges (c) nutrient inputs from rivers (order of magnitude) and (d) substances released to the environment through non-point sources or multiple small localized sources (area source). It will also promote the use of modeling tools to facilitate estimation of inputs from diffuse sources, evaluation of the absorbing capacity of the marine environment and the preparation of state of the environment reports.

One of the pillars of the implementation of the NAPs is integrated pollution control, with an emphasis on cleaner production concept and tools. Whereas MED POL and CP/RAC have already tackled relevant technical aspects in the framework of the GEF Project, the issue of the acquisition by the national stakeholders of the necessary technology to perform pollution reduction remains critical. MED POL will promote the transfer of technology and know how, and consequently to facilitate the implementation of NAPs in Mediterranean countries.

Based on the vast information obtained during the implementation of the SAP MED, the Secretariat, with the assistance of GEF, will undertake an assessment of the needs of individual countries for the development and implementation of policies and legislation aimed at addressing the sectoral causes of the environmental degradation of the Mediterranean. Public participation and information will be given priority in the assessment process.

As indicated in the SAP MED, "States have common and differentiated responsibilities" regarding the degradation of the marine environment. As a result of a number of activities and consultation meetings which indicated that the Mediterranean Countries

are willing to cooperate in the framework of a differentiated mechanism to ensure the implementation of the NAPs in the most cost effective manner, MED POL will continue to develop the elements of the mechanism to reach a regional consensus to ensure the equity and fairness of national efforts to reduce inputs of pollution into the marine environment. It is expected that through the implementation of a convenient differentiation mechanism, the Mediterranean Countries would cooperate in a meaningful way to respect their obligations under the current and the new legally binding action plans and programmes containing measures and timetables ensuring fairness, equity and benefits to their actions.

Long-term financing is clearly critical to the process of the implementation of the NAPs. The Secretariat will continue to work with the GPA, the GEF-World Bank-MAP Strategic Partnership and the EC 2020 initiative to depollute the Mediterranean and other donors to facilitate the process of ensuring the financial sustainability of NAPs. Assistance will continue to be provided to the countries for the development of specific initiatives, focussing on the short-term arrangements for the financing of priority actions of NAPs in Hot Spots and priority actions for 2010 and the framework conditions developed for the implementation of medium to long-term actions. In this framework, MED POL will facilitate the access to existing financial sources.

3.1.2 Implementation of the Dumping Protocol

MED POL will more actively assist countries to implement the Dumping Protocol. Following the positive results of the national meetings organized in 2006 by MED POL in a number of countries to review the institutional, legal and technical aspects of the management of dumping activities, MED POL will continue to assist countries in assessing national needs and facilitating the proper application of the Dumping Protocol and its adopted Guidelines. MED POL will prepare a methodology for the development of national limit values for contaminants in dredged materials.

In addition, MED POL will work towards the integration of the dumping sites in each of the Mediterranean countries into the conventional monitoring programme.

The Mediterranean region shows an upward trend in the offshore oil and gas exploration activities. As a result, the issue of dismantling and dumping offshore platforms will be given higher importance through close cooperation and awareness programmes for the proper implementation of the adopted Guidelines.

MED POL will strengthen cooperation with the London Convention Secretariat. Ongoing activities related to the exchange of data and information will continue. A new key requirement will be to ensure the harmonization of the respective reporting systems. Moreover MEDPOL will launch the on-line reporting system related to dumping Protocol.

On the basis of the outcome of on-going international developments, and in particular the related London Convention assessment, MED POL will inform the Contracting Parties on any relevant emerging issues. After the entry into force of the Dumping Protocol, MED POL may advise the Contracting Parties to launch a process of amending the Protocol in relation to CO₂ injections in underwater geological structures to combat global climate change and to any other relevant emerging issue.

3.1.3 Implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol

MED POL has strengthened cooperation with the Basel Convention Secretariat and its relevant Regional Centres (BCRCs). A joint pilot project has recently been launched in Bosnia and Herzegovina to set up national inventories of lubricating oils and assess their impacts and to develop a national environmental sound management system for lubricating oils. The project will serve as a model for other Mediterranean countries.

In parallel with this project, MED POL will prepare an inventory of the quantities of batteries generated in countries and collect information on their management. The environmental sound management of batteries will be subject to a regional partnership with relevant producers and managers of communication companies. In addition, the issue of the management of obsolete chemicals will be addressed and assistance will be provided to countries, upon request, for the development of an appropriate management system and to facilitate their disposal. POPs and specifically PCBs will be of special interest due to the magnitude of the issue in the region and because of their special relevance to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention. Finally, MED POL will assess the feasibility for the development of guidelines to address the management of electronic waste, by-products from dismantling of ships and medical waste.

Noting the lack of ratifications of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol, MED POL, in cooperation with technical and legal experts, will endeavor to identify the reasons for the lack of progress and will propose specific measures to revitalize the Protocol.

MEDPOL will continue to improve its cooperation and coordination with the Basel Convention and its BCRC and any other UN office active in the region in matters related to illegal traffic of hazardous waste, management of e-waste and partnership with the private sector. The cooperation with CP/RAC will continue in the framework of the implementation of the Regional Plan for the reduction by 2010 of 20% of hazardous waste from industrial origin which was adopted by the Contracting Parties meeting in Catania in 2005.

3.1.4 Assessment of the Implementation of Protocols

3.1.4.1 Overview of Monitoring Activities in MED POL Phase III

As a basis for recognizing changes in the monitoring programme, it is useful to have an overview of the activities that comprised MEDPOL Phase III, as summarized in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.282/3.

According to Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention all Contracting Parties shall establish monitoring programmes and designate the competent authorities responsible for pollution monitoring. In addition, Article 8 of the Land-Based Sources Protocol stipulates that these monitoring programmes should aim:

- a) "Systematically to assess, as far as possible, the levels of pollution along their coasts, in particular with regard to the sectors of activity and categories of substances listed in Annex I, and periodically to provide information in this respect; and
- b) To evaluate the effectiveness of action plans, programmes and measures implemented under this Protocol to eliminate to the fullest possible extent pollution of the marine environment".

The monitoring activities in MED POL Phase III Programme (1996-2005) were designed in consideration of the above, and with the following specific objectives:

- to determine temporal trends of some selected contaminants in the coastal waters and specifically in hot-spot areas in order to assess the effectiveness of policy measures and actions taken ;
- to undertake periodical assessments of the state of the environment in hot spots and general coastal areas (needed to provide information for decision makers on the basic environmental status of the areas which are under anthropogenic pressures), and
- to control pollution by means of compliance to national / international regulatory limits.

Concerning the trend-monitoring component, its specific aim is to detect site-specific temporal trends of selected contaminants basically at the designated hot spot sites in the coastal marine environment. The aim is eventually to monitor the effectiveness of control measures taken at pollution hot spots with long-term data of several decades or more. Trends in pollutant or contaminant levels, in general, are also considered as "state" indicators of pollution and are included in most of the regional monitoring programmes to provide inputs to the assessments of the state of the marine environment.

Monitoring of loads aims to provide estimates of inputs of some major groups of pollutants (all listed in the Land Based-Sources Protocol) to the coastal marine environment via point (rivers, municipal and industrial effluents) and non-point (run off) land-based sources as well as through the atmosphere.

Compliance monitoring, covers health-related conditions in bathing and shellfish/aquaculture waters as well as contaminant concentrations in effluents, aiming at pollution control. In order to achieve fully the objectives of this type of monitoring, countries are encouraged to prepare compliance reports by comparing their results with the existing limit values of their national and/or international and regional legislation.

Biological effects monitoring (monitoring with biomarkers) was also included in the monitoring programmes as a pilot activity to test the methodology and its use as an early-warning tool to detect any destructive effects of pollutants on marine organisms at the initial stage of exposures. Biomarkers, in general, are considered as "impact" indicators used for the evaluation of toxic effects of pollutants on coastal marine life. They can in fact be considered as the most direct method to assess exposure to, and effects of, chemical contaminants at very early stages (at cellular or organism level).

Another component of the MED POL Phase III Programme is the monitoring of eutrophication that was mainly implemented through pilot studies. The monitoring sites are those where eutrophication phenomena are common and, in addition, potentially risk areas under the direct impact of anthropogenic nutrient and organic material inputs.

Another activity that has been initiated in Phase III is that of baseline studies with the participation of MED POL institutions in the Mytilos/Mytimed projects.

3.1.4.2 Programmatic Monitoring Components

As described in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.282/5, the principal programmatic components of MED POL Phase IV were discussed at the Third Review Meeting on

MED POL – Phase III Monitoring Activities held in Palermo (Sicily, Italy), 12-15 December 2005.

The trend monitoring will continue following the same course as during MED POL Phase III, taking into account the recommendations of the relevant reviews but indicators may change based on the decisions taken within the ecosystem approach process.

The biological effects monitoring activity will continue to be a component of MED POL monitoring and assessment as an early warning tool for the effects of pollutants at the molecular/organism level. The programme will be further developed using caged organisms and the 2-tier approach which has been proposed by the Workshop on the MED POL Biological Effects Programme: Achievements and Future Orientations (Alessandria, Italy, 20-21 December 2006).

Pilot eutrophication monitoring studies at local problematic areas will continue to be implemented based provisionally on the TRIX index and phytoplankton determinants.

As the activities of the Mytilos/Mytimed projects are concentrated in the western Mediterranean an effort will be made to also cover the Eastern Mediterranean with participation of MED POL institutions of the region.

The strategy related to compliance monitoring will be revised to make this type of monitoring an even better tool for the implementation of the provisions of the LBS and Dumping Protocols, as well as the SAP. Notably, data will be gathered to estimate the magnitude of pollutant inputs via rivers and streams, and diffuse sources arriving directly to the sea.

The various programmatic elements relate either to quantifying inputs or assessing environmental quality. The nature of these two types of activities, essentially compliance and state monitoring, is described here.

a) Quantification of Pollutant Inputs (Compliance Monitoring)

The assessment of discharges and emissions from point sources will be implemented through periodic updating of the National Baseline Budgets of Pollutant Emissions and Releases (NBBs). To this end, information obtained from regularly updated national Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) or similar systems would be most beneficial. The estimates of pollutant releases should eventually be verified, and the used estimation methods gradually replaced, by actual monitoring of direct effluent discharges into the sea.

The assessment of inputs from rivers and streams will be implemented on the basis of a monitoring programme which will be prepared through consultation with experts and National Coordinators. Sufficient temporal information of pollutant quantities, suspended sediment concentration, and water flow should be collected in order to make meaningful estimates of annual loads into the sea.

The relative importance of atmosphere inputs of pollutants to the Mediterranean Sea remains an important knowledge gap. In the first instance, this topic can be addressed as research project whereby an estimation of the role of atmospheric inputs can be made on the basis of a review of existing information, together with modelling as feasible. The monitoring of atmospheric deposition should be based on a network of coastal stations comprising at least one station in each country. Similarly, a research mechanism could be used to assess the importance of submarine ground water

discharges as a source of pollutants to the marine environment. This could also take the form of a literature review, followed by pilot studies as required. As for inputs from watershed, MEDPOL will make use of the regional state-of-the-art in the matter e.g. the results of EuroHarp project to estimate the order of magnitude of inputs from watershed.

b) Monitoring and assessment of the quality of the marine environment (State Monitoring)

These activities will include ongoing monitoring of the levels and evaluation of temporal trends of pollutants in sediments and biota at 'hot spots' and coastal reference stations complemented with baseline surveys, together with monitoring of biological effects of pollution. The latter activity will consist of: (i) monitoring of biological effects at the organism level (biomarkers) and, where appropriate, also at the community level (species composition, abundance and biomass of benthic communities); and (ii) monitoring of eutrophication. Sub-regional surveys involving measurements of biomarkers in caged organisms deployed at selected sites will be carried out as a research project, with a view to extending the network throughout the Mediterranean Sea. The biomarkers and eutrophication monitoring will be based on the strategies developed by MED POL during Phase III and tested in pilot projects. These strategies will be re-evaluated and if necessary modified after further implementation. Finally, monitoring of health-related conditions in bathing waters and shellfish growing/aquaculture waters will continue.

3.1.4.3 Methodologies

The MED POL Programme has generated a wealth of information concerning monitoring procedures. Unfortunately, this material is scattered through a range of manuals, guidelines, MAP Technical Reports and other documents. Moreover, there has been some reliance placed on the UNEP Regional Seas Series entitled Reference Methods and Technical Bulletins for Marine Pollution Studies, many of which are now out of date. See <http://www-naweb.iaea.org/naml/aqcsmethodes.asp> for listing of the available methodologies and guidelines in this series. Thus, there is a pressing need to clarify and consolidate the monitoring procedures, and in some cases update the methodologies. Finally, more of the material should be translated into more of languages used in the Mediterranean region.

All documents relating to monitoring programme methodologies, including new and updated information, will be collated to create a more user-friendly and readily accessible resource for analytical chemists, as well as other scientists and environmental managers in the Mediterranean region. The consolidated manual for all monitoring will be developed as an internet-based system and become incorporated into the MED POL Internet Portal currently under development. The Internet-based manual of COMBINE provides a suitable example of this approach (www.helcom.fi). The design of the web-based system will enable easy updating of the monitoring methodologies whenever changes and additions are adopted.

For the most part, there is no need for absolute specificity with respect to all aspects of instrumentation or procedure for measurement. However, there are two fundamental requirements. Firstly, laboratories must be able to establish via supporting QA/QC documentation that their procedures are robust and reliable. Secondly, it is crucial to understand that the sample characteristics, or sample type in the broadest sense, under

investigation remain uniform, regardless of when and where the sample is measured. In this vein, MED POL will provide guidelines for the measurement of eutrophication-related indicators and the sampling and handling of marine sediments.

A basic principle of MED POL Phase IV is that all methodologies should be harmonized with those utilized in other regional bodies to which a number of Contracting Parties belong. To this end cooperation will be enhanced with the European Union, the OSPAR Commission and ICES.

3.1.4.4 Data Quality Assurance

Reliable and harmonized data quality is a fundamental prerequisite for the regional assessment of marine pollution. The MED POL Programme has been a pioneer in establishing a regional data quality assurance (DQA) programme, through a 30-year partnership with the IAEA Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory (MESL) in Monaco. The DQA programme, intended for all MED POL participating laboratories, comprises several components:

- Provision of reference methods and guidelines
- Provision of reference materials and standard solutions
- Training in the analysis of marine pollutants in sediments and biota
- Training in good laboratory practice, including notably QA/QC procedures
- Laboratory performance studies (LPS, also known as inter-comparison exercises, inter-calibration exercises or proficiency tests)
- Split sample analyses
- Quality assurance missions
- Provision of expert advice on monitoring and assessment of pollution issues
- Provision of expert advice on emerging pollution issues

The DQA programme in partnership with the IAEA - MESL focused on chemical contaminants in marine sediment and biota. MED POL will continue its cooperation with IAEA-MESL in view of the concrete results obtained (the quality of the data coming from Mediterranean countries has markedly improved), the confidence given to the Monaco laboratory by national Institutes considering the sensitive type of data, the verified cost/effectiveness of the MED POL/IAEA partnership and finally the large experience in the region and the scientific and technical quality of the laboratory. The University of Genoa and later that of Alessandria, Italy, served as a reference centre for biological effects studies. Various other monitoring activities (e.g., bathing water quality and eutrophication studies) have also incorporated some elements of DQA. In addition, in the field of eutrophication, two training programmes were organised in Italy (June 2003 and November 2004) in cooperation with the Italian research centre ICRAM. However, no uniformity in requirements has been mandated. Therefore, the data quality assurance programme will be revised to serve the anticipated needs of MED POL Phase IV, taking into account additional indicators and the wide range of monitoring activities.

Laboratory performance studies (LPS) will be implemented annually by the IAEA, with the test sample alternating between marine sediment and a biological material. One LPS will assess the analysis of many metals and methyl mercury, and another will test the determination of several organic pollutants. Whereas most of the indicators for sediments and biota in MED POL Phase IV are already being tested, an important exception, organotin compounds, will be added when a sufficient number of laboratories in the region is undertaking these measurements. The University of Alessandria, Italy, will continue to conduct LPS for the biological effects monitoring but cooperation will be enhanced with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the programme Biological Effects Quality Assurance in Monitoring programmes (BEQUALM) aiming at harmonization. DQA for some of the other components of monitoring such as nutrients measured as part of the eutrophication investigations will be implemented through an operational agreement with QUASIMEME, the acronym for "Quality Assurance of Information for Marine Environmental Monitoring in Europe", at no cost for the participating Institutes.

Although the overall results of the data quality assurance programmes carried out as part of MED POL can be considered very satisfactory, efforts will be made to improve their follow up at the laboratory level and plan specific interventions where a need appears for training or control of the analytical instruments.

3.1.4.5 Data Interpretation and Utilization

The Secretariat will provide periodic syntheses of regional information based on the various national reports on monitoring and assessment of marine and coastal pollution. Such regional reports must not be only data compilation exercises, but require interpretation of the data with a view to providing policy advice to the Contracting Parties. MED POL will be responsible for synthesizing the results and providing, in consultation with MED POL National Coordinators, periodic assessments of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea.

Several general issues will be addressed in the reports. Gaps in the data for both compliance and state monitoring with respect to spatial and temporal coverage, and completeness of the number indicators measured should be identified. Remedial action to address recognized data gaps should be suggested. An appraisal should be provided of the quality of chemical results, statistical treatment of data and overall assessment of pollution. Recommendations may be required to improve poor performance in these areas.

3.1.4.6 Indicators and data reporting

MEDPOL will continue to develop reliable, comprehensive indicators to be used for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of national and regional measures implemented in the framework of the LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Waste Protocols. It will also continue working closely with countries to facilitate the acquisition of relevant data and information to monitor the implementation of the MSSD. In addition, the gradual application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities will bring about the need for additional or specific indicators. Those relevant to marine

pollution will be within the competence of MED POL that will develop them in cooperation with national and regional experts and National Coordinators.

The three-year activities on the development of marine pollution indicators have been very informative. The results showed that most of the Mediterranean countries exhibit differences in their capacities and capabilities of the generation of data to be used for the tested indicators. Therefore, MED POL will work closely with the national counterparts to improve and strengthen the national competences in issues related to indicators development, generation and use. Cooperation with EEA will continue to be a major milestone in this matter. It is expected that throughout MED POL Phase IV, the region will switch to **Drivers Pressures State Impacts Responses (DPSIR)** indicator based assessments.

The ongoing efforts to harmonize the MED POL procedures for collection, handling, reporting and assessment of monitoring data with those adopted by other appropriate regional and international organizations and bodies, will be intensified in the framework of the preparation of the MAP Reporting System. In view of the complexity of this issue as a whole, priority will be given to achieving functional harmonization of the data reporting requirements of the Monitoring Programme with those of other monitoring programmes to which some of the Mediterranean countries are committed.

3.1.5 Implementation tools

3.1.5.1 Capacity Building and technical assistance

Capacity building and technical assistance aim at improving the competence and capabilities of the countries undertaking the implementation of the Protocols including the SAP and the NAPs, and the monitoring and assessment of the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean Sea. Capacity building will improve human resources through training on technical, legal and financial aspects and, depending upon the availability of financial resources, augment physical resources through the procurement of supplies and instrumentation for the monitoring.

As a guiding principle, the activities will focus on:

a) National, regional and subregional programmes and expert missions to assist the implementation of the LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Waste Protocols. The MEDPOL capacity building strategy successfully implemented during the preparatory phase of the SAP/NAPs will continue to be the basis of the capacity building programme of MED POL Phase IV. As in the past, MED POL will make use of national and regional experts with valuable experience for the implementation of this strategy. MED POL will also focus on capacity building programmes related to the proper and adequate implementation of the adopted Dumping Guidelines, industrial management, cleaner production in cooperation with CP/RAC, hazardous waste management in cooperation with the Basel Convention and its BCRCs, management of coastal litter and Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR).

b) A key role of IAEA-MESL will continue to be the implementation of training courses related to monitoring. MED POL will conduct a survey of countries to determine whether new or additional training courses are required. Clearly the additional indicators to be measured require an expansion of existing training activities.

With regard to health related aspects of pollution, collaboration with WHO will continue. It is foreseen that appropriate training courses on microbiological analyses of bathing and shellfish growing areas, as well as technical assistance on the subject will be provided upon request. In parallel, Quality Assurance activities for the laboratories involved in microbiological analyses will be conducted. Water shortage is steadily but firmly an emerging issue that an increasing number of countries are facing. Therefore, capacity building activities including training courses on wastewater treatment and feasibility of the safe use of treated wastewater will be carried out.

With regard to capacity building for eutrophication, cooperation with appropriate national or regional Institutes (such as the Italian Institutes ARPA-ER, CRM and ICRAM) and IAEA - MESL will continue in the fields of training, intercomparison studies and technical and scientific support. The University of Alessandria, Italy, will continue to serve as the reference centre for biological effects studies, and will implement training and intercalibration as required.

c) The implementation of the inspection activities carried out during Phase III showed that, in addition to the continuous assistance to the existing inspection systems as well as technical and legal assistance to countries to establish such systems, appropriate training material will be prepared consisting of Guidelines and Manuals on how to perform technical and sanitary inspections, along with inspection check lists for each individual relevant industry as well as for those types of industries that, according to the NAPs, should perform significant reduction of pollutants.

d) The introduction of new indicators into MED POL Phase IV will be a gradual process, also in relation to the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities. Some laboratories will be in a position to establish reliable analytical techniques more quickly than others. MED POL will explore options to establish regional centres for the analysis of new and / or difficult determinants, including biomarkers in order to avoid delays in the full and uniform implementation of the programme by all countries. This approach may thereby serve to promote transfer of technology and facilitate the implementation of the full monitoring programme throughout the Mediterranean region.

e) MED POL will take a more proactive role in fostering interactions in the region in the scientific, technical, legal and financial fields through organizing meetings/expert missions to examine regional knowledge gaps and other issues of fundamental interest to Phase IV developments. Technical assistance to countries will be in the form of sponsoring participation at international conferences and workshops in the Mediterranean region.

3.1.5.2 Database and Information System

According to the Agreement signed between MED POL and INFO/RAC, MED POL will switch by 2008 into a fully online system of reporting for monitoring, implementation of LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Waste Protocols, inventory of emissions and information exchange between the secretariat, national coordinators, RACs and stakeholders. The MED POL information system is under development. Phase I will be operational by 2008. Meanwhile MED POL will continue to establish databases to store and handle data provided by the countries under different topics. The protocols of data exchange, storage and handling will be compatible with those of other RACs and EEA which would

enable MED POL to access and exchange data and information in a simplified and more reliable manner.

3.1.5.3 Technology Transfer

MED POL will establish a well-structured promotion programme of transfer of technology and know how for cleaner production between countries in order to reduce the existing technological gaps. As feasible, all aspects related to the MED POL Phase IV activities will be taken into account, including legal, institutional, financial and technical issues. The specific programmes, prepared in cooperation with CP/RAC, will be designed to facilitate the acquisition of technology and know how in the most effective manner.

3.1.5.4 Compliance and enforcement

The implementation of the LBS Protocol priority actions and in particular of the SAP MED, include, *inter alia*, the introduction of new environmental tools including appropriate implementation of regulatory, economic and voluntary instruments, but it focuses on the reduction of certain pollutants from industrial and various facilities. Following this, and taking into consideration the status of permit, inspection and compliance systems in all Mediterranean countries, including policy and legislative gaps, there is a need to implement activities so as to enhance the inspectorate systems. Work will continue on issues of common interest like the indicators of inspections, which following the pilot phase, will be gradually implemented through the development of a programme of action. Periodic meetings of the network on compliance and enforcement will continue to be held to discuss issues of mutual interest and to exchange views on environmental inspections as well as to agree on common activities to be performed. At the same level, assistance to countries on issues related to environmental and sanitary inspections, including capacity building activities will continue.

The review that was made in 2005, based on existing data and information, of the status of permit, inspection and compliance systems in all Mediterranean countries including policy and legislative gaps, identified the basic subjects needing a more in depth study and the countries that would benefit from such activities. Therefore, following a proposal to GEF, it is expected that within a period of three years a number of countries will strengthen their existing mechanisms regarding inspections for compliance and enforcement. The set of national activities would include meetings among agencies responsible for permitting, inspecting and enforcement in order to set up the procedure, as it is indicated in the regulatory cycle, as well as a training workshop.

3.1.5.5 PRTR

The PRTR system, which is similar to EPER (European Pollutant Emissions Register) system, is an important tool of the compliance monitoring, which could assist national and local authorities to assess the state of local and national environment in relation to chemical releases as well as to adapt and tune their relative management plan.

MED POL will continue to assist countries in the implementation of PRTR through pilot projects and efficient replication strategies.

3.1.6 Physical alteration and destruction of habitats

Plans and programmes to counter physical alteration and destruction of habitats will be developed and implemented with special focus on sea water desalination practices in the region, coastal solid waste management and litter and dumping of matters covered by article 4.2 of the dumping Protocol.

MED POL will be actively involved in the activities of the European and International Desalination Societies to improve awareness of companies, engineers and technicians dealing with seawater desalination about environmental impacts of desalination process. As in the past, MED POL will actively participate at related events and initiatives to disseminate information on the possible negative environmental effects of desalination activities to ensure the creation of new environmentally friendly installations. In addition, MED POL will pursue the decision of the Contracting Parties to consider desalination activities under the provisions of the LBS Protocol and will collect and process the relevant data and information deriving from the reporting on the implementation of the Protocol.

Coastal solid waste and litter management is perceived as a serious issue in the Mediterranean. Following the preparation of an action plan and Guidelines as well as the successful initiative of MED POL together with RAMOGE and local actors in Lebanon in 2006, efforts will continue to be made in cooperation with local and national authorities and stakeholders such as maritime traffic authorities, fishermen and tourist associations and NGOs to improve the management of beach litter throughout the region. In particular, in cooperation with UNEP/Regional Seas, MED POL will launch specific initiative for the formulation of a comprehensive regional strategy and its implementation at the local level.

It is obvious that the proper implementation of Dumping Guidelines will significantly reduce the impacts of dumping activities on benthic habitat. As mentioned earlier, MED POL will actively assist countries in the proper implementation of the Guidelines.

3.1.7 Socio-economic roots of environmental degradation

In the implementation of Phase IV, the inclusion of an analysis of the relevant social and economic roots of environmental degradation will be essential as it will better guide the planning and the realistic launching of activities. In this connection, MED POL will foster the collaboration with the Blue Plan (e.g. their work on the identification of pressure indicators) and other regional and international actors such as METAP and OECD to obtain the relevant data and information. Particularly relevant to the pollution reduction process (i.e. the implementation of the NAPs) are the studies carried out by METAP on the cost of inaction. This collaboration will also provide an important contribution to the preparation of state of pollution reports.

3.1.8 Public Health

Activities related to the health risk associated with the quality of bathing and shellfish-growing waters, tourist establishment and facilities will continue to be carried out in close collaboration with WHO.

The draft Guidelines on coastal bathing waters criteria that are being prepared will

require some preliminary work before the countries can implement them. Therefore, these guidelines should be finalized and gradually implemented by using the common methodology for developing beach profiles. In addition, possible problems related to their completion should be identified and capacity building needs will be addressed.

The implementation of the new criteria and standards, pilot studies of beach profiles and complementary activities on beach management are issues that need further discussion, guidance and, above all, a detailed programme for the adoption and gradual implementation of bathing waters criteria. Regular consultation meetings of experts will be held every two years to examine the further implementation of bathing waters quality issues and to provide guidance and assistance to countries.

Periodic assessment of the quality of bathing waters as well as of the quality of shellfish growing areas will continue to be conducted. The evaluation of the state of the microbiological quality of the Mediterranean Sea, based on the compliance to the agreed and/or national criteria and standards for bathing waters and shellfish growing areas will be carried out every five years.

Issues related to wastewater management and treatment as well as reuse of treated wastewater, including capacity building, will be further developed and followed up.

Taking into account the link between the human health aspects of tourism and the provisions of the LBS Protocol, highlighted in the approved MED POL Phase IV Programme, the assessment of health risks associated with tourist establishments in the region will provide scientific evidence of the major associated risks. It is foreseen that all environmental determinants to health will be thoroughly examined in relation to tourist establishments and facilities, with a view to prepare an integrated action plan to reduce the burden of disease in Mediterranean tourist establishments. The implementation of the action plan to all concerned countries will focus on the country specific needs carrying out tailor-made activities. Whenever appropriate, cooperation with other RACs will be sought.

3.2 Cooperation, Information and Public Participation

3.2.1 Cooperation

As it was successfully achieved during Phase III, the ongoing work of the Mediterranean scientific community on operational monitoring and observation systems, such as MOON and MED GOOS, will be closely followed up and cooperation will be strengthened on a practical basis, for example through the formulation of joint pilot exercises and initiatives.

As in the past, cooperation will continue with WHO and all other UN Agencies/Bodies carrying out work relevant to the various components of MED POL, with global and regional Convention Secretariats and International and Intergovernmental Organizations. Cooperation will also be strengthened with RACs on the basis of their respective competences.

Especially relevant for the Phase IV of MED POL will be an efficient and concrete cooperation with the European Commission in view of the relevance of its recent initiatives such as the Water Framework Directive, the Marine Strategy Directive and the 2020 Initiative. In fact, a close cooperation with the European Commission, in view of the similar and comparable objectives of its initiatives with those of MED POL, will result in a

better harmony of efforts, an easier involvement of the EU member states in the MED POL activities and a better overall integration in the marine pollution reduction process of European and non-European countries for the benefit of the whole Mediterranean region.

Close cooperation will be kept with all the relevant regional actors in the field of reporting to facilitate the efforts of those countries with different reporting obligations. In this connection, the successful work initiated with the European Environment Agency (EEA) in the framework of the signed joint work programme, will be continued.

NGOs will continue to play a key role in critically participating in the planning and implementation of the MED POL activities. As appropriate, NGOs will be invited to attend MED POL Meetings and specific partnerships will be established to facilitate the implementation of specific activities at the local level, such as those related to coastal litter management. A constructive role of NGOs is also expected in the long-term implementation of the NAPs, as they were successfully involved in the formulation of the NAPs in a large number of countries.

Contacts and operational links will be intensified with regional and international donors and banks, such as the World Bank and the European Investment Bank, as their involvement could facilitate the implementation of the NAPs by the countries.

As in the past, long-term partnerships will be sought with GEF and FFEM for projects and initiatives that could assist the implementation of the activities of MED POL.

3.2.2 Stakeholder Involvement

A meaningful involvement of, and collaboration with, the private sector and other stakeholders in designing and implementing the pollution control programmes and in evaluating their results is clearly essential. While MED POL recorded some success in the preparatory phase of the NAPs when the private sector did participate in a number of countries in the definition of the Plans, it is clear that a larger and better-planned effort should be made now that the NAPs are in the implementation phase. In this connection, MED POL, while planning to make use of the contacts already made, intends to foster its cooperation with CP/RAC in view of its wide and close contacts with the industrial sector and the already experimented collaboration with MED POL in the framework of SAP.

Additional stakeholders, such as local authorities, will be involved as appropriate to ensure ownership of programmes and activities that are implemented mostly at their level (e.g. construction and operation of sewage treatment plants, coastal litter management, preparation of PRTR, etc).

Countries are encouraged to promote partnerships with selected national private and public sectors to facilitate the implementation of NAPs. In turn, MEDPOL will work closely with regional and multinational industrial and business associations, e.g. EUROCHLOR, ASCAME, for the establishment of partnerships to disseminate the necessary information related to the implementation of NAPs, and with multinational companies working in the Mediterranean region to facilitate the implementation of MEDPOL programmes of activities related to the implementation of SAP and the Hazardous Wastes and Dumping Protocols.

3.2.3 Public Outreach

Public awareness and opinion are among powerful forces determining the success of any programme. In addition to the finalization of the MED POL Information System in cooperation with INFO/RAC (described earlier in this document), MED POL, with the assistance of the MAP Information Officer, will maintain and improve links with NGOs, stakeholders and media representatives. MED POL will regularly provide them with information that they could use to promote the goals of MED POL. To this end, an information and communication strategy, aimed at increasing the visibility of the programme at the local and national levels, will be developed as an integral part of the ongoing development of the MAP Information Strategy and the MED POL Information System. Similar experiences, such as the information strategy developed by GEF in the Black Sea, will be taken into account. The strategy will address the needs of all potential users of the data and information products, including decision-makers, the scientific community, the general public and the media. The objective will be to increasing national support for the programme and consequently the level of participation in its various components.

To complement the MED POL Information System and its Portal, the countries will be encouraged to establish national web sites delivering timely information on the monitoring activities, pollution assessments and outcomes. These national web sites should be written in the native language of each country and focus on the national significance of the monitoring information in the context of overall efforts to reduce pollution and promote sustainable development. To ensure the effectiveness of these web sites, media experts will be engaged in their development.

3.3 A Holistic Monitoring and Assessment Programme

As noted above, a key requirement is the development of a holistic approach for the monitoring and the assessment of human impacts on the marine and coastal environment. Many types of monitoring (*i.e.*, ambient, trend, hot spot, biological effects, eutrophication, and compliance) for a range of purposes have been conducted during MED POL Phase III. The philosophy underlying the holistic approach is that all monitoring activities are integrated for a single, well-defined aim – that of achieving a particular level of environmental quality in a specified ecosystem. Within the MED POL Programme, this means that uniform practices will be adopted across all types of monitoring activities and data management. Several facets will be standardized: indicators, methodologies for sample collection and chemical measurements, interpretation of results and assessment of pollution. All these tasks will be undertaken within a harmonized quality management scheme, with a view to integrating results into a common, regional database and using the scientific data to improve protection of the marine environment.

The ecosystem approach depends upon defining a desirable environmental quality to be attained. Mitigation and remediation of pollution requires an understanding of the major inputs of pollution, some of which have been measured under the SAP and NAPs. Some known gaps, notably relating to diffuse sources, exist and will be the focus of research during Phase IV. The SAP and NAPs aim to control point sources of pollution. Compliance monitoring will help verify that pollution regulations are in force. However,

environmental monitoring and assessment are required to evaluate the efficacy of the pollution control strategies.

In this scheme, obtaining results from monitoring is a tool, not an end in itself. Data interpretation at various levels is essential, with outputs related to the creation of an accessible database, the dissemination of information about pollution and pollution control in the Mediterranean region, and policy advice to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties. Knowledge gaps can be examined in the short term through applied research projects, with the understanding that results of such investigations may lead to modifications in the monitoring programme. In any case, a periodic evaluation of the overall monitoring programme is essential.

3.3.1 Application of the Ecosystem Approach to the management of human activities

Internationally, the ecosystem approach has been evolving as a concept since first gaining prominence at the UNCED (Rio de Janeiro 1992). Key recognition was gained when adopted by the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nairobi 2000) and endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg 2002). In fact the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation encourages its application by the year 2010. In a marine context, the ecosystem approach has been adopted by the HELCOM and OSPAR Commissions and will be a keystone in the European Marine Strategy. Following recommendations from the meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Catania, 2003 and Portoroz, 2005), the MED POL Programme on behalf of the Mediterranean Action Plan has initiated a project in cooperation with the European Commission to study the implications of its application on MAP and propose a road map.

The project was recently concluded and the Meeting of Government designated experts decided to propose to the Contracting Parties a road map for its application as well as an ecological vision for the Mediterranean Sea and three strategic goals.

One of the strategic goals refers to the reduction of pollution and this is where MED POL will play a leading role. Following the expected adoption of strategic goals by the Contracting Parties in December 2007, experts' consultations will be organized to proceed to the next step, which is the definition of ecological objectives, indicators and target levels. While, as far as MED POL is concerned, the monitoring activities will have to be revised when the set of ecological indicators will be decided, it is obvious that the application of the ecosystem approach will require a very close cooperation among all RACs and MAP components. In particular, the monitoring and assessment activities that will be addressed in the future, call for a clear and effective cooperation among those MAP components that carry out that type of activities in their field of competence. Particularly relevant will be the joint work that MED POL and SPA/RAC will have to organize in collecting the relevant information needed for the establishment of strategic and ecological objectives.

3.4 Scientific Collaboration

MED POL Phase IV will see closer interactions between MED POL and the scientific community. This will be a mutually beneficial relationship. On the one hand, MED POL

has a considerable amount of valuable information in the regional database. Once conditions for access to and use of data have been clarified, the results of the monitoring programme will be made available to the scientific community for more widespread and rigorous interpretation. On the other hand, a number of knowledge gaps have been highlighted in recent reviews of the MED POL monitoring programme and others will become apparent during the Phase IV in view of the enlarged scope of the Programme. The scientific community can help to provide some of the missing facts and understanding. Two mechanisms for such scientific interactions are envisaged, namely through the organization of international conferences/workshops and by supporting research projects. Recognizing that financial constraints will play a role, MED POL will likely be limited to adopting a facilitative approach in these initiatives. Scientific conferences/workshops comprise a cost effective method for increasing public awareness of the MED POL programme, enhancing interactions with social and natural scientists, and consolidating available information to gain a regional understanding of some key issues and knowledge gaps. MED POL will take a leading role and collaborate with other competent regional and international organizations to highlight issues of fundamental interest to MED POL Phase IV developments.

Research has been in the past a vital component of the MED POL Programme. Research projects can take the form of data review and assessment, testing novel methodologies, and pilot studies to examine emerging issues. Keeping in mind the obvious financial constraints, these types of research activities will be supported in MED POL Phase IV. MED POL will be associated to and, as appropriate, will seek co-sponsorship from, competent national and international organizations to in order to optimize reciprocal research efforts.

3.5 Fisheries

As indicated in the MED POL Phase IV Programme, monitoring and assessment of the environmental effects and ecological implications of fisheries management, including aquaculture, on ecosystems should be, as appropriate, of concern when planning the activities. While some aspects of aquaculture –mostly related to human health- have been regularly dealt with during Phase III and will continue to be in the programme throughout Phase IV, the environmental effects of such activity should be planned *ex novo*. MED POL sees the subject in the context of the holistic approach to be adopted in Phase IV and in particular in the framework of the monitoring and assessment activities that will have to be carried out when the ecosystem approach will be implemented. Whenever it will occur, MED POL intends to plan the specific activities in close collaboration with SPA/RAC and as appropriate with GFCM of FAO for an adequate division of roles and tasks.

3.6 Energy Production and Maritime Transport

Some initial activities related to energy production and its effects on pollution linked to specific provisions of the SAP are at present ongoing. In particular a study is being carried out to review energy production in the region and to identify what type of activity MED POL could realistically deal with in the context of the pollution reduction process of the SAP and the NAPs. The results of the study will be presented to Contracting Parties together with specific proposal on activities for review and approval.

As a result, during the biennium 2008-2009, it is proposed to develop guidelines to facilitate the implementation of renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) policies in an environmentally sound manner at national and local level and to prepare pilot projects for long-term implementation.

Likewise, during next biennium a study on the environmental effects of maritime transport will be carried out in cooperation with REMPEC and specific proposals will be made to Contracting Parties for possible activities to be implemented in the long-term in the framework of Phase IV.

4. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 National level

The Barcelona Convention and its Protocols stipulates a number of obligations that must be assumed by the Contracting Parties. Many tasks that were initiated during Phase III in fulfillment of such responsibilities will continue during Phase IV. Thus, countries will continue to ensure the coordination of policy-making, monitoring and pollution mitigation. Results from the monitoring programme will be integrated for purposes of environmental assessments and reporting to MED POL. MED POL Phase IV will increase the scope and importance of these activities. An adaptive management approach will help cope with change and will facilitate programme implementation. Modifications to the overall management strategy will entail the restructuring and clarification of coordination roles. New mechanisms can be explored with respect to providing translation services, promoting public awareness of MED POL and making in-kind contributions.

Coordination of MED POL activities at the national level: The Secretariat believes that, considering the multidisciplinary aspects of the pollution reduction process, the need to involve other national stakeholders (e.g. Ministries of finance, of public works, etc.) in addition to the Ministries of Environment could be the key to achieve concrete results. To that end, the use of existing mechanisms, or the creation of new ones, in each country to ensure appropriate coordination and integration in their national programmes of the MED POL activities, and in particular those of the SAP, would be very beneficial.

MED POL National Coordinators: Although each Mediterranean country has, to different extent, a national pollution control programme, operational mechanisms differ considerably from country to country. The Secretariat believes that the implementation of MED POL, including the SAP, at the national level can be successful only if it is implemented in the framework of its national pollution control programme and its national development plans. For this reason, the full integration of national MED POL activities, including the SAP, in the national pollution control programmes and national development plans should be sought. A procedure will be formulated to involve the Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators in the process of preparing the periodic assessments of the quality of the marine environment. The feasibility of establishing a procedure for the introduction of operational changes in the programme that would not require approval of the Contracting Parties (e.g. changes in monitoring guidelines) will be examined. The role and the function of the MED POL National Coordinator is at present being reviewed by the MAP evaluation process which will be concluded by the end of 2007.

Novel In-kind Contributions to MED POL: New approaches to providing in-kind contributions to the MED POL Programme can be explored. National Coordinators or Collaborating Institutions may be able to provide assistance to the organization of training and capacity building activities, as well as the preparation of technical meetings, documents and guidelines. In particular, countries could assume the responsibility for translating specific MED POL documents, such as Guidelines, Manuals and promotional and information material, into their national language. In addition, countries could play a leading role in specific areas or issues of regional concern for the benefit of the whole region. This has been successfully experimented in other Regional Seas Programmes (such as OSPAR and HELCOM) where countries were responsible for the preparation of specific regional assessments or studies.

Public Awareness: In support of the MED POL information and communications strategy, as a follow up to the MAP information Strategy being prepared, countries should ensure to have national web sites written in their native language. The sites would present timely information on the monitoring activities, pollution assessments, and outcomes. These national web sites could highlight efforts, and especially successful case studies, aimed at pollution mitigation and remediation, e.g. information on the implementation of their NAP. They could also serve as mirrors sites for accessing MED POL documents, information and promotional material available in their native language.

4.2 MED POL Unit

The responsibilities of the MED POL Unit have increased over time. Changes were, of necessity, managed during Phase III chronologically in an incremental way. The management challenge of Phase IV is to achieve better integration of the various components into which MED POL has grown (e.g. the monitoring and the implementation of the SAP) and to react operationally to the recommendations made as result of the review of MED POL Phase III (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/3). Moreover, following the results of the MAP evaluation to be finalized by the end of 2007, MED POL will adapt its management strategies according to the decisions of the Contracting Parties.

Coordination to harmonize national activities: Under the guidance and supervision of the relevant structures established under the MAP and the Barcelona Convention, the Secretariat will continue to play a central coordinating role for MED POL, ensuring the harmonization of national activities at the Mediterranean level, and effectively and meaningfully monitoring their implementation. Specific tasks for MED POL and the related RACs in relation to monitoring and assessment will be further identified at a later stage when the applying the ecosystem approach. WHO will continue to collaborate on a full time basis for the implementation of all health related aspects of the Programme. In the preparation of "guidance documents" for conducting MED POL activities (e.g., various technical and policy documents, guidelines), all efforts will be made to take into account the work already carried out by other regional and international bodies and special but critical attention will be paid to their harmonization with other relevant documents developed at the regional and international levels by the European Commission and Union and other international organizations.

Provision of advice for obtaining external financial assistance: Long-term financing is clearly critical to the process of the implementation of the NAPs. As indicated earlier in

this document, the Secretariat has been working with GPA and other donors to facilitate the process of ensuring the financial sustainability of NAPs. Assistance will continue to be provided to the countries for the development of specific initiatives, building on the short-term arrangements for the financing of priority actions in NAPs and framework conditions developed for the implementation of medium to long-term actions, including facilitating access to existing financial sources to strengthen long-term financing. Thus, a key ongoing role will be to catalyze and facilitate the mobilization of external funds (*i.e.* from the GPA, EU, private industry, and other donors) to assist Mediterranean countries in the implementation of NAPs.

New Collaboration: The Secretariat will examine how some of the functions and responsibilities could be assumed by or shared with the National Coordinators or Collaborating Institutions. By continuing a process initiated during Phase III, the Secretariat will explore new cooperation with relevant international and intergovernmental organizations, global conventions and programmes. The Secretariat will seek support from national structures hitherto not formally associated with MED POL, such as the tourism-based economic sector, local authorities and non-governmental organizations.

5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF MED POL PHASE IV IMPLEMENTATION

The importance of a review process was highlighted during Phase III. Regular review meetings have in the past facilitated the exchange of information between national experts, national authorities and the Secretariat and had a beneficial effect on the implementation of activities. Successful implementation of the MED POL Phase IV will require periodic monitoring and evaluation in order to respond to changing information needs and improve operational procedures. A strategy for prompt remedial action should be in hand for each component under review in the event that failures or weaknesses are identified.

The Table here below intends to create a platform for an easy monitoring of the implementation of the activities of Phase IV.

It should be noted that, (a) under target date, the * placed after 2013 is used for activities intended as continuous throughout the Phase IV (2006-2013) and (b) the gray rows indicate financial implications for the Contracting Parties.

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected results	Target date	Source of information and verification	Responsibility	Possible partnerships/related initiatives
	Implementation of LBS Protocol					
-LBS Art.5 and 15 -SAP	Ensuring the financing of NAPs	50% of NAPs priority actions financed	2013*	National, EIB and WB implementation reports	CPs ensure financial resources. MEDPOL facilitate the contacts with potential donors and provides technical assistance with CP/RAC	-EU 2020 -GEF SP
-LBS Art.4	Estimation of the Inputs from diffuse sources	Models and existing data used for the quantification of releases from rivers and watershed developed	2011	Reports prepared and published	MED POL with relevant Mediterranean institutions and Contracting Parties	-GEF SP -other existing models
-Agenda 21 -JOP -MSSD -SAP	Development of a differentiation mechanism for pollution reduction	Differentiation mechanism based on ELVs	2009	Mechanism adopted by CPs	MED POL with regional experts and CPs	-IPPC -Protocol LRTP
-LBS Art.5 and 15 -SAP	Implementation of MED POL-related activities of the GEF Strategic Partnership	Policy reforms related to tanneries, fertilizers, lubeoil, batteries are developed in selected countries	2012	Project Progress reports	MED POL in cooperation with CP/RAC and UNIDO and NCs	

	Implementation of the Dumping Protocol					
-Dumping Protocol Art.6.2	Implementation of adopted guidelines	Ratification of dumping protocol. Reduction of number of dumping operations in accordance with the new Protocol	2013*	National reports, Number.of MOUs between MEDPOL and CPs	MED POL in cooperation with relevant NCs and London Convention secretariat	London Convention
	Implementation of the Hazardous Waste Protocol					
-Hazardous Waste Protocol Art.4	Implementation of PCB component of GEF Strategic Partnership	Disposal of 1100 tons of PCBs from 5 countries. Strengthening the capacities and capabilities of Mediterranean countries	2012	Project progress reports, Number of authorizations for PCBs disposal in 5 countries	MED POL in cooperation with CP/RAC and UNEP/Chemicals	Basel Convention and its Centres (BCRCs)
-Hazardous Waste Protocol Art.5.5 and 8	Strengthening the Cooperation with Basel Convention Regional Centres through the implementation of joint projects	Regional model for management of hazardous wastes. Action Plan to combat illegal traffic of hazardous waste in Arabic world	2013*	Minutes of coordination meetings, Number of MoUs between MED POL and BCRCs	MED POL in cooperation with NCs , BC, BCRCs and CP/RAC	Basel Convention and BCRCs
-Recc. CPs Meeting, Catania, 2003	Implementation of Regional Plan for the reduction of generation of hazardous wastes	Reduction of 20% of the generation hazardous waste from selected industrial sectors	2010	National reports	MEDPOL in cooperation with CP/RAC and NCs	

	Assessment of the implementation of the Protocols					
-Art. 12 of the Convention and art. 8 of LBS protocol	Establishment and implementation of national monitoring programmes in all countries:	National and regional databases of results	2011	Number of NMPs and agreements signed; National reports	CPs in cooperation with MED POL	
-MED POL IV		1. State and trend monitoring	2013*	National and regional reports on the state of the marine environment	CPs with MED POL assistance	
-MED POL IV		2. Health-related monitoring	2013*	Relevant national reports	CPs with MED POL assistance	
-SAP -MED POL IV		3. Monitoring of loads	2012	Relevant national reports	CPs with MED POL assistance	
-MED POL IV		4. Monitoring of biological effects	2013*	Number of laboratories participating	CPs with MED POL assistance	
-MED POL IV		5. Eutrophication monitoring	2013*	Number of laboratories participating	CPs with MED POL assistance	
-MED POL IV		6. Baseline studies for monitoring of chemical contaminants in mussels	Data and reports	2010	Number of laboratories participating	CPs with MED POL assistance

-MED POL IV	7. Development and/or updating of common monitoring and analytical methodologies	Common methodology available and published in the website	2010	Document and website	MED POL in cooperation with IAEA	
-MED POL IV	8. Implementation of a Data Quality Assurance Programme	Good quality data	2013*	Number and reports on intercalibration exercises	MED POL in cooperation with IAEA, Alessandria University, QUASIMEME	-IAEA -QUASIMEME -Alessandria Univ. -BEQUALM
-Art. 12 of the Convention	Preparation of reports based on data interpretation	Status and trends reports	2010	Report on the state of marine environment	MED POL with CPs	EEA EMMA
-Recc. CPs Meeting, Catania 2003	Development of Marine Pollution Indicators MRIs	Strengthening the capacity and capability of the CPs to assess MRIs	2010	DPSIR Indicators-based assessment of the state of marine environment	MED POL in cooperation with EEA, BP , MedStat and NCs	-EEA -Blue Plan
-SAP	Regular updating of Pollution Hot Spots Report and determination of their management and monitoring strategy, taking into account all available data including NAPs and NBBs	Tracking countries' pollution reductions	2009 2013	Two reports on Hot Spots	MED POL in cooperation with NCs	

	<i>Use of implementation tools</i>					
-LBS Art. 10	Organization and implementation of capacity building programmes	National capacity improved (capacity building)	2013*	Reports of the training courses on chemical and microbiological parameters	MED POL in cooperation with IAEA and WHO	
-Art 15 of Convention	Development of MED POL Information System	Intranet and online reporting system for MED POL	2009	System operational	MED POL with cooperation of Info/RAC and NCs	-EMWIS(SEMIDE) -EUWI-MED
-LBS Art .5,9,10	Promotion of transfer of technology for cleaner production	Programmes prepared and implemented	2011	Reports on implementation	-MED POL -CP/RAC -CPs	-CP/RAC
-LBS Art 6	Strengthening of Inspectorate systems in all countries; capacity building programme 1) Meeting of network on compliance and enforcement 2) Assistance to countries upon request for strengthening the inspectorate systems	Capacity building programmes	2013*	Reports of meetings of network Indicators based National reports on inspection; number of trained experts	CPs with WHO/MED POL assistance	GEF SP
Recc. CPs Meeting, Malta, 1999	Launching of PRTR in all countries	Reporting format and data base established in all countries	2011	MoUs and contracts between MED POL and CPs	MED POL in cooperation with ICS-UNIDO and NCs	-EC (EPER) -UNECE

	Physical alteration and destruction of habitats					
-Recc. CPs Meeting, Catania 2003 - LBS Art.5	Programmes related to environmental and permitting aspects of desalination	Increased number of EIA studies for sea water desalination plants; desalination activities treated as part of the LBS Protocol	2013*	National reports	MED POL in cooperation with NCs, SPA/RAC	-European desalination Society (EDS)
-Recc. CPs Meeting, Malta 1999 - LBS Art.5	Implementation of coastal litter management programmes	Strengthened capacity of CPs to deal with coastal litter management	2013*	MoUs and contracts between MEDPOL, CPs, NGOs	MED POL with NCs and NGOs	-UNEP-RS -GPA -NGOs
	Socio-economic roots of environmental degradation					
-LBS Art.7	Socio-economic aspects of environmental degradation including the cost of inaction taken into account throughout MED POL IV	Comprehensive assessment of SoE	2013*	DPSIR Indicator-based state of marine environment report	MED POL in cooperation with BP and EEA	-EEA -BP

	Public health					
-LBS Art. 7 -MED POL IV	Finalization and adoption of Guidelines on bathing waters	Agreed Guidelines; Beach profiles methodology agreed	2009 2011	Report of Meeting of NCs; Beach profiles in all countries	CPs with MED POL/WHO assistance	-WHO
-LBS Art. 7 -MED POL IV	Consultation meetings and inter-calibration exercises	Assessments of bathing water quality	2013*	Reports of the meetings; country reports on compliance	CPs with MED POL/WHO assistance	-WHO
-MED POL IV	Preparation of an Action plan related to environment and health risks in tourist establishments	Pilot study prior to implementation; all components of the action plan implemented	2009 2013*	Integrated action plan; Report on the implementation of action plan	CPs with MED POL/WHO assistance	-WHO
-LBS, Art. 8 and Annex I - SAP	Enhancement of Wastewater treatment and management issues	Increase number of wastewater treatment plants in coastal Mediterranean cities and improvement of the quality of receiving waters	2013*	Assessment reports on the activities for improved sanitation	CPs with MED POL/WHO assistance	
-SAP	Implementation of the guidelines on the reuse of treated wastewaters; capacity building	Scientists trained; guidelines applied	2009	Progress Reports on the application of guidelines and on the training courses	CPs with MED POL/WHO assistance	-WHO

	Cooperation					
-MED POL IV	Continued cooperation with MOON	Access to additional and complementary data and information	2013*	MOU signed Common projects	MED POL	-MOON -MEDGOOS
-LBS Protocol	Continued involvement of WHO	Human health aspects properly treated in MED POL IV	2013*	Regular reports on activities	MEDPOL in cooperation with WHO/EURO	WHO/EURO
-Recc. CPs Meeting, Portoroz (2005)	Cooperation with RACs strengthened through specific joint activities	Shared information and experience; overlaps avoided	2013*	Minutes of coordination meetings; results of joint projects	MED POL and RACs	RACs
-LBS Art.5 and 15 -Recc. CPs Meeting, Portoroz (2005) -SAP -EU 2020 Initiative -MAP-EU work programme	Provision of relevant technical information for the implementation of the EC Horizon 2020 Initiative and the European Marine Strategy	Pollution reduction through implementation of NAPs	2013*	Minutes of meeting with EC and EIB. Number of project financed	MED POL in cooperation with EC, EIB and NCs	-EC -EIB -WB-METAP
-Recc. CPs Meeting, Catania 2003 -MAP-EEA cooperation programme	Cooperation with EEA in the field of reporting and indicators	Concise and harmonized set of indicators	2013*	DPSIR Indicators based state of marine environment report	MED POL in cooperation with EEA , BP and NCs	-EEA -BP -MEDSTAT
-MED POL IV	Involving NGOs in MED POL Phase IV activities	Larger participation of civil society in MED POL activities	2013*	Number of agreements between MEDPOL and NGOs	MED POL in cooperation with NCs and NGOs	NGOs
-LBS Art.5,15 -Recc. CPs Meeting, Portoroz 2005	Continuation of the cooperation with GEF and FFEM	Projects financed by GEF and FFEM	2013*	Minutes of coordination meetings	MED POL	-GEF -FFEM -WB

	Stakeholder involvement					
-Art.15 of Convention	Involvement of National and regional Stakeholders in the implementation of NAPs	Implementation of NAPs facilitated	2013*	National reports, number of agreement between MED POL and stakeholders	MED POL in cooperation with NCs and stakeholders	- BC - ASCAME - CP/RAC
-Art.15 of Convention	Strengthening the cooperation with private sector in cooperation with CP/RAC	Partnerships with industrial association	2013*	Minutes of meeting with CP/RAC, MAP-NFPs meeting reports	MED POL with NCs and industrial stakeholders	-Industrial associations -CP/RAC
	Public outreach					
-Art.15 of Convention	Establishment of MED POL Information System	Information system fully operational; better shared information on MED POL	2009	System operational	MED POL in cooperation with INFO/RAC	-INFO/RAC -EMWIS-SEMIDE -EUWI-MED
-Art.15 of Convention	Implementation of MAP Information Strategy by MED POL	Increased visibility of MEDPOL	2013*	National reports	MED POL with MAP and Info/RAC	-INFO/RAC -EMWIS-SEMIDE -EUWI-MED
-Art.15 of Convention	Preparation of National Web sites on MED POL activities and achievements	Increased visibility of MEDPOL at national level	2010	Websites operational	NCs assisted by MED POL	-INFO/RAC -EMWIS-SEMIDE -EUWI-MED

	Application of the ecosystem approach					
-Recc. CPs Meeting, Portoroz 2005	Participation of MEDPOL in the implementation of the roadmap	Ecological objectives, ecological indicators and target levels	2013*	Report of Meetings	MEDU and CPs in cooperation with MED POL and all RACs	-OSPAR -HELCOM -EU
	Scientific collaboration					
-Art 13 of Convention -Art. 9 of LBS -MED POL IV	Maintaining close contacts with the scientific community	MED POL keeps up-to-date on scientific developments and emerging issues; MED POL scientific work is shared with the scientific community	2013*	Scientists actively involved in MED POL activities (contracts, workshops, etc.)	MED POL in consultation with NCs	
-Art. 13 of Convention -Art. 9 of LBS -MED POL IV	Identification and assessment of emerging issues; support to monitoring	Emerging issues are identified and assessed; monitoring is supported	2013*	Research contracts; reports published	MED POL and research Institutes	Research Institutes
	Fisheries					
-MED POL IV	Monitoring of environmental effects of dumping of fish wastes and impact of aquaculture on the marine environment	Updated monitoring programmes	2013*	Data and assessment	MED POL and participating institutes	-GFCM -FAO -SPA-RAC

	<i>Energy production and maritime transport</i>					
MED POL IV	1. Develop guidelines to implement in an environmental sound manner for marine and costal ecosystems the EE & RE at National and Local Level	1. Policy and Measure to implement EE &RE in the Mediterranean (not only CO2 but to reduce pollution at sea and in air).	2009	1. Document/ Report, test (adapt to countries needs), technical assistance	MEDPOL in cooperation with CP/RAC and Plan Bleu	MEDREP, Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, EU Energy Policy, CP/RAC activities, Plan Bleu Policy Energy
	2. Development of Pilot Projects on EE and RE subject to the availability of funds	2. Pilot Projects formulated and implemented	2013	2. Reports of Pilot Projects	MEDPOL in cooperation with National and International Institutions/ Governments	
MED POL IV	Assessment of environmental effect of maritime transport	Environmental effects of transport assessed	2013*	Report published	MED POL in cooperation with REMPEC	REMPEC IMO

	<i>Institutional arrangements</i>					
-MED POL IV	Improve effective participation of countries in MED POL activities; possibility for a better and wider activity coverage; more country ownership	Better participation of countries in MED POL activities; possibility for a better and wider activity coverage; more country ownership Improvement of the cooperation between MED POL and CPs National contributions in cash and/or kind provided to MED POL activities	2013* *	Amount of external assistance to MEDPOL, countries leading specific activities	CPs	
-MED POL IV	Coordination with regional and international stakeholders (including civil society) achieved by MED POL unit	More effective implementation of activities through participation of stakeholders	2013*	Progress Report on steps made by MED POL	MED POL	
-MED POL IV	Facilitating access to existing financial sources	Countries better informed of finance opportunities; better links between countries 'needs and finance opportunities	2013*	Project proposals prepared and submitted by countries to donors and banks; projects implemented	MED POL	GEF-SP

ANNEX V

ADOPTED DECISION UNDER AGENDA ITEM 5.2

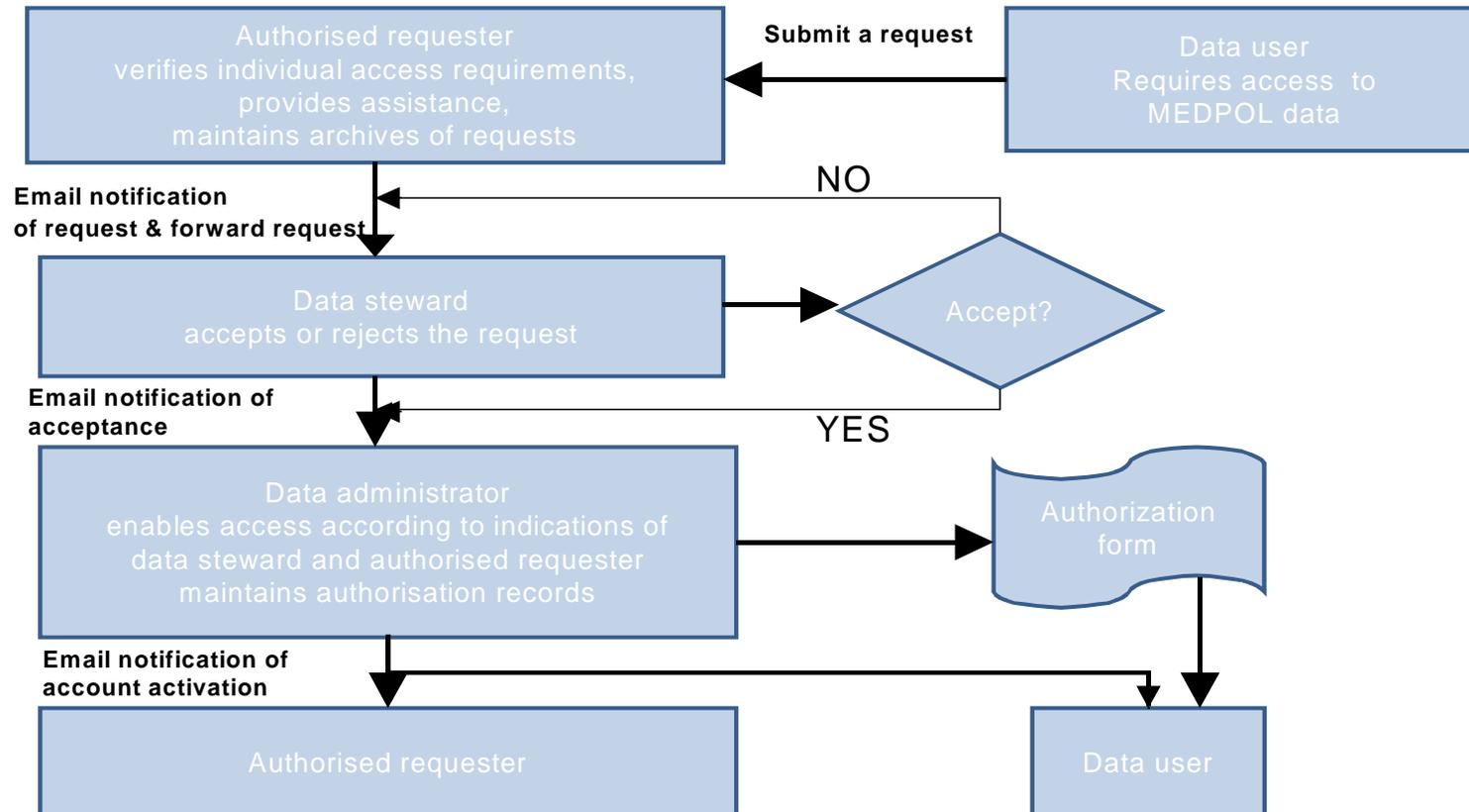
The Contracting Parties decide:

1. To continue the implementation of NAPs endorsed in 2005 to the greatest possible extent foreseeing their revision in 2011; throughout the process, the Secretariat will continue to support with capacity building activities covering technical, institutional and financial aspects.
2. To develop the following elements in the framework of MED POL:
 - Identification of priority substances and sectors during 2008-2009;
 - Identification of a differentiation mechanism during 2008-2009 for the implementation of regional Emission Limit Values (ELVs), based on BAT, and start the process of developing regional and/or sub-regional –as appropriate- Environmental Quality Objectives (EQOs) for the marine environment;
 - Identification of relevant elements and indicators arising from the implementation of the ecosystem approach.
3. To formulate by 2011 action plans and programmes containing the legally binding measures and timetables required by article 15 of the LBS protocol, taking into consideration the possibility of using the elements arising from the above process for this purpose as well as for the revision of the NAPs.

ANNEX VI

CHART ON THE PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING AND OBTAINING DATA ACCESS (prepared by INFO/RAC)

Procedure for Requesting and Obtaining Data Access



ANNEX VII

**PROPOSED ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT
DURING THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM AS PART OF MED
POL**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUB-PROGRAMME 1: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LBS PROTOCOL	1
SUB-PROGRAMME 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DUMPING PROTOCOL	3
SUB-PROGRAMME 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HAZARDOUS WASTES PROTOCOL	5
SUB-PROGRAMME 4: ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LBS, DUMPING AND HAZARDOUS WASTES PROTOCOLS	7
SUB-PROGRAMME 5: USE OF IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS	10
SUB-PROGRAMME 6: PHYSICAL ALTERATION AND DESTRUCTION OF HABITAT	13
SUB-PROGRAMME 7: PUBLIC HEALTH	15
SUB-PROGRAMME 8: COOPERATION AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	17
SUB-PROGRAMME 9: STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND PUBLIC OUTREACH	20
SUB-PROGRAMME 10: ENERGY PRODUCTION AND MARITIME TRANSPORT	22

SUB-PROGRAMME 1: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LBS PROTOCOL

GOAL: To facilitate the implementation of the LBS Protocol and the SAP

Objectives:

- 1- To facilitate the financing of National Action Plans (NAPs)
- 2- To develop a methodology for the quantification of inputs from diffuse sources
- 3- To elaborate a proposal for a mechanism for a differentiation approach to be applied in the revision of the NAPs
- 4- To launch demonstration projects in the framework of the GEF Strategic Partnership

During the biennium 2006-2007 the Contracting Parties prepared and endorsed National Action Plans (NAPs) to address land-based pollution. The NAPs, among other, indicate the priority actions which would be taken by national authorities to reduce inputs of pollutants from point sources to meet their commitments with the SAP and the LBS Protocol. In this framework, MEDPOL will closely work with the national, regional (EU and EIB) and international financial institutions (GEF and WB) to ensure the financing of the priority actions of the NAPs. Special attention will be given to the EC Horizon 2020 Initiative and the GEF strategic Partnership.

In addition, with the assistance of regional experts, the Secretariat will review the state-of-the-art of the quantification of inputs into the marine environment from diffuse sources in order to identify a reliable process which could be used to assess the magnitude of inputs of pollutants from diffuse sources to enable the development of an appropriate regional policy to address this issue.

In line with the CPs' request to explore the modality of implementation of a differentiation approach to be applied for the revision of NAPs and the outcome from the two regional consultation meetings with countries' representatives, stakeholders and NGOs, during the biennium, MED POL will work on the implementation of the agreed road map for the development of a comprehensive differentiation mechanism based on Emission Limit Values (ELVs) for the relevant industrial sectors. To this end, the Secretariat will continue to closely work with regional experts and countries' representatives to reach an agreement on the mechanism to be submitted to the Contracting Parties for possible adoption in 2009.

The implementation of MED POL-related activities in the framework of the GEF-WB-MAP Strategic Partnership (SP) would be a benchmark in the implementation of the SAP. Following the expected approval of the Partnership by the GEF Council, MED POL will launch, during the biennium 2008-2009, five pilot projects in Turkey, Algeria, Lebanon and Syria respectively in four industrial sectors (tanneries, lubricating oils, batteries and fertilizers) that will be replicated through the overall GEF replication strategy and a pilot project for the development of ELVs and Environmental Quality Standards (EQS).

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09	Responsibility	Indicators of achievements	Related initiatives
	Implementation of the LBS Protocol				
Recommendation of CP Meeting in Portoroz 2005	Cooperation with CPs, EC, EIB, GEF, WB (identification of projects, missions, meetings)	NAPs' pollution reductions interventions financed	MED POL and CPs	Projects implementation in 10 countries	-Horizon 2020 -GEF-SP
-LBS Art.4	Estimation of the inputs from diffuse sources	Use of model(s) for the quantification of releases from rivers and watershed	MEDPOL with relevant Mediterranean institutions	Model(s) approved by national experts	-GEF SP -EUROHARP
-Agenda 21 -JOP -MSSD -SAP	Development of a differentiation mechanism for pollution reduction which will be used at a later stage for the formulation of actions plans and programmes containing measures and timetables	Differentiation mechanism based on ELVs	-MEDPOL with regional experts -CPs	Mechanism adopted by CPs	-IPPC
-LBS Art.5 and 15 -SAP	Implementation of MED POL-related activities of the GEF Strategic Partnership - Launching of pilot projects in demonstration sites in Turkey, Algeria, Lebanon, Syria	National policy reforms to address tanneries, phosphogypsum, lub oil and lead batteries	MEDPOL in cooperation with CP/RAC and UNIDO and CPs	National policy reform approved by competent authority	GEF-SP
-LBS Art.5 and 15 -SAP	Identification of measures for priority substances and sectors	- Measures for priority substances: mercury and PCBs - Measures for priority sectors: refineries and metal sectors	MEDPOL in cooperation with CP/RAC and CPs	Reports on the measures	GEF-SP

SUB-PROGRAMME 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DUMPING PROTOCOL

GOAL: To facilitate the implementation of the dumping guidelines according to Art. 6.2, and the entry into force of the amended protocol.

Objective: To Provide technical assistance to countries to facilitate the implementation of the Dumping Protocol and its guidelines

MED POL, in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the London Convention and the relevant national authorities and stakeholders, will continue providing legal, institutional and technical assistance to facilitate the implementation of the guidelines for the management of matters under Art 4.2 of the Protocol. National stakeholders' meetings will be organized in Algeria, Albania, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and two other countries. A new region-wide assessment of the dumping activities for the period 2003-2007 will be developed on the basis of the data provided by the CPs in the framework of national reports and the data and information collected directly from the national authorities. The secretariat will develop, with the assistance of regional experts, guidelines for the development of National Threshold Limit Values (NTLV) to assess the toxicity of dredged materials to be used by national authorities as an element of the permitting system. In addition MEDPOL, will complete, on the basis of data provided by the countries, the regional map exhibiting the sites of dumping of ammunitions to be used by maritime authorities and fishermen's associations throughout the region. Finally, MED POL will explore the feasibility of the use, for the benefit of the Parties, of the guidelines on waste management developed by the London Convention.

<i>Policy Relevance</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Indicators of achievements</i>	<i>Related initiatives</i>
	<i>Implementation of the Dumping Protocol</i>				
Dumping Protocol Art.6.2	Implementation of adopted guidelines 1. Organization of national stakeholders' meetings. 2. Development of guidelines for NTLVs. 3. Updating a regional map for dumping of ammunitions	1. Six national stakeholders meetings 2. Guidelines for NTLVs developed 3. New updated map on dumping of ammunitions	MED POL in cooperation with relevant CPs and the London Convention secretariat	1) Institutional set ups and cooperation between national stakeholders improved. 2) Guidelines approved by CPs 3) MAP prepared and distributed to all countries	London Convention activities

SUB-PROGRAMME 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HAZARDOUS WASTES PROTOCOL

GOAL: To facilitate the implementation of the Protocol and its entry into force

Objectives:

- 1- To complete the project on management of lubricating oils in Bosnia Herzegovina
- 2- To contribute to the development of an action plan to combat the illegal traffic of hazardous wastes in Arabic countries
- 3- To implement demonstration projects for the management and disposal of PCBs

In cooperation with the Basel Convention Secretariat and its Regional Centre in Bratislava, MED POL will complete the project initiated in Bosnia Herzegovina with the preparation of a management plan for lubricating oils.

In cooperation with the Basel Convention Secretariat and its Regional Centre in Cairo, MED POL will initiate a project to provide the necessary technical and financial assistance to the Mediterranean Arabic countries for the development of a strategy and an action plan for the control of illegal traffic of hazardous wastes in the Arabic countries. The basic steps towards achieving the strategy and action plan will include:

- 1- Collecting information and investigating on similar strategies and watch system plans from other regions
- 2- Preparing a strategy and action plan to be presented to a regional workshop
- 3- Propose a financial mechanism and coordination unit for the strategy and action plan
- 4- Convene a technical level meeting to discuss the budget and financial issues, the collaboration mechanisms and the elements of the strategy and action plan.
- 5- Convene a high level regional workshop to present and agree on the strategy and action plan, agree on implementation mechanisms and review financial mechanisms
- 6- Publicize the strategy and action plan
- 7- Present the strategy and the plan to the Ministers of Environments in the Arab countries at their annual meeting with the League of the Arab States.

After the expected approval of the GEF strategic Partnership by the GEF Council, MED POL, in cooperation with CP/RAC, will launch five demonstration projects for the environmental management and disposal of PCBs in Albania, Egypt, Syria, Libya and Lebanon. The projects aim at the implementation of a national capacity programme on how to perform a disposal process (selection, confinement, authorization, shipment and disposal) for oils and equipment contaminated with PCBs in a selected demonstration site(s) together with a national wide capacity building programme about the environmental and health issues of the management of PCBs for the stakeholders and public. As a result of the five-year project, it is foreseen to dispose 1100 tons of PCBs from all demonstration projects. The PCBs activities as part of SP are considered a concrete contribution to the implementation of the NAPs and the NIPs of the Stockholm Convention.

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09	Responsibility	Indicators of achievements	Related initiatives
	Implementation of the Hazardous Waste Protocol				
Hazardous Waste Protocol Art.4	Implementation of PCB component of GEF Strategic Partnership	Demonstration projects in Albania, Egypt, Libya, Syria and Lebanon	MEDPOL in cooperation with CP/RAC	National programmes for the environmental sound management and disposal of PCBs contaminated oils and equipments launched by electricity companies.	GEF SP
Hazardous Wastes Protocol Art.5.5 and 8	Strengthening the Cooperation with Basel Convention Regional Centres through the implementation of joint projects 1) Regional model for management of Lub oil IN Bosnia Herzegovina. 2) Action Plan to combat illegal traffic of hazardous waste in Arabic countries	1) Pilot Project in Bosnia –Herzegovina completed 2) Comprehensive and harmonized action plan for Arabic countries prepared	MEDPOL in cooperation with CPs, BC, BCRCs and CP/RAC	1) Regional model for Environmental management system of lub oil is prepared and posted on MAP web site 2) A strategy and an action plan to combat illegal traffic of HW are agreed upon by relevant CPs	Basel Convention and its BCRC
	Facilitating the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in the Mediterranean region	Organization of a meeting among regional Stakeholders relevant to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention subject to availability of funds	MEDPOL in cooperation with CP/RAC	Meeting report	CP/RAC

SUB-PROGRAMME 4: ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LBS, DUMPING AND HAZARDOUS WASTES PROTOCOLS

GOAL: To monitor the effectiveness of national measures taken to implement the Protocols

Objectives:

- 1- To assist countries to formulate and establish national monitoring programmes in compliance with Article 12 of the Convention and Article 8 of the LBS protocol
- 2- To assess the state of marine pollution in the Mediterranean and determine its trends
- 3- To update the NBB methodology and content
- 4- To develop a comprehensive set of Marine Pollution indicators

As the protocols aim at reducing inputs of contaminants into the marine environment, one way of assessing the effectiveness of the measures taken to implement the protocols is to monitor the quality of the marine environment to detect relevant improvement.

According to Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention all Contracting Parties shall establish monitoring programmes and designate the competent authorities responsible for pollution monitoring. In addition, Article 8 of the Land-Based Sources Protocol stipulates that these monitoring programmes should aim:

- a) "Systematically to assess, as far as possible, the levels of pollution along their coasts, in particular with regard to the sectors of activity and categories of substances listed in Annex I, and periodically to provide information in this respect; and
- b) To evaluate the effectiveness of action plans, programmes and measures implemented under this Protocol to eliminate to the fullest possible extent pollution of the marine environment".

The monitoring activities in MED POL Phase IV are designed on the basis of the above and with the following specific objectives:

- to determine temporal trends of some selected contaminants in the coastal waters and specifically in hot-spot areas in order to assess the effectiveness of policy measures and actions taken ;
- to undertake periodical assessments of the state of the environment in hot spots and general coastal areas (needed to provide information for decision makers on the basic environmental status of the areas which are under anthropogenic pressures), and
- to control whether there is compliance with national / international regulatory limits.

Contracting Parties are responsible for establishing national monitoring programmes that would include state and trend monitoring, compliance monitoring and monitoring of loads. Financial assistance will be provided to those countries that are still in need. Contracting Parties are encouraged and assisted to also undertake biological effects monitoring and eutrophication monitoring, as appropriate. Baseline studies will continue

in cooperation with ongoing projects to cover the Adriatic and the South-eastern Mediterranean.

Data Quality Assurance is vital to ensure reliable and good quality data. IAEA will continue to be responsible for chemical contaminants and the University of Alessandria (Italy) for the biomarkers. MED POL will assist laboratories to participate in the QUASIMEME exercises for eutrophication parameters. IAEA will also organize training courses for the analysis of heavy metals and organics. Specifically, for biological effects, an inter-calibration exercise will take place in 2008 and a joint workshop with ICES (OSPAR) and HELCOM in 2009.

The process for updating the reference methods for monitoring and analysis will be initiated in 2008 taking into consideration the importance of harmonizing methodologies.

As it was indicated in the approved MEDPOL phase IV programme, compliance monitoring will focus mostly on the monitoring of inputs of loads of pollutants which could reach the marine environment directly or indirectly from point sources in administrative region(s) and at national level. Accordingly, with the assistance of regional expert(s), MED POL will update the methodology used for the preparation of the National Baseline Budget of Emissions and Releases (NBB), taking into account the necessity of improving the comparability of data. This work will to facilitate and improve the assessment of loads from industrial points sources and will provide technical and financial assistance to designated national experts to develop their national compliance monitoring exercise for the year 2008-2009.

The regional and national assessment of the status of the generation of data and information to assess Marine Pollution Indicators (MPIs), which was performed by regional and national experts, indicated that there is a need for larger efforts by the secretariat and the national authorities to harmonize the generation of data and information in order to have a consolidated, comprehensive and reliable set of indicators which would be used at a later stage to develop the DPSIR indicator-based State of Environment (SoE) report. To this aim, MED POL will work closely with EEA, MEDSTAT and Blue Plan to harmonize activities and will provide technical and financial assistant to national institutions responsible for the monitoring programmes.

Since the last updating of Pollution Hot Spots report was performed in 2003, an additional update will be made in cooperation with national authorities in view of the additional information provided by the BBs and the NAPs.

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09	Responsibility	Indicators of achievements	Related initiatives
	Assessment of the implementation of the Protocols				
Art. 12 of the Convention and art. 8 of LBS protocol	Assistance to countries for the formulation/ implementation of national monitoring programmes including health-related monitoring	National and regional databases	CPs in cooperation with MED POL	Number of NMPs and agreements signed; amount of data generated	
SAP and MED POL Phase IV	Monitoring of loads	Updated methodology and content of NBBs	CPs with MED POL assistance	Number of NBB updated	EU EPER
MED POL Phase IV	Assistance to countries for the formulation/ implementation of eutrophication and biomonitoring programmes	Data and reports on eutrophication and biomonitoring	CPs with MED POL assistance	Amount of data generated	
MED POL Phase IV	Assistance for baseline surveys	Data and reports	CPs with MED POL assistance	Amount of data generated	INTERREG projects
MED POL Phase IV	Development and/or updating of common monitoring and analytical methodologies	Updated monitoring and analytical methodologies document and website	MED POL in cooperation with IAEA	Number of published methodologies	IAEA
MED POL Phase IV	Data Quality Assurance 1) Chemical contaminants 2) Biomonitoring 3) Eutrophication	Good quality data	MED POL with: 1) IAEA 2) Alessandria Univ., Italy 3) QUASIMEME	Results of intercalibration exercises	1) IAEA 2) BEQUALM 3) QUASIMEME
- Recc.CPs Meeting, Catania 2003	Development of Marine Pollution Indicators (MPIs)	Strengthened capacity and capability of the CPs to assess MPIs	MED POL in cooperation with EEA, BP, MedStat and CPs	DPSIR Indicators-based assessment of the state of marine environment	EEA-BP
-SAP	Preparation of an updated report on pollution hot spots	Pollution Hot Spots trends monitored	WHO/MED POL with the assistance of CPs	Publication of the updated report	

SUB-PROGRAMME 5: USE OF IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

GOAL: To build the capacity of national authorities for reporting, information gathering, transfer of technology, inspectorate systems and monitoring.

Objectives:

- 1- To make the Phase I of MEDPOL Information system operational
- 2- To promote the transfer of technology
- 3- To implement PRTRs
- 4- To ensure proper implementation of monitoring
- 5- To assist countries to strengthen their inspectorate systems

As a result of the close cooperation between MEDPOL and Info/RAC, it is expected that Phase I of the MEDPOL information system will be operational in 2008. It will comprise two modules: an intranet which would improve the communication between the MAP secretariat staff, the CPs and the stakeholders, and an online reporting system for trends and compliance monitoring. During the biennium 2008-2009 MED POL will continue its cooperation with Info/RAC to review the status of the reporting formats and complete the reporting system with two additional databases; which will include, upon request, training for national information experts; the system to follow up the implementation of NAPs, the national reporting system related to the Protocols and the development of two additional modules, namely the plotting and GIS, will be launched during this biennium.

Facilitating and enhancing the transfer of technology and know-how between Mediterranean Countries is an important tool to ensure the effective implementation of NAPs. In this context, MED POL will launch during the biennium a brainstorming exercise between the CPs, regional experts and stakeholders to identify the elements to be used to promote transfer of technology.

PRTR is gaining more and more importance as an efficient tool for a proper reporting system for the proper management of industrial pollution at global and regional levels. MED POL will continue to provide, in cooperation with ICS-UNIDO, technical and financial assistance to Egypt to finalize the Phase II of the PRTR project which covers all Mediterranean coastal environment directorates and major industrial sites, to Turkey to expand the PRTR system to cover additional coastal environmental directorates and to Morocco to finalize the Pilot project in Tangiers.

IAEA-MESL will continue to organize training courses related to monitoring. So far the training courses concentrated on the analysis of heavy metals and organics but MED POL will conduct a survey in the countries to determine whether new or additional training courses are required. Clearly, with the implementation of the ecosystem approach, the additional indicators to be measured require an expansion of existing training activities.

Following a request from Syria and Turkey, national training courses on Wastewater Treatment Plants operation and management will be organized. An intercalibration exercise for health related monitoring activities will be organized during the biennium

and will be combined with the meeting on the implementation of the approved Guidelines for bathing waters.

Regarding the strengthening of inspectorate systems in the countries, the regular meeting of the network on compliance and enforcement will be held in 2009 with main issue the implementation of compliance and enforcement indicators. It is anticipated that the meeting will suggest further activities to be implemented on indicators. Assistance for technical, institutional and organizational issues will continue to be provided to countries upon request.

The activities related to inspection systems, included in the GEF Strategic Partnership will commence with the expected approval of the project. A preliminary study has shown that the following countries will benefit more from the activities: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, Syria and Turkey. The duration for the activities in each country is expected to last for one and a half years, while the whole project will last five years to cover all countries. For 2008, the project will start with two countries. The work will include the formulation of plans of action for permitting, compliance and inspection, the training of national inspectorates through workshops and the drafting of amended national legislation in relation to inspection systems. Therefore, an initial meeting to consider the existing legislation will be organized at national level, followed by a national workshop and at the end of the one and a half year period, a final meeting will be held with the aim to propose any amendments to existing legislation.

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09	Responsibility	Indicators of achievements	Related initiatives
	Use of implementation tools				
LBS Art. 10	Organization and implementation of capacity building programmes - Training course on Wastewater Treatment Plant Operation and Management	Trained personnel	WHO/MED POL in cooperation with the CPs	Number of trained people	
MED POL Phase IV	Training courses on the analysis of chemical contaminants	Trained personnel	MED POL in cooperation with IAEA	Number of trained people	
Art 15 of Barcelona Convention	Development of MEDPOL Information System 1) Development of DBs 2) Development of plotting and GIS modules	Intranet and online reporting system for MEDPOL	MEDPOL with cooperation of Info/RAC and CPs	System operational	EMWIS (SEMIDE) EUWI-MED
LBS Art .5,9,10	Promotion of transfer of technology	Facilitating transfer of technology	-MEDPOL -CPs	Effective transfer of technology between CPs	CP/RAC
LBS Art 6	Strengthening of Inspectorate systems in all countries; capacity building programme 1) Meeting of network on compliance and enforcement 2) Assistance to countries upon request for strengthening the inspectorate systems	1) Implementation indicators 2) Technical, institutional, organizational and financial assistance upon request	WHO/MED POL in assistance with the CPs WHO/MED POL	1) Development of compliance and enforcement indicators 2) Assistance provided to three countries	GEF
-11 th CP meeting	Launching of PRTR in all countries 1) Finalize phase II of PRTR Egypt 2) Launch Phase II of PRTR Turkey 3) Launch PRTR Morocco in Tangier	Reporting format and data base established	MEDPOL in cooperation with ICS-UNIDO and CPs	PRTR systems operational	EC (EPER) UNECE

SUB-PROGRAMME 6: PHYSICAL ALTERATION AND DESTRUCTION OF HABITAT

GOAL: To reduce the impact on the marine environment of litter and sea water desalination plants

Objectives:

- 1- To prepare a targeted awareness campaign on impacts of desalination plants
- 2- To develop a regional action plan for litter management

The issue of marine litter in the region has two origins: inadequate coastal solid waste management (mostly in the southern and eastern countries) and lack of awareness of sea utilisers such as beach-goers, tourists, maritime traffic, fishermen etc. Therefore, MED POL will continue to provide assistance to the countries to develop a pilot project on coastal litter management in Morocco and Libya and publish and disseminate the mid-term public awareness and education campaign on the management of marine litter (Doc UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.316/Inf.7). In addition, MED POL with the assistance of regional expert(s) and in coordination with UNEP RS will develop a regional Action Plan for litter management to be submitted to the CPs for possible adoption in 2009.

The need for desalting seawater is becoming more and more pressing in the Mediterranean where water needs are constantly increasing. It is estimated that by the year 2010 water demands in the region will increase by 32% at least for the southern and eastern countries.

Thus, since desalination industry is steadily growing in the Mediterranean region, MED POL, with the cooperation of the European Desalination Society (EDS), will continue to inform the relevant national authorities, specialized private sector, engineers and technicians on the adverse impacts of this activity on the marine environment and to facilitate the implementation of MED POL guidelines for the sound management of sea water desalination plants adopted by the CPs in 2003.

<i>Policy Relevance</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Indicators of achievements</i>	<i>Related initiatives</i>
	<i>Physical alteration and destruction of habitats</i>				
13 th CP meeting, LBS art. 5	Preparation of targeted awareness campaign on impacts of desalination	Awareness campaign	MED POL in cooperation with EDS and CPs	National programmes	-European Desalination Society (EDS) -SPA/RAC -NGOs -CP/RAC -PAP/RAC
11 th CP meeting, LBS art. 5	Development of a regional strategic action plan for litter management	- Action Plan - Awareness campaign	MED POL with CPs	Regional and national programmes	UNEP RS GPA NGOs -SPA/RAC

SUB-PROGRAMME 7: PUBLIC HEALTH

GOAL: To assess and reduce sewage pollution reaching the Mediterranean and to improve the quality of bathing and shellfish-growing waters and reduce health risks from tourist establishments

Objectives:

- 1- To assist countries in the better management and operation of municipal wastewater treatment plants and use of treated water.
- 2- To assist countries in the implementation of monitoring of bathing waters and shellfish-growing areas.

The Mediterranean and its coastal areas constitute the receiving body for a number of wastes generated on the coast and thus the main recreational amenity provided by the sea for local populations as well as millions of tourists who visit the area annually, is seriously threatened. One of the overall objectives of MED POL Phase IV is the assessment of all point sources and loads of pollution reaching the Mediterranean and the magnitude of the problems caused by the effects of contaminants on living and non-living resources, including human health, as well as on amenities and uses of the marine and coastal regions. Therefore, the draft guidelines on coastal bathing waters will be finalized and transmitted to National Coordinators for approval. The Guidelines are expected to provide the input for the preparation of a number of beach profiles in five selected countries, according to the proposed methodology. The implementation of the Guidelines including the beach profiles will be discussed along with shellfish growing areas' activities in a consultation meeting to be held during the biennium that will be combined with an intercalibration exercise. A methodology for an action plan related to health risks in tourist establishments will be prepared as well as a review document on the principal health determinants along with the identification of needs.

Taking into consideration that 2008 is the international year of sanitation, a public awareness document describing the situation in the Mediterranean will be prepared. In view of the Millennium development goal for sanitation and the work on river basin management, a list of wastewater treatment plants in cities with more than 2,000 inhabitants discharging in rivers that flow in the Mediterranean, will also be prepared. For the implementation of the guidelines on the reuse of treated wastewater, it is expected that at least five national training courses on the subject will be held, as already some countries have expressed their interest on the subject. The training material will be translated into several languages (as required) to satisfy the needs of the different courses. It must be noted that collaboration with Contracting Parties and in particular MED POL National Coordinators, is of paramount importance as without it the achievement of the activities will be jeopardized.

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09	Responsibility	Indicators of achievements	Related initiatives
	Public health				
-LBS Art. 7 MEDPOL Phase IV	- Finalization and approval of Guidelines on bathing waters - Preparation of beach profiles	Twenty beach profiles in five countries	WHO/MED POL with the assistance of Contracting Parties	Number of beach profiles in five countries	WHO
-LBS Art. 7 - MEDPOL Phase IV	- Consultation meeting on guidelines including beach profiles and shellfish growing waters activities combined with intercalibration exercise	Agreed guidelines on the assessment of bathing waters quality and beach profiles	WHO/MED POL with CPs participation	Guidelines agreed	
-MEDPOL Phase IV	Preparation of an Action plan related to environmental health risks in tourist establishments	Action plan prepared	WHO/MED POL with the assistance of the CPs	Action plan agreed	WHO
-LBS, Art. 8 and Annex I - SAP	1) Preparation of a public awareness document on waste water treatment and management 2) Preparation of a document on treatment plants discharging in rivers 3) Assistance to countries upon request	1) Document on sanitation prepared 2) Document prepared 3) Technical, organizational, Institutional and financial assistance provided	1) WHO/MED POL 2) WHO/MED POL with the assistance of CPs 3) WHO/MED POL on request by CPs	1) Document on sanitation to be widely distributed 2) List of cities discharging to at least ten major rivers 3) Two countries to be assisted	-WHO -NGOs
-SAP	1) Training courses on implementation of guidelines on wastewater reuse 2) Assistance to countries for the reuse of treated wastewaters upon request	1) Five national training courses to be organized 2) Technical, institutional, organisational & financial assistance provided	1) WHO/MED POL in collaboration and cooperation with CPs 2) WHO/MED POL on request of CPs	1) Number of experts trained in five countries 2) Assistance provided at least to two countries	

SUB-PROGRAMME 8: COOPERATION AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

GOALS:

- 1- To achieve a wide and solid cooperation with all relevant international, regional and national actors to further improve the results of the MED POL Programme for the benefit of the countries
- 2- To better coordinate the MED POL activities with national authorities

Objectives:

- 1- To maintain and strengthen cooperation with the scientific community
- 2- To maintain and improve cooperation with the relevant UN bodies and Convention Secretariats
- 3- To further cooperation and launch joint activities with RACs
- 4- To consolidate cooperation with EU and EEA
- 5- To ensure participation of NGOs in the MED POL activities
- 6- To further cooperation with GEF, the World Bank, the EIB, FFEM and other relevant international and regional stakeholders
- 7- To maintain close cooperation with national authorities through meetings and contacts

As it was successfully achieved during Phase III, the ongoing work of the Mediterranean scientific community on operational monitoring and observation systems, such as MOON and MED GOOS, will be closely followed up and cooperation will be strengthened.

Cooperation will also continue with WHO and all other UN Agencies/Bodies carrying out work relevant to the various components of MED POL, with global and regional Convention Secretariats and International and Intergovernmental Organizations. In this context a joint workshop with ICES (OSPAR) and HELCOM will be organized in 2009 on biological effects monitoring with an aim of harmonizing methodologies.

Cooperation will also be strengthened with RACs on the basis of their respective competences and in the framework of the implementation of the ecosystem approach. Especially relevant for the Phase IV of MED POL will be an efficient and concrete cooperation with the European Commission in view of the relevance of its initiatives such as the Water Framework Directive, the proposed Marine Strategy Directive and Horizon 2020. .

Close cooperation will be kept with all the relevant regional actors in the field of reporting to facilitate the efforts of those countries with different reporting obligations. In this connection, the successful work initiated with the European Environment Agency (EEA) in the framework of the signed joint work programme, will be continued.

NGOs will continue to play a key role in critically participating in the planning and implementation of the MED POL activities. As appropriate, NGOs will be invited to attend MED POL Meetings and specific partnerships will be established to facilitate the implementation of specific activities at the local level, such as those related to coastal

litter management. A constructive role of NGOs is also expected in the long-term implementation of the NAPs, as they were successfully involved in the formulation of the NAPs in a large number of countries.

Contacts and operational links will be intensified with regional and international donors and banks, such as the World Bank and the European Investment Bank, as their involvement could facilitate the implementation of the NAPs by the countries. As in the past, long-term partnerships will be sought with GEF and FFEM for projects and initiatives that could assist the implementation of the activities of MED POL.

A number of meetings will be organized to facilitate coordination and improvement of the MED POL programme. Specifically, a meeting of MED POL National Coordinators will be organized and a meeting to review the monitoring activities as well as an Ad Hoc Working Group meeting on programmes and measures .

The MED POL database will be properly managed and data made available for regional assessments.

Finally, MED POL will continue to assist Mediterranean scientists to participate in relevant training courses and meetings.

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09	Responsibility	Indicators of achievements	Related initiatives
	Cooperation and Institutional arrangements				
	Joint ICES (OSPAR)/MED POL/HELCOM workshop on biological effects	Harmonization of methods and data reporting	MED POL in cooperation with ICES	Harmonized methodologies	ICES WGBEC, HELCOM
	National MED POL Coordinators meeting	Decisions on MED POL programme	MED POL with the participation of NCs	Programme properly coordinated with national authorities	NGOs
	Ad Hoc Working Group on programmes and measures	Meeting held	MED POL with the participation of CPs	Programmes and measures identified	
	Meeting on monitoring activities	Recommendations for improvement of monitoring activities	MED POL with the participation of CPs	Implementation of monitoring activities improved	
	Facilitating the access to existing financial sources for the implementation of NAPs	Assistance provided to countries to ensure long-term financing of NAPs	MED POL in cooperation with CPs	NAPs financed	GEF SP
	Management of MED POL databases	Properly managed database	MED POL in cooperation with Info/RAC	Data and information easily accessible	
	Assistance for training and fellowships	Participation of scientists in training courses and meetings	MED POL in cooperation with NCs	Trained and informed people	

SUB-PROGRAMME 9: STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

GOALS:

- 1- To facilitate the implementation of NAPs at national and local levels
- 2- To improve and widen the knowledge on MED POL activities and achievements

Objectives:

- 1- To facilitate the involvement of national and regional stakeholders including the private sector in the implementation of NAPs.
- 2- To establish a MED POL information system and implement the MAP strategy in relation to the MED POL activities

As, stakeholders have been actively involved in the process of the preparation of NAPs MED POL, in cooperation with Horizon 2020 initiative, GEF and WB as well as the appropriate NGOs, will provide assistance to the national authorities to organize meetings to inform the stakeholders about the status of the implementation of NAPs and promote the involvement of stakeholders in the follow up and evaluation process. In addition MED POL, in close cooperation with CP/RAC, will address the regional associations of industry and business such as ASCAME, EUROCHLOR and other relevant associations to promote the implementation of NAPs in their field of actions. As appropriate, specific partnerships will be established.

MED POL, in cooperation with Info/RAC, will implement the MAP information strategy and a system to increase the visibility of MED POL. In addition MED POL will assist national authorities to prepare national websites on MED POL.

<i>Policy Relevance</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Indicators of achievements</i>	<i>Related initiatives</i>
	<i>Public outreach and stakeholder involvement</i>				
MED POL IV	Preparation of National Web sites on MED POL activities and achievements	Increasing the visibility of MEDPOL at national level	MEDPOL and CPs	Websites operational	INFO/RAC
MED POL IV	Organizations of meetings at national level for stakeholders	Facilitating the implementation of NAPs	MED POL with CPs	Informed stakeholders	
MED POL IV	Implementation by MED POL of the relevant components of the MAP information system	- MED POL website - Increased visibility of MED POL	MED POL	More quotations of MED POL in national reports	INFO/RAC

SUB-PROGRAMME 10: ENERGY PRODUCTION AND MARITIME TRANSPORT

GOALS:

- 1- To develop a strategic approach to introduce activities, targets and measures to reduce LBS pollution (sea and air) coming from power stations (energy production) and energy final uses affecting the marine environment
- 2- To identify possible activities of MED POL in relation to environmental effects of maritime transport

Objectives:

- 1- To develop guidelines for the implementation, in an environmental sound manner, of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources policies at national and local level and to prepare pilot projects subject to the availability of funds.
- 2- To prepare a review of environmental effects of maritime transport

Some initial activities related to energy production and its effects on pollution linked to specific provisions of the SAP are at present ongoing. In particular a study on energy efficiency and impact on the Mediterranean marine environment is being carried out to review energy production in the region and to identify the needed policy and measures to prevent and reduce pollution in the framework of the implementation of the SAP and the NAPs. The results of the study will be presented at a later stage to the Contracting Parties together with specific proposals on activities for review and approval. In the meantime, it is proposed to develop guidelines to facilitate the implementation of renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) policies in an environmentally sound manner at national and local level and pilot projects.

The Pilot Projects will be prepared within the framework of the Mediterranean Renewable Energy Partnership (MEDREP), a Type II initiative launched by the Italian Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in August 2002. In September 2004, MEDREP was strengthened with the formal establishment of an operational centre, the *Mediterranean Renewable Energy Center (MEDREC)* in Tunisia, as hub for project implementation in North Africa.

MEDREP is working to ensure that regulatory structures encourage the integration of sustainable energy, promote the efficient use of energy, and attract investment to the renewable sources. MEDREP is playing a crucial role in helping countries to create policy frameworks that deliver a sound investment environment and mitigate investment risk. It is in this context that an effort will be made by MED POL to prepare pilot projects which could fall within the scope of MEDREP.

As far as maritime transport is concerned, during the next biennium a study on the environmental effects of maritime transport will be carried out in cooperation with REMPEC and specific proposals will be made to the Contracting Parties for possible activities to be implemented in the long-term in the framework of Phase IV.

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 08-09	Responsibility	Indicators of achievements	Related initiatives
	Energy production and maritime transport				
	Subject to the availability of funds: 1) Develop guidelines to implement in an environmental sound manner for marine and coastal ecosystems the EE & RE at National and Local Level 2) Development of Pilot Projects on EE and RE	1) Policy and Measures to implement EE &RE in the Mediterranean (not only CO2 but to reduce pollution at sea and in air) 2) Pilot Projects formulated and implemented	1) MED POL in cooperation with CP/RAC and Blue Plan 2) MED POL in cooperation with MEDREP	1) Guidelines prepared 2) Ground prepared for the implementation of pilot projects	1) MEDREP, CP/RAC Blue Plan 2) MEDREP
MED POL IV	To prepare a review of environmental effects of maritime transport	Document prepared	MED POL in cooperation with REMPEC	Possible future activities of MED POL identified	IMO, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, ACCOBAMS