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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the MED POL National Coordinators to review
the implementation of MED POL-Phase III and of the
Strategic Action Programme

Reggio Calabria, Italy, 20-23 June 1999

REPORT

**MEETING OF THE MED POL NATIONAL COORDINATORS TO REVIEW THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF MED POL-PHASE III AND OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION
PROGRAMME**

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Introduction

1. The Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators was held at the Excelsior Hotel, Reggio Calabria, Italy, from 20 to 23 June 1999.

Participants

2. National Coordinators or their representatives from the following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention attended the Meeting: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Commission, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

3. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC), World Health Organization (WHO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization, International Centre for Science and Technology (ICS/UNIDO) and the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (METAP).

4. The following MAP Regional Activity Centre and non-governmental organizations were represented: Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC), International Marine Centre (IMC), Greenpeace, Fondo EuroMediterraneo (FEM), Ecomediterrania, and MED Forum.

5. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting

6. Mr Italo Falcomatà, Mayor of Reggio Calabria, welcomed participants to the city and conveyed its deep concern regarding the future of the Mediterranean. He emphasized that protecting the Mediterranean Sea meant, first of all, environmental monitoring all over its catchment area as the main source of land-based pollution. The new approach to environmental protection involving clean production technology and a more mature attitude to environmental practices, establishing mandatory target dates and limit values and giving the public access to data on the state of the marine environment were positive developments that should be welcomed. The authorities hoped that the city of Reggio Calabria would be the forum for renewed and ever stronger collaboration among participating countries so as to meet the environmental challenges of the future.

7. Mr Luigi Meduri, President of the Region of Calabria, said that tourism was one of the most important sources of wealth for the Region. Consequently, the protection of its environment was vital. Industrialization and urbanization of coastal areas had caused serious degradation of a marine environment that was already vulnerable because of its fragile ecosystem. Failure to implement the legislation and policies adopted, together with lack of resources and reliable information, had exacerbated the situation. Safeguarding the Mediterranean implied a common effort that transcended political, cultural and other differences.

8. Ms Ginella Vocca, Director of the Fondo EuroMediterraneo (FEM), recalled that the collaboration between the FEM and the United Nations Environment Programme had begun eight years previously. The Second Euro Mediterranean Conference of Ministers for Culture had recognized the FEM as an organization of Euromediterranean interest through its activities to

promote cultural and environmental cooperation. In co-hosting the Meeting, the Municipality of Reggio Calabria and the Region of Calabria had underlined their concern and their interest in environmental issues. Man could not have a one-way relationship with nature, taking but not giving. Communication could play an important role in promoting awareness of environmental issues, particularly among young people. The present Meeting afforded a good opportunity to publicize the questions discussed and the FEM offered its collaboration in that respect.

9. Mr Davide Morante, Head of the Environment Office, Directorate-General of Economic Affairs, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, underlined the important role played by the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in protecting the Mediterranean Sea from pollution. Over the past decade, substantial progress had been made in environmental protection at the global level, making it necessary to harmonize the texts of the Convention and its Protocols with other international and regional cooperation agreements. He drew particular attention to the effective but unobtrusive role played by the Coordinating Unit in protecting the Mediterranean Sea.

10. The task of the present Meeting was to define the strategy for reducing marine pollution in the biennium 2000-2001 and for implementing the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to eliminate all pollution from land-based sources by the year 2025. He was pleased to report that Italy had made an important contribution towards that objective by hosting three international conferences and by playing a positive role in elaborating the revised Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol).

11. He concluded by stressing the need for peace in the Mediterranean because all the efforts made to protect the environment would be worthless without peace.

12. The Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan, Mr L. Chabason, thanked the speakers for their opening addresses, which evidenced the growing interest taken by local and regional authorities in the protection and sustainable use of the Mediterranean. After welcoming the participants, he said how pleased he was to be in Reggio Calabria, a city that bore witness to a long history and an ancient culture. In recent years, following the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, some important events had occurred that were leading the Mediterranean region in the right direction. The Barcelona legal system had been revised, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development had been set up and MED POL - Phase III had been launched. In addition, recent commitments by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention confirmed that countries were determined to take action to control marine pollution. In that connection, he called upon the National Coordinators to urge their governments to ratify the new legal instruments. Ratification was a long process and he sincerely hoped that he would be able to announce substantial progress by the time of the forthcoming Meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in Malta.

13. Referring to the SAP, adopted in 1997, he pointed out that it set the year 2025 as the target date for the ultimate control of land-based pollution and there were reasonable grounds for believing that this goal could be achieved. He also referred to the substance of the new MED POL - Phase III, which was changing its priorities and developing an important component of pollution control. Through the enforcement of national and regional legislation and the follow-up to the implementation of the SAP by countries, the MED POL Programme could become an essential instrument for achieving appropriate coastal zone management and sustainable development. In that context, he drew attention to the recent expert workshop on compliance and enforcement of legislation in the Mediterranean for control of pollution resulting from land-based sources and activities.

14. Surveying the objectives of the present Meeting, the Coordinator indicated that it was to review, on the one hand, the activities to be carried out in 2000-2001 in implementation of the SAP and, on the other, the activities already carried out in the preceding biennium under MED POL - Phase III. It would also propose a programme for 2000-2001. In addition, the Meeting would take up the draft budget for 2000-2001, bearing in mind that it was to be finalized at the Meeting of Focal Points in September 1999, and approve a set of draft recommendations for transmission to the Contracting Parties.

15. Finally, the Coordinator pointed out that the activities approved for the implementation of the SAP would clearly demonstrate that the process of eliminating land-based pollution had really started, while the review of MED POL - Phase III activities would give important guidance to the Secretariat on how to make the programme an essential tool for achieving sustainable development. In conclusion, he offered his heartfelt thanks to the local and national Italian authorities for making the Meeting possible and to the Fondo EuroMediterraneo for the excellent organization.

16. The content of a letter from the Italian Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Valerio Calzolaio, addressed to the MED POL Coordinator, was also brought to the attention of the Meeting. He expressed his regret at not being present due to previous commitments, but assured that his Ministry would follow MED POL's work closely and reiterated Italy's full commitment to the objectives of the LBS Protocol and the SAP.

Agenda item 2. Election of officers

17. The Meeting unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	Mr Gabriel Gabrielides (Cyprus)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mr Alessandro Curatolo (European Commission)
	Mr Davide Morante (Italy)
Rapporteur:	Ms Tatiana Kotobelli (Albania)

Agenda item 3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

18. The Meeting adopted the proposed agenda contained in document UNEP(OCA)MED WG.161/1, which appears as Annex II to this report.

19. The Rules of Procedure adopted for the meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) applied *mutatis mutandis* to the Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators.

Agenda item 4. Review of activities to be carried out as part of the implementation of the SAP during the 2000-2001 biennium

20. Mr F.S. Civili, MED POL Coordinator, introduced the detailed proposed work plan and timetable for implementation of the activities to be carried out as part of the implementation of the SAP during the 2000-2001 biennium (UNEP(OCA)MED WG.161/3).

21. First of all, he explained that the follow-up to the implementation of the SAP was a new

and challenging task for MED POL and it had become an integral part of the MED POL work programme. Concrete implementation of SAP activities was being reviewed for the first time, so it had been decided to make it the subject of a separate document. After review and amendment, document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.161/3 would be integrated into document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.161/4, thus completing the presentation of MED POL activities for the coming biennium which was submitted to the present Meeting for approval, and would then be transmitted to the Focal Points and finally to the Contracting Parties for adoption.

22. Mr Civili recalled that the SAP had been adopted by the Contracting Parties at their Tenth Ordinary Meeting held in Tunis in November 1997 (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.11/10, Appendix II). The specific activities now proposed to the Coordinators for implementation in the biennium had been directly taken from the SAP and were those which should either be implemented fully during the biennium according to the target dates set in the SAP, or activities whose implementation should at least start during the biennium.

23. The Meeting discussed the document section by section, and it was decided that the Secretariat would revise the text in accordance with the suggestions and observations made.

24. It was agreed that, in order to obtain a better integrated picture of the overall MED POL work plan, including the SAP, the GEF Project and the other MED POL activities, a table should be prepared for the forthcoming meeting of the MAP Focal Points showing the activities, the target dates and the actors.

25. Mr Civili explained that the preparation of the seven regional guidelines contained in section I of the document was part of the GEF Project work programme, and funding was therefore ensured. As the Meeting was asked to endorse the preparation of the guidelines and not their detailed content or implementation, working groups would have to be convened to develop the relevant terms of reference.

26. With regard to section 2 relating to applied research, Mr Civili pointed out that the two fields in which it was proposed to identify and validate technologies appropriate for the control of pollution from land-based sources had already been agreed upon as part of the SAP. MED POL funds could be used for a few small-scale pilot projects in specific areas.

27. The Coordinator of MAP recalled that the purpose of section 2 was not to launch new research projects but mainly to gather information on existing state-of-the-art technologies and relate them to Mediterranean specificities.

28. On the subject of section 3 concerning regional strategies and plans, it was suggested that emphasis be placed on the precautionary principle. The main thrust of the new strategy should be the prevention of pollution, followed by action to reduce it. In addition to the relevant Barcelona Protocols, attention was drawn to the importance of taking into consideration the Basel Convention, the OECD Manual containing guidelines on control, management and national legislation with regard to hazardous wastes, and the recently adopted Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

29. Mr Civili, responding to the concerns raised in connection with section 4, said that it was by no means expected that National Action Plans would be completed by the end of the biennium, but that their preparation should be initiated during the biennium. It was recognized that some countries had already prepared such national or sectoral plans and the diversity of situations had to be taken into account when implementing the activity. Participants were

reminded that there was provision for the preparation of National Action Plans in the budget for the GEF Project.

30. During discussion of the section on capacity-building, the observer for the International Marine Centre, speaking also on behalf of MED-GOOS, said that capacity-building would be a top priority at a workshop to be held in November 1999 and proposed future cooperation in the implementation of the related activities.

31. The representative of METAP informed participants of the recent meeting of the METAP Partners (Luxembourg, 17-18 June 1999) and conveyed their willingness to contribute to the joint MAP/GEF/FFEM project on the SAP. As provided in the project to be signed with GEF, the contribution would relate to technical assistance, in particular as regards preparation of pre-investment studies, compliance and capacity-building (e.g. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)).

32. The representative of the European Commission highlighted the need for complementarity and common strategies in respect of other relevant regional activities and programmes in the Mediterranean region. Relevant European Union experience and legislation could be taken into account as well. She drew attention to the possibilities offered by the Short- and Medium-Term Environmental Priority Action Programme (SMAP/Euro-Med Partnership) as regards funding of projects for hot spots.

33. Mr Civili said that the issue of public participation in the SAP process had been raised on a number of occasions during its elaboration. In addition, MAP was reviewing its public participation component in general, and one initial activity related to the SAP would be the organization of a workshop in 2000, with support from the Mediterranean GEF Project, in order to decide on the content of a regional programme for public participation in the implementation of the SAP, covering the role of NGOs and the provision of information to the general public. In that connection, two representatives drew attention to the Aarhus Convention, and another to the existence of a broad network of Mediterranean NGOs created in 1997. The Coordinator of MAP agreed that the Aarhus Convention was excellent, but Article 15 of the Barcelona Convention contained equally valid provisions on public participation.

34. During the discussion of the section on reporting, Mr Civili said that MAP was working on unified reporting systems for all Programmes, Conventions and Protocols, and would have a model to put before the Contracting Parties before the end of 1999. In the budget, MED POL had made provision for a meeting to finalize the reporting system on the SAP and the LBS Protocol.

35. Methods of reporting should be optimized and the information gathered harmonized. It was suggested that MAP might adopt the same or similar formats used for reporting to other organizations in order to facilitate the compiling of questionnaires and replies. The need to ensure the quality of data in reports was also discussed. Some participants considered that the frequency of reporting may not be the same for each activity.

36. The Coordinator of MAP said that the point of departure for reporting was the entry into force of the Convention and the Protocols, which were its legal bases. MAP was preparing for that phase; the methodology and content of reports would be discussed at the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in Malta in October 1999. Reporting was certainly a heavy burden for Ministries to bear, but it was necessary and, for the purposes of international credibility, would become a legal obligation.

37. Although the subject was not covered by the SAP activities, a number of representatives drew attention to the serious problems their countries had with marine and coastal litter, and some considered it sufficiently important to constitute a separate activity. The Coordinator of MAP agreed that the issue was important and said that discussion of the subject of litter and tar on beaches and the continental shelf could be taken up when considering other MED POL activities. Beach litter was not subject to legislation and had not been the subject of an inventory. It was a major problem and it was essential to promote awareness of it.

38. In concluding the discussion on the document, the National Coordinators reiterated their satisfaction at the finalization of the Mediterranean GEF Project as it would provide significant and substantial support for the long-term implementation of the SAP. Bearing in mind the expected entry into force of the LBS Protocol and in conformity with the report of the Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.11/10, paragraph 109), the participants considered that it would be appropriate for the Secretariat to start the process of updating the SAP by taking into account developments in the scientific, technical, economic, environmental and legal fields in order to ensure effective implementation of the SAP.

39. The Meeting recommended that the work plan of activities related to the implementation of the SAP, as amended in the light of the suggestions made by the National Coordinators (see Annex III), should be submitted to the Contracting Parties for adoption.

Agenda item 5. Review of activities carried out as part of MED POL Phase III

40. Mr Civili introduced document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.161/Inf.3, which gave an account of all MED POL activities in the period 1998-1999. The activities relating to the implementation of the SAP had been described in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.161/3. The work accomplished had been fundamental in preparing the actual implementation of Phase III. He proceeded to highlight the most important elements in the areas of coordination, pollution assessment, pollution control, research, capacity-building and the implementation of the LBS Protocol/SAP, the Dumping Protocol and the Hazardous Wastes Protocol. He informed the participants that the Unit had recently signed a memorandum of understanding with ICS/UNIDO under which MED POL would receive extremely valuable expertise at no cost, mostly in relation to the work on pollution hot spots.

41. Mr G. Kamizoulis, Senior Scientist WHO/EURO, provided further information on pollution control and in particular on the "Workshop on compliance and enforcement of legislation in the Mediterranean for control of pollution resulting from land-based sources and activities", held in Athens in March 1999. The workshop had recommended the establishment of an informal regional network on compliance and enforcement, together with capacity-building programmes upon request by the countries concerned. An evaluation of questionnaires prepared before the workshop was contained in the annex to the document under discussion. With regard to capacity-building programmes, gaps had been identified in the operation, maintenance and management of wastewater treatment plants. Accordingly, in order to remedy the situation in so sensitive an area, regional trainer training courses had been held in Athens (Greece) and Sophia Antipolis (France), while a national course had been held in Alexandria (Egypt).

42. The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), after expressing the appreciation of the Marine Environment Laboratory (MEL) for its collaboration with MED POL, informed the participants that the Laboratory, with the generous support of the Monaco authorities, had recently moved into more spacious premises in which it now had facilities for the holding of in-house training courses and excellent conditions for setting up its equipment.

Changes in personnel had yielded greater technical expertise in the fields of chemical oceanography, speciation analyses and marine antifoulants. With regard to the dissemination of knowledge, a marine pollution symposium had been held in Monaco in October 1998. In that connection, he drew attention to an IAEA Bulletin of 1998 on the subject of marine pollution. Other activities had included quality assurance control, training, capacity-building and the supervision of research contracts. Lastly, after pointing out that only one third to one half of laboratories submitted results for the inter-comparison exercises, he said that in future the Laboratory intended to work in closer contact with the National Coordinators in order to ensure a better participation of the MED POL laboratories in the exercises.

43. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) drew attention to three recent WMO reports: "Atmospheric input of mercury to the Mediterranean Sea", which estimated the atmospheric input of soluble mercury, with highest deposition densities in the north-western Mediterranean and the Adriatic Sea; "MED POL Manual on sampling and analysis of aerosols and precipitation for major ions and trace elements", which included a detailed description of procedures for monitoring site selection, sampling, analyses and data quality assessment; and "Atmospheric input of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) to the Mediterranean Sea", which estimated the total depositions of lindane and PCBs, with highest deposition densities in the north-western Mediterranean and the Adriatic Sea. He informed the participants of a workshop on POPs and heavy metals to be held by WMO in November 1999, with major focus on modelling, measurement and emission inventories. Finally, he pointed out that a new programme on urban environment meteorological research had recently been adopted to deal with modelling, forecasting and the measurement of air pollution in cities.

44. The representative of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO said that the two projects initiated under the technical supervision of IOC involved research oriented towards identifying environmental indicators of the health and integrity of the coastal ecosystems of the Mediterranean under anthropogenic stressors, especially with regard to sewage disposal. Continuation of those research topics should be regarded as crucial to MED POL activities relating to biological effects monitoring.

45. The National Coordinator from Monaco reminded the participants that the RAMOGE tripartite agreement between France, Italy and Monaco was designed to combat coastal and marine pollution and to preserve biodiversity in the area concerned. The RAMOGE Commission, wishing to contribute to MAP, had collaborated in particular with MED POL in the fields of biomonitoring and the quality of bathing waters. Since 1994, RAMOGE had conducted a biomonitoring programme: a video cassette illustrating the use of the four biomarkers adopted at the 1997 experts meeting held in Malta had been produced as a complement to the MED POL Manual. The Service de l'Environnement of Monaco had also translated the Manual into French on behalf of RAMOGE. Both the cassette and the Manual would shortly be distributed to the National Coordinators. An annex to the Manual containing additional information on techniques was also expected. In addition, RAMOGE had published the first issue of a liaison bulletin on biomonitoring, containing a questionnaire, which had been circulated to a large number of Mediterranean laboratories to stimulate an exchange of information and participation in the programme. With regard to bathing waters, a study had been made on the basis of the draft European Directive with a view to adapting it to Mediterranean specificities. The study had been sent to the Coordinating Unit to contribute to joint reflection on the establishment of criteria for the Mediterranean.

46. Responding to the points raised during the discussion, Mr Civili explained that contacts with countries regarding biomonitoring were well advanced and a few laboratories were now ready to undertake the work. Where needed and feasible, funds for biomonitoring would be

made available. It was hoped that in future biomonitoring would form part of all national monitoring programmes. He wished to re-emphasize that funds available for assisting the preparation of national monitoring programmes under the MED POL Programme were completely separate from the GEF funds available to GEF-eligible countries to implement the SAP.

47. The National Coordinator from Israel informed the Meeting that his country had terminated the dumping of coal ash and fertilizer industry sludge.

48. At the end of the discussion, the Meeting expressed satisfaction and thanked the Secretariat for the work carried out during the 1998-1999 biennium.

Agenda item 6. MED POL activities and budget for the biennium 2000-2001 and recommendations to the Contracting Parties

49. Mr Civili introduced the MED POL - Phase III work plan and activities and draft budget for the biennium 2000-2001, together with the relevant recommendations to be transmitted to the Meeting of Focal Points before submission to the Contracting Parties (UNEP(OCA)MED WG.161/4). He again stressed that the SAP, which had already been considered by the Meeting, was an integral part of the MED POL Programme. For the coming biennium, the main source of funding for SAP-related activities was the GEF Project, whereas the other activities would be funded by the Mediterranean Trust Fund, the voluntary contribution of the European Commission or host countries.

50. Regarding the Protocols, he explained that the implementation of the SAP activities was the main contribution to the implementation of the revised LBS Protocol. There was also provision in the draft budget for the preparation of guidelines for implementation of Articles 4 and 6 of the amended Dumping Protocol in 2000 and for assistance for implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol in 2001.

51. One of the innovations of the work programme of 2000-2001 was the proposed restructuring of the research component now aiming at creating a more dynamic mechanism able to identify and follow up emerging pollution issues. The results yielded so far had not met expectations and in view of the limited resources available for research it was essential that they be used in the most cost-effective manner possible. The new mechanism proposed would also allow MED POL to remain abreast of emerging pollution-related issues in the Mediterranean area. It would provide for small expert meetings to be held in consultation with MED POL Coordinators for the identification of issues to be followed up and, subsequently, the preparation of assessments or research projects, as appropriate, to be carried out by Mediterranean experts and institutes in consultation with the MED POL Coordinators.

52. The proposed restructuring was accepted on the understanding that the MED POL National Coordinators would fully participate in the process of selecting the subjects to be dealt with under this component.

53. The importance of the issue of the assessment and control of beach litter had been raised in the Meeting which, in an attempt to find an adequate way to tackle the subject, decided that it should be included in the MED POL Programme under the new restructured research component. The National Coordinator from Monaco informed the Meeting that this issue was covered by the RAMOGE Agreement and invited the MED POL Secretariat to approach RAMOGE with a request for information.

54. The inclusion in the MED POL Programme of biological monitoring showing the ecological status of the Mediterranean was suggested by many representatives. It was decided to encourage countries to develop pilot studies to be included in their national trend monitoring programmes with a view to extending this type of work to all countries in future.

55. Turning to the draft budget, which was submitted to the Meeting at the present stage for information, the Chairperson invited the participants to comment on the breakdown of activities, bearing in mind that the budget proposals were not yet final and that the Secretariat might have to modify them before they were submitted to the Meeting of Focal Points in September on the basis of the availability of funds for all MAP components. By way of explanation, he pointed out that the three column headings MTF, EU and EXT referred, respectively, to the Mediterranean Trust Fund, i.e. the regular budget, the European Commission voluntary contribution over and above its regular contribution, and external funding, principally from GEF, but also from WHO, the French GEF and any funds that might be received from countries that offered to host meetings.

56. Mr Civili pointed out that the budget presentation reflected the fact that certain commitments had already been entered into with regard to the GEF Project, which was to begin in the year 2000. The Contracting Parties had in fact already made a commitment to participate in the GEF Project with about \$ 1,000,000, which meant that some budget lines could not now be changed.

57. In the course of the discussion, the Meeting agreed that every effort should be made to maintain the MED POL budget at the proposed levels or, if possible, even increase it.

58. A number of observations and suggested changes were put forward to the Secretariat, which should take them into account in preparing the final budget. One speaker called for the allocation of more funds to assistance to countries and less to meetings; another pointed out that as considerable savings had been made on MED POL personnel as compared with the previous biennium, MED POL would be justified in asking the Contracting Parties to add those amounts to activities in 2000-2001. It was also suggested that the presentation of the budget could be clarified by relating it more closely to the description of activities in documents UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.161/3 and 4. A query was raised regarding the financing of the next Meeting of National Coordinators, for which a host country was being sought. It was suggested that funds for biomonitoring could be increased and that an effort could be made to mobilize external funding for the meeting on the Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement. The meeting was considered to be of such importance that it should be held in any event. Strong support was expressed for generous funding of the preparation of National Action Plans. It was pointed out that, if no country came forward to host meetings and finance activities, the Secretariat could apply to the European Commission for additional funds following existing procedures.

59. The representative of the European Commission pointed out that the reason for indicating the EC's voluntary contribution separately was to explain to member countries how the money was used.

60. Finally, one speaker considered that, given the severe constraints and the manifold needs, the draft budget was a balanced and reasonable document. However, some provision for work on marine and coastal litter should be included in it.

61. Mr Civili, replying to questions and comments, pointed out that savings of some 25% had

been achieved on MED POL personnel and running costs, resulting in a budget increase of approximately 30% for activities. He recalled that the Bureau had recommended an increase for MED POL of \$ 100,000 for direct assistance activities, but there could be no certainty that that figure would ultimately materialize.

62. The draft budget as presented in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.161/4 was noted.

63. The National Coordinators reviewed the proposed recommendations and made a number of suggestions for amendment. The revised text of the recommendations to be transmitted to the Focal Points and Contracting Parties for adoption is attached as Annex IV to this report.

Agenda item 7. Review and approval of document on "Waste water treatment plants in Mediterranean coastal cities"

64. Mr Kamizoulis, Senior Scientist WHO/EURO, introduced the report on wastewater treatment plants in Mediterranean coastal cities (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.161/5). He emphasized that the document was a draft and National Coordinators were requested to verify the information and complete, correct or update it by 30 September 1999. Once that information had been received, the data would be published in the MAP Technical Reports Series, together with conclusions and analytical charts. They would represent a significant contribution to the overall assessment of pollution input into the Mediterranean and an essential tool for future work on the implementation of the SAP. The report was based on previous projects such as the survey of land-based sources of pollution and the hot spots and sensitive areas project. It contained information supplied by National Coordinators or experts.

65. National Coordinators requested the Secretariat to include a common definition of primary, secondary and tertiary treatment.

66. The National Coordinator from Italy suggested that, in the case of Italy for which data had been provided by an expert, the information be replaced by data from a national source.

Agenda item 8. Review and approval of the Guidelines for the management of dredged material to be transmitted to Contracting Parties for adoption

67. Mr Civili introduced document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.161/6, which contained the Guidelines for the management of dredged material prepared by the Secretariat and discussed, amended and agreed by Government-designated experts in the course of two meetings, one of which had been held in 1996 and the other in 1998. Following the second meeting, the Guidelines had been further revised by correspondence. It had been agreed at the second meeting that a technical manual would be prepared on the more technical aspects of dredging itself. National Coordinators were invited to propose final amendments to the Guidelines by mid-September 1999 so that they could be presented to the Contracting Parties at their meeting in Malta in October 1999 for adoption.

68. The Meeting reviewed the document and approved it for transmission to the Contracting Parties for adoption, after the inclusion of possible additional amendments from the National Coordinators.

Agenda item 9. Other business

69. The National Coordinators from Italy and Spain informed the Meeting that their countries had ratified the revised Barcelona Convention, the revised LBS and Dumping Protocols and the new SPA Protocol.

Agenda item 10. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

70. The report of the Meeting, as amended, was adopted.

Agenda item 11. Closure of the Meeting

71. Mr Civili expressed the MED POL Secretariat's satisfaction at the finalization of the MED POL work plan of activities for 2000-2001, which would be transmitted to the Focal Points and subsequently to the Contracting Parties for adoption. He was also pleased to note that the Meeting had endorsed the implementation of activities in the previous biennium.

72. Mr Barillá, Councillor for the Environment of the City of Reggio Calabria, expressed his satisfaction at the concrete results of the Meeting, which would contribute towards achieving the ambitious target of eliminating all pollution from land-based sources by the year 2025 and had served to cement the positive collaboration among Mediterranean countries. The City of Reggio Calabria was proud of having been associated with such important work and would continue to support the collective effort to protect the Mediterranean Sea from pollution.

73. Ms Vocca, Director of the Fondo EuroMediterraneo (FEM), thanked the authorities of the City of Reggio Calabria and the Region of Calabria for their generous support. The Meeting had yielded fruitful results that would constitute the basis for further progress.

74. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairperson declared the Meeting closed at 17:50 on 23 June 1999.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
4. Review of activities to be carried out as part of the implementation of the SAP during the 2000-2001 biennium
5. Review of activities carried out as part of MED POL Phase III
6. MED POL activities and budget for the biennium 2000-2001 and recommendations to the Contracting Parties
7. Review and approval of document on "Waste water treatment plants in Mediterranean coastal cities"
8. Review and approval of the Guidelines for the management of dredged material to be transmitted to Contracting Parties for adoption
9. Other business
10. Adoption of the report of the Meeting
11. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX III

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME (SAP) IN THE BIENNIUM 2000-2001

Introduction

The Strategic Action Programme to address Pollution from Land-based Activities (SAP) was formulated as part of the implementation of the revised LBS Protocol (Art. 5 and 15) through a PDF-B grant provided in 1997 to the MAP/MED POL Secretariat by GEF. It was then adopted by the Contracting Parties at their Tenth Ordinary Meeting held in Tunis on 18-21 November 1997.

As agreed with the GEF Secretariat, the initial GEF grant had been provided on the assumption that the SAP would be adopted and that a larger grant could be further provided to assist the countries in the future implementation of the activities of the SAP. As a result, immediately after the adoption of the SAP, a proposal for a larger three-year project aiming at preparing the basis for the implementation of the SAP activities was prepared by the MAP/MED POL Secretariat in the form of a Project Brief. A Meeting of the MAP/GEF National Coordinators was held in Athens, on 22-23 January 1998 to discuss, amend and approve the content of the Project Brief which would be submitted to the GEF Council for approval and funding (UNEP(OCA)MED WG.138/2). The Project Brief, which described the objectives of the Project including the work plan and budget of the activities, was approved by the MAP/GEF National Coordinators who considered it as a concrete contribution to the implementation of the SAP and stressed that, considering that the GEF funds were addressed to assist only twelve Mediterranean countries, the funds put in the project by MAP should be used to the benefit of all Contracting Parties for the implementation of the SAP activities. The Project Brief was approved by the GEF Council in April 1998 (see doc. GEF Project Brief "Determination of priority actions for the further elaboration and implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea") with a contribution from GEF of 6,29 million US \$, a participation of 3,04 million US \$ in cash and kind from the countries and 1,12 million US \$ in cash and kind from MAP.

In view of the ambitious nature of the SAP, the Secretariat further worked to ensure possible additional funds and expertise to complement those put at the disposal of the Project. As a result, an additional 1,6 million US \$ was assured from the French GEF (FFEM) as well as a contribution in kind from METAP who will participate in the coordination and follow up of the activities. Additional contributions are still sought from other sources such as FAO and other Organizations.

Since the approval of the Project Brief by the MAP/GEF National Coordinators and subsequently by GEF Council, the Secretariat has worked on the preparation of the administrative project document which describes in detail the activities. A number of small meetings and consultations were also held with the partners and cooperating Organizations and Centres to discuss the operational aspects of the Project. The project document is now expected to be finalized by the UNEP/GEF Coordination Unit and subsequently by the GEF Secretariat by the end of the year. The activities related to the implementation of the SAP are therefore expected to start at the beginning of the year 2000.

The effective implementation of the SAP activities by the countries is concretely supported by the GEF Project. In particular, the activities foreseen in the three-year Project address a number of necessary actions which will prepare the ground for the fulfilment by the countries of both the mid- and long-term targets and objectives of the SAP. In addition, the proposed work plan for the MED POL Phase III gives priority to the SAP and many of the activities are addressed to assist countries in its implementation.

The SAP is expected to be implemented over a period of about 25 years and the framework and timeschedule for the completion of a number of activities is set within the next ten years at the latest. However, while attempting to assist the countries in the concrete implementation of the SAP, it became apparent that the most practical and effective means for reviewing and approving an operational phase of the Programme, would be to present a detailed workplan and timetable for activities to be implemented in each biennium. This approach will also allow the SAP to constantly follow up the developments and needs of the region in real time and consequently to provide realistic and monitorable targets and activities every two years.

As a result, for the forthcoming biennium (2000-2001) the activities proposed for implementation are those considered essential to start the process of providing all countries with the necessary tools (regional guidelines, strategies, plans and programmes for sharing technical information and advice, priority capacity building and public participation activities), to enable them to initiate the long-term process which will allow them to fulfill most of their priority objectives, particularly in view of the newly introduced activities related to the pollution hot spots and sensitive areas. The activities foreseen for the biennium, which are to be considered an integral part of the MED POL programme, take into account those which will be supported by the Mediterranean GEF Project, as well as other continuous activities already being implemented in the framework of the MED POL Programme, such as monitoring programmes for compliance, trends and biological effects, priority activities on reporting to be included in the LBS reporting system and preparatory activities related to the formulation of National Action Plans for the elimination of land-based pollution. The implementation of National Action Plans represents the operational long-term result of the Strategic Action Programme, as they are supposed to make use of the results of all the individual activities identified in the SAP. Concerning National Action Plans, the activities proposed to be implemented during the biennium cover only the preparatory work which should be carried out in each country which will be the basis of the sectorial and national plans foreseen by the SAP. The content of the plans will be agreed upon by the countries' experts on the basis of the general guidelines contained in the SAP and the specification of each country.

The present document contains a detailed proposed workplan and timeschedule for implementation in the biennium 2000-2001 of the activities selected according to the above criteria and principles which were discussed and amended by the Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators and recommended for inclusion into the overall MED POL workplan which will be transmitted to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points and subsequently to the Contracting Parties for adoption.

Activities to be implemented during the biennium (2000-2001)**1. Preparation and adoption of regional guidelines to address pollution from land based sources**

Work on the preparation of guidelines will be supported by the Mediterranean GEF Project. The selected guidelines are those for which the MED POL Programme had identified the need for further assistance, such as sewage treatment and disposal, disposal of urban solid wastes, industrial wastewater treatment and disposal, river and marine coastal zone pollution monitoring and those for which the technical basis would need to be strengthened to enable the implementation of the activities based on newly introduced principles and new ideas, such as the application of clean technology and best environmental practice.

WHO/MED POL will be responsible for the preparation of the following three guidelines.

a) Guidelines for sewage treatment and disposal.

The preparation of guidelines for sewage treatment and disposal will commence in 2000 and will be carried out with the assistance of Mediterranean experts. The UNEP environmental guidelines for domestic wastewater management (UNEP Environmental Management Guidelines, No.14, UNEP, Nairobi, 1988) will be taken into consideration in the preparation of the guidelines. The document will include environmental quality criteria and standards. The need for separate treatment of municipal and non-compatible industrial waste in order to conform to the provisions of the LBS Protocol could also be addressed. An experts consultation meeting will convene to review and approve the technical details of the selected draft guidelines, prior to submission to the MED POL National Coordinators for approval. The approved guidelines will then be submitted to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption.

b) Guidelines for environmentally sound and economically feasible systems of municipal solid waste collection and disposal.

These guidelines will incorporate the principles of non-hazardous material recycling and reuse and will be drafted by 2001 according to the procedure outlined in (a) above.

c) Guidelines for industrial waste water treatment and disposal.

The preparation of these guidelines will commence in 2001 and will also address the need for separate treatment of municipal and non-compatible industrial waste in order to conform to the provisions of the LBS Protocol. The guidelines will be drafted according to the procedure outlined in (a) above, taking into consideration the methodology described in the MAP Technical Report "Guidelines for the Treatment of Effluents Prior to Discharge into the Mediterranean Sea (MAP Technical Report Series No 111).

Guidelines for wastewater treatment and waste disposal from industries which are sources of BOD and COD, nutrients and suspended solids, will be included.

The CP/RAC will assist MED POL in the preparation of the following three sets of guidelines.

- d) Guidelines for the identification and the application of cleaner technology incorporating BAT and BEP in industry.

The preparation of these guidelines will commence in 2000 with the assistance of Mediterranean experts, in cooperation with the CP/RAC and making use of the experience gained outside the region. An experts consultation meeting will convene to review and approve the technical details of the selected draft guidelines prior to submission to the Meeting of CP/RAC National Focal Points for formal approval by 2002. The approved guidelines will then be submitted to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption.

The guidelines will examine and identify BATs, BEPs and cleaner technologies in industrial installations to reduce pollution in selected priority sectors of activity according to the LBS Protocol. Evaluation criteria to identify BATs, BEPs and cleaner technologies will take into account the following substances:

- c) Dioxins and furans
- c) PAH
- c) Hg, Cd and Pb
- c) Organometallic compounds
- c) Zn, Cu and Cr
- c) Other organohalogen compounds:
 - Halogenated Aliphatic Hydrocarbons (chlorinated solvents, chlorinated paraffins)
 - Halogenated Aromatic Hydrocarbons (Chlorobenzenes, polychlorinated naphthalenes, polybrominated diphenyl ethers and polybrominated biphenyls)
 - Chlorinated Phenolic compounds
 - Organohalogenated pesticides
- e) Guidelines for the application of BAT and BEP in industrial installations which are sources of BOD and COD, nutrients and suspended solids.

These guidelines will be drafted by 2001, according to the procedure outlined in (d) above.

- f) Guidelines for the application of BEP (including good agricultural practices) for the rational use of fertilizers and to reduce unnecessary inputs of nutrients into the environment from agriculture.

These guidelines will be drafted by 2001, in consultation with the FAO and according to the procedure outlined in (d) above.

- g) Guidelines for river pollution monitoring programmes.

These Guidelines will relate to the impact of river pollutant inputs on the sea. MED POL will be responsible for the preparation of these guidelines by 2001, according to the procedure outlined in (a) above. In preparing the Guidelines, cooperation with other competent

intergovernmental bodies should be considered.

2. Identification and validation of technologies appropriate for the control of pollution from Land-based Sources

The SAP has identified the need for applied research to identify and validate technologies appropriate for the control of pollution from land based sources; more specifically, to identify and validate a) sewage treatment technologies (section 5.1.1 of the SAP and b) industrial wastewater treatment technologies (section 5.2 of the SAP). The work, which will be mainly related to gather information on the existing state-of-the-art technologies and to implement small-scale pilot projects, is planned to commence in the biennium 2000-2001 and to be completed by 2002, and will be carried out by relevant Mediterranean research institutes in consultation with country representatives, as part of the MED POL Phase III Programme.

The identification and validation of sewage treatment technologies could focus on technologies for solving sewage treatment requirements in problematic Mediterranean areas due to their characteristic land morphology or siting with respect to the general urban planning scheme.

The identification and validation of industrial wastewater treatment technologies could focus on the improvement of managerial practices and techniques.

3. The preparation of regional strategies and plans

The Strategic Action Plan builds on the new approach established by the 1995 GPA and introduces new objectives and new principles, based on the need for a reformulation of the strategy to tackle land based pollution as indicated by the amended LBS Protocol. It therefore appears necessary to prepare regional strategies and plans for newly introduced activities, not previously dealt with during the period of implementation of MED POL Phase II. As a result, the following activities of the SAP are planned to be carried out in the period 2000-2001:

- a) To prepare a Mediterranean Strategy for the Management of Hazardous Wastes, based on the principles of prevention, reduction and reuse and the application of Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practice for hazardous waste reduction and disposal; to take into account the regulation of hazardous waste transport and remedial actions.

The implementation of this activity will be supported by the Mediterranean GEF Project, which includes the preparation and adoption of a regional plan on the management of hazardous wastes.

MED POL will review all the available information on the management practices for hazardous wastes. By 2001 Mediterranean experts in consultation with regional technical experts and expert country representatives will elaborate a document as a basis for the development of a Mediterranean strategy for the management of hazardous wastes. An experts consultation meeting will convene to review and approve the technical details of the document prior to its submission to the Meeting of MAP National Focal Points for formal approval by 2002. The approved document will then be submitted to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption. Countries will thereon be encouraged to adopt national strategies, based on the regionally adopted strategy.

It is proposed that emphasis be placed on the principles of pollution prevention, reduction at source, separate collection and recycling of non-hazardous materials. The Strategy could emphasise pollution prevention through the avoidance of the manufacture of harmful products and a change from a "throwaway" model to a "use and reuse" model, based on the 4 "Rs": Reduce, Repair, Reuse and Recycle, combined with the separate collection and disposal of waste and hazardous waste. The polluter pays principle could be a key theme of the Strategy, whereby industry would regain possession of any hazardous waste as a direct or indirect result of the production process and be able to reuse, dismantle, recycle and, finally, dispose of wastes without endangering the environment or health. The costs of the above would be an integral part of the production costs. In preparing the strategy, the work carried out in the framework of the Basel Convention will be taken into account.

The importance of voluntary environmental, health and safety performance improvement initiatives in pollution prevention and reduction at source could be included, in particular the implementation of voluntary initiatives by industry, such as Responsible Care®¹, involving commitments made through a comprehensive set of management practices.

It is proposed that the Strategy elaborates the policy elements for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes. These could include the basic elements for the preparation of a) technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste, and b) disposal operational guidelines for the environmentally sound storage, transport and treatment of waste. Particular attention would need to be given to the prevention of the pollution resulting from incineration of hazardous wastes. The Strategy could elaborate supports for the implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol (which could include a manual for implementation, guidelines for the formulation of national legislation, training and technical/legal assistance through the Secretariat). The strategy should take into account the relevant work carried out by OECD.

- b) To provide Contracting Parties with technical information and advice on the nine pesticides and PCB substitutes and make appropriate recommendations for the environmentally sound disposal and progressive elimination of the nine pesticides and PCBs

A technical document, providing information on the nine pesticide and PCB substitutes and the environmentally sound disposal and progressive elimination of the nine pesticides and PCBs, will be prepared by 2001, by Mediterranean experts in consultation with expert country representatives. In preparing the document, particular attention will be paid to the provisions of the Global Treaty² to reduce and eliminate environmental emissions and

1 Responsible Care® is a voluntary environmental, health and safety performance improvement initiative of the chemical industry. Responsible Care® commits companies to improved environmental, health and safety performance through implementing six codes of management practices designed to continuously improve virtually every aspect of a product's life-cycle, from initial research, to manufacturing, distribution, transportation, use and disposal.

2 Governments are working to reach agreement on a global treaty to reduce and eliminate environmental emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants by the year 2000 in response to a mandate from the UNEP Governing Council. An intergovernmental negotiating committee is preparing an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action, initially beginning with the 12 POPs. An expert group will develop science-based criteria and a procedure for identifying additional POPs as candidates for future international action.

discharges of persistent organic pollutants, which is under preparation. An experts consultation meeting will convene to review and approve the technical details of the document, prior to its submission to the Meeting of National Focal Points for formal approval by 2002. The approved document will then be submitted to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption. The material will then be distributed to all the Mediterranean countries.

4. The preparation of National Action Plans and Programmes

4.1. The process of preparation of National Action Plans to address pollution from Land-based activities

The formulation of National Action Plans (NAPs) represents the operational long-term result of the Strategic Action Programme, as the National Action Plans are supposed to make use of the results of the individual activities identified in the SAP. According to the Programme, in fact, the Contracting Parties will develop or review and adopt, within five years at the latest, National Action Plans addressing pollution from land based sources, through the adoption of the targets and activities identified in the SAP and through taking action to implement these programmes with the assistance of international cooperation. National Action Plans will focus on sustainable, pragmatic and integrated environmental management approaches and processes, such as integrated coastal area management, harmonized, as appropriate, with river basin management and land-use plans.

Following the preparation of a national diagnostic analysis, to identify and assess national problems and issues, in 2001 sectoral programmes will start to be prepared containing the actions required to reach the respective regionally adopted targets. The programmes, to be prepared by small national working teams, will consist of actions necessary to fulfill the relevant provisions adopted on a regional level such as regional plans, guidelines, common measures, environmental quality criteria, emissions limits, capacity building activities, etc. National experts will then on the basis of the sectoral programmes start to prepare, in consultation with MAP, the National Action Plans, which will be submitted to national authorities for formal adoption.

This activity will be supported by the Mediterranean GEF Project, which includes the provision of support to inter-ministerial committees of the countries in the development and implementation of individual National Action Plans.

If needed, international experts will be recruited to assist in the preparation of the National Action Plans. In the countries where national environmental plans or sectoral plans adequately covering land-based marine pollution have already been adopted these plans should be strengthened in view of the SAP objectives. In these cases, consolidated sectoral plans might be considered as a national plan to combat land-based marine pollution.

The general objective of a National Action Plan is, *to eliminate pollution deriving from land-based sources and activities, in particular to phase out inputs of the substances that are toxic, persistent and liable to bioaccumulate listed in annex I to the Protocol.*

The specific objectives of the National Action Plans are:

- c The formulation of principles, approaches, measures, timetables and priorities for action;

- C The preparation of a national priority list for intervention and investment ("investment portfolio");
- C The analysis of expected baseline and additional actions needed to resolve each transboundary priority problem;
- C The identification of potential roles for Non-Governmental Organizations in the implementation of the NAP.

The National Diagnostic Analysis to establish national priorities for action combines five elements:

- C identification of the nature and severity of problems;
- C identification of contaminants;
- C identification of physical alterations and destruction of habitats;
- C identification of sources of degradation;
- C identification of areas of concern;

In addition to the results of the National Diagnostic Analysis, national priorities for action will take into account national reports on "pollution hot spots and sensitive areas" as well as the provisions of the LBS Protocol. Finally, priorities for action should specifically reflect:

- C the relative importance of impacts upon food safety, public health, coastal and marine resources, the health of the ecosystem and socio-economic benefits, including cultural values; and
- C the costs, benefits and feasibility of options for action, including the long-term cost of no action.

4.2. The process of preparation of sectoral programmes

Sectoral programmes will form the basis of the National Action Plans and will therefore be prepared for all the priority areas for action to control pollution from land based sources identified in the SAP. The preparation of a list of activities containing the actions required to reach the respective regionally adopted targets, will commence by 2001 and will be implemented by national experts in consultation with MAP.

A list is provided below of proposed activities related to a number of priority areas of particular relevance to the MED POL Programme:

- a) The development of national programmes for the environmentally sound management of sewage.

National programmes for the environmentally sound management of sewage are expected to include the activities which have been specified in the SAP.

- b) The development of national programmes for the reduction at source and

environmentally sound management of urban solid waste.

National programmes for the reduction at source and environmentally sound management of urban solid waste are expected to take into account the targets specified in the SAP.

- c) The development of national programmes to control air pollution from mobile sources

Taking into consideration the regional policy to be developed on the promotion of measures to implement the Framework Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto Protocol), national authorities are expected to adopt, wherever feasible, measures to control emissions of carbon dioxide, i.e. through the promotion of energy conservation and energy efficiency. National programmes to control air pollution from mobile sources are expected to include the activities which have been specified in the SAP.

- d) To prepare national programmes for the reduction and control of pollution by the heavy metals mercury, cadmium and lead.

National programmes for the reduction and control of inputs of the heavy metals mercury, cadmium and lead are expected to include the activities which have been specified in the SAP.

- e) To prepare national programmes for the reduction and control of pollution by the following organohalogen compounds.

- Halogenated Aliphatic Hydrocarbons (chlorinated solvents, chlorinated paraffins)
- Halogenated Aromatic Hydrocarbons [Chlorobenzenes, polychlorinated naphthalenes, polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs)]
- Chlorinated Phenolic compounds
- Organohalogenated pesticides

National programmes for the reduction and control of pollution by the above organohalogen compounds are expected to include the activities which have been specified in the SAP.

- f) To develop national programmes for the environmentally sound management of wastewater and solid waste from industrial installations which are sources of BOD.

National programmes for the environmentally sound management of wastewater and solid waste are expected to include the activities which have been specified in the SAP.

4.3. Additional activities to be included in the National Action Plans

The following activities which have been specified in the SAP and are considered as priority areas for action, are also expected to be taken into full account in the preparation of National Action Plans to control pollution from land based activities.

- a) Updating and adoption of national regulations on sewage discharges to the sea and rivers.

National regulations on sewage discharges into the sea and rivers are expected to be updated taking into account the provisions of the LBS Protocol, particularly Annex II and, where appropriate, the common measures on sewage discharges into the sea and rivers already adopted by the Contracting Parties. Regional guidelines for sewage treatment and disposal, environmental quality criteria and standards will assist Mediterranean countries to establish national legislation according to existing conditions. The work on the process for updating the regulations will start in the period 2000-2001. Parties requiring assistance in the formulation of updated regulations will be eligible for expert legal and/or technical assistance to be provided through the Secretariat;

- b) To establish a system of previous authorization by competent national authorities for works which cause physical alterations of the natural state of the coastline or the destruction of coastal habitats

The preparation of national regulations will be initiated in the biennium 2000-2001, for the establishment of a system of previous authorisation by competent national authorities for projects having a potential impact on the natural state of the coastline or on coastal habitats;

- c) To phase out the use of the nine pesticides, except for those for which WHO recommendations related to the safeguarding of human life suggest otherwise

By 2000, a report on the implementation of this activity according to the requirements of the SAP will be prepared and submitted, through the Secretariat, to the 2001 meeting of the Contracting Parties. Requests by the Parties may be made for expert legal and/or technical assistance from the Secretariat in the timely implementation of this action;

- d) To prohibit the manufacture, trade and new uses of PCBs

By 2000, a report on the adoption of national regulation prohibiting the manufacture, trade and new uses of PCBs according to the requirements of the SAP will be prepared and submitted, through the Secretariat, to the 2001 meeting of the Contracting Parties. Requests by the Parties may be made for expert technical and/or legal assistance from the Secretariat in the timely implementation of this action;

- e) To ratify and apply the Hazardous Wastes Protocol

Many States, among them Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, have taken legal measures and entered into international agreements consistent with the Basel Convention to ban transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, for example the IVth ACP/EEC Convention signed in Lomé on 15 December 1989 by the European Economic Community and the African, Caribbean, and Pacific group of States, and the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes Within Africa. It could therefore be appropriate that by the year 2001, all necessary legal and administrative measures to ratify the Hazardous Wastes Protocol are taken and, by the year 2005, all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures to implement and enforce the provisions of the Protocol.

It is finally assumed that Contracting Parties, in line with their willingness to implement the activities of the Strategic Action Programme, will make every effort to ratify with no delay the LBS Protocol. The entry into force of the Protocol, which by all means should not be delayed beyond

the year 2000, will in fact provide the SAP the needed legal status according to its Art.15.

5. Monitoring

Through the adoption of MED POL Phase III in 1996, monitoring, carried out by countries as part of their national monitoring programmes, now covers all the relevant aspects, including trend and compliance monitoring and the monitoring of biological effects. Of the monitoring activities proposed in the SAP, the following are considered as priority activities to be carried out in the biennium 2000-2001:

- a) The establishment and improvement of local and national monitoring programmes to control and assess effluents discharge and to assess the quality of the marine environment.

This activity will be implemented according to the provisions of the LBS Protocol and relevant ongoing MED POL Phase III activities related to compliance, trend monitoring and biological effects monitoring, to be included by countries in national monitoring programmes;

- b) The establishment of inspection systems to ensure compliance with the conditions laid down in the authorisations and regulations.

This action will be implemented taking into consideration the recommendations of the workshop for experts on compliance and enforcement of legislation in the Mediterranean for the control of pollution resulting from land based sources and activities (UNEP (OCA) MED WG.160/1). On the basis of this document, the Secretariat is recommended to establish an informal regional network aimed at creating contacts and the exchange of information with other regional environmental protection professionals and networks involved in compliance. The Secretariat is also recommended to develop supporting measures such as trainer training courses and seminars for inspectors and/or senior managers of control authorities, with a view to using the content of courses, manuals and guidelines prepared on a national level.

Regional guidelines for environmental inspection systems to be drafted in the framework of the Mediterranean GEF Project by 2001, will also be taken into consideration;

- c) The establishment of monitoring programmes to evaluate the effectiveness of actions and measures implemented under this Programme.

This activity will be implemented according to the provisions of the LBS Protocol and relevant ongoing MED POL Phase III activities related to compliance monitoring, to be included by countries in national monitoring programmes.

6. Capacity Building

The activities specified in the SAP aim to improve the scientific base, environmental policy formulation, professional human resources, institutional technical capacity and capability and the implementation of environmentally sound technologies and policies for cleaner production. Priority is given to areas where it is apparent that the availability of trained personnel in the national administration would be an essential factor for the achievement of the overall objectives

of the amended LBS Protocol, such as river pollution monitoring and to areas where specific competence would need to be strengthened, such as environmental impact assessment and pollution monitoring and inspection. Of the capacity building activities identified in the SAP, the following activities are therefore proposed to be carried out in the biennium 2000-2001:

The training activities (a) to (e) will be organised jointly with the Mediterranean GEF Project.

- a) To formulate and implement in the framework of MED POL capacity-building programmes related to the assessment and control of marine pollution.

Regional and national training programmes will be implemented according to the provisions of MED POL capacity building activities to be included in national monitoring programmes. One regional trainer training course and a number of national training courses on pollution monitoring and inspection will start by the year 2001;

- b) Training programmes on the operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities.

A regional training course was organised in 1999 (Sophia Antipolis 21-24 April 1999), with participants from 15 countries, who were trained as trainers. A second regional training course, using the experience gained from the first, will be organised in 2000. A number of national training courses will start by 2001, by the staff trained during the regional course.

WHO/MED POL will be responsible for the preparation of this training programme, in the framework of the capacity building activities of the MED POL Programme;

- c) Training programme on BAT and BEP and cleaner production techniques for priority target industries.

A regional trainer training course will be organised in the year 2000, according to the procedure described in (a). The course could also include process modifications that reduce waste streams, resource recovery (closed loop operations) in industries, primary wastewater treatment at source and industrial location of new plants to managed estates for centralized industrial wastewater treatment. A number of national training courses will be organised on the subject in the period 2000-2001, by the staff trained during the regional course.

Training on a regional and national level, on the identification of BAT and BEP and cleaner technologies to reduce pollution in industrial installations will be organized in relation to the emission of the following substances:

- c) HCBs, dioxins and furans
- c) PAHs
- c) Hg, Cd and Pb
- c) Organometallic compounds
- c) Zn, Cu and Cr

Other organohalogen compounds:

- Halogenated Aliphatic Hydrocarbons (chlorinated solvents, chlorinated paraffins)
- Halogenated Aromatic Hydrocarbons (Chlorobenzenes, polychlorinated naphthalenes, polybrominated diphenyl ethers and polybrominated biphenyls)
- Chlorinated Phenolic compounds
- Organohalogenated pesticides

C Radioactive substances

C BOD, nutrients and suspended solids

The CP/RAC will be responsible for the preparation of this training programme, in the framework of the capacity building activities of the MED POL Programme;

- d) To develop training programmes on monitoring of river pollution in relation to the pollutant input to the sea.

A number of national training courses on river pollution monitoring will be organised in 2001, as a follow-up to a regional trainer training course to be organised on the subject in the year 2000. MED POL will be responsible for the preparation of this training programme. The content of the training courses will be form the basic material for the preparation of a river monitoring manual in 2000-2002 in the framework of the MED POL Programme;

- e) To develop training programmes on Environmental Impact Assessment

New establishments (industries, aquaculture units and human establishments) will be required to undertake Environmental Impact Assessments for proposed activities subject to an authorisation by the competent authorities.

Countries requiring assistance in the preparation and evaluation of effective environmental impact assessments will be able to participate in a relevant training course by trainers, trained regionally on the subject in early 2000;

- f) To assist and advise on the preparation of reports that are required for the LBS Protocol

In accordance with Article 13 of the LBS Protocol "*THE Parties shall submit reports every two years, to the meeting of the Contracting Parties, through the Organization, of measures taken, results achieved and if the case arises, of difficulties encountered in the application of the Protocol*"

The Secretariat will provide support to national authorities requesting assistance in the preparation of reports on national regulations, action plans, programmes and measures implemented in application of the Protocol; statistical data on the authorizations granted in accordance with Article 6 of the Protocol; data resulting from compliance monitoring; quantities of pollutants discharged from their territories; and, public tracking and reporting systems of pollutants, known generically as *Pollutant Release and Transfer Register* (on PRTRs see below, under Reporting);

- g) To promote joint ventures between suppliers and recipients of clean technologies, taking into account policy priorities and requirements of developing countries.

A first step could be the creation of an inventory of perspective recipient and donor countries for the promotion of the transfer of clean technology among Mediterranean countries.

The purpose of this inventory would be to identify countries in need of clean technology transfer to implement the provisions of the LBS Protocol and the specific activities identified in the SAP, as well as to identify those countries willing to enter (or in the process of entering) into bilateral cooperation, to transfer clean technology, in countries requiring such assistance.

It is expected that this inventory, would facilitate and promote access, particularly in countries in need of assistance, to clean technologies as well as promote collaborative arrangements for the development of clean technologies between enterprises of developed and developing countries.

In relation to this activity, national reference centres for "technology assessment" could be identified by Mediterranean countries, by 2005, for the evaluation of technologies, particularly those intended for transfer to developing countries. These centres would function in cooperation with the Clean Production Regional Activity Centre, making provisions for the participation of NGOs, and private sector experts.

MED POL will be responsible for the preparation of this inventory in cooperation with the CP/RAC, which will be initiated from the year 2001. This inventory will be updated on a yearly basis and made widely available to all Mediterranean Countries.

7. Public Participation

Coordinated information campaigns and special activities on environmental protection, as well as the continuation and expansion of the publication and distribution of information materials and the use of the media in all its forms will be carried out in the framework of ongoing and planned activities of MAP concerning public awareness and participation, particularly in the framework of MAP's new Strategy on Information and Public Awareness. These are continuous activities, also to be implemented in the biennium 2000-2001, in addition to the following:

- To identify potential roles for Non-Governmental Organizations in the implementation of the SAP and to ensure that all relevant IGOs and NGOs have appropriate access to information concerning the SAP and its application

NGOs will play an important role in advising on the means to incorporate the principle of sustainability, pollution prevention and control, the application of BEP and where required BAT, in policies, strategies and practices contributing to the implementation of the measures and targets included in the SAP. To this end all relevant IGOs and NGOs will have adequate access to information and meetings concerning the SAP and its application. Cooperation with experts from environmental agencies and NGOs could be strengthened, in order to assist in providing continuous assistance and advice to national authorities on policies, strategies and practices that may contribute to the implementation of the measures and targets included in the SAP in the most environmentally sound manner.

A first activity in this direction will be the organisation of a workshop in the year 2000, which

will be supported by the Mediterranean GEF Project, to reach a decision on the contents of a regional programme for public participation in the implementation of the SAP, to include the role of NGOs and the provision of information to the general public.

8. Reporting

In accordance with Article 13 of the LBS Protocol *“THE Parties shall submit reports every two years, to the meeting of the Contracting Parties, through the Organization, of measures taken, results achieved and if the case arises, of difficulties encountered in the application of the Protocol”*. As part of the capacity building provisions of the SAP the Secretariat will assist and advise on the preparation of reports. Of the reporting activities identified in the SAP, the following are proposed for implementation in or starting from the period 2000-2001:

- a) To prepare and apply a unified reporting system on the application of the provisions of the LBS Protocol and the SAP.

A unified reporting system on the application of the provisions of the Convention, the Protocols and the SAP is being prepared by the Secretariat, to be implemented in the framework of the Barcelona system, including the MED POL Programme. This activity could also take into consideration the recommendations on reporting of a regional plan to be drafted in 2001, in the framework of the Mediterranean GEF Project, on the establishment of reporting programmes for the marine environment.

National authorities will prepare and submit every two years, through the Secretariat, reports on the application of the LBS Protocol, to the meeting of the Contracting parties. Such reports shall, among others specified in the LBS Protocol, include:

- National regulations, action plans, programmes and measures implemented in application of the Protocol;
 - Statistical data on the authorization granted in accordance with Article 6 of the Protocol;
 - Data resulting from compliance monitoring;
 - Quantities of pollutants discharged from their territories;
 - The development of Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (on PRTRs see j) below).
- b) To collect information on the levels and trends of loads of pollution reaching the Mediterranean Sea

This action will be implemented according to the targets established with SAP and to the ongoing activities of MED POL which are included in national monitoring programmes, taking into consideration the recommendations of a uniform reporting system which is being prepared by the Secretariat, as described in a);

- c) To create or update in as short a period as possible, an inventory of point source discharges and emissions of pollutants in (a) hot spots and other areas of concern and (b) in the public industrial sector

This activity will be included in the LBS Reporting system to be implemented in the framework of the MED POL Programme. An inventory of point source discharges and emissions of pollutants in "pollution hot spots and other areas of concern" (including pollution sensitive areas), also connected with those included in the list prepared in the framework of the Mediterranean GEF Project, will be prepared by national experts and submitted, through the Secretariat, to the meeting of the Contracting Parties. The same procedure will be applied for pollutants in the public industrial sector;

- d) To prepare an inventory of quantities and uses of the nine pesticides and PCBs as well as of the industries which manufacture or condition them

This activity will be included in the LBS reporting system to be implemented in the framework of the MED POL Programme and taking into consideration the regional plan to be prepared in the framework of the Mediterranean GEF Project in 2001, concerning a regional inventory of quantities and uses of nine pesticides and PCBs as well as of industries which manufacture and condition them;

- e) To prepare an inventory of the uses and quantities of the following substances:

- C organomercuric compounds
- C chlorobenzene, polychlorinated naphthalene, chlorinated phenolic and organohalogenated pesticides
- C chlorinated paraffins

This activity will be included in the LBS reporting system to be implemented in the framework of the MED POL Programme. An inventory of quantities and uses of these compounds as well as of the industries which manufacture or condition them will be prepared by national experts and submitted, through the Secretariat, to the meeting of the Contracting Parties;

- f) To assess the quantities and types of fertilisers used

This activity will be included in the LBS reporting system to be implemented in the framework of the MED POL Programme. An inventory of quantities and types of fertilisers used as well as of the industries which manufacture or condition them will be prepared by national experts and submitted, through the Secretariat, to the meeting of the Contracting Parties;

- g) To formulate national inventories of the following categories of hazardous wastes:

- C stocks of obsolete chemicals.
- C the existing quantities of the three categories of lubeoil.
- C used batteries.

This activity will be included in the LBS reporting system to be implemented in the framework of the MED POL Programme. An inventory of these hazardous wastes will be prepared by national experts and submitted, through the Secretariat, to the meeting of the Contracting Parties;

- h) To submit reports relating to radioactive substances, on the authorisations granted, data resulting from monitoring, quantities of pollutants discharged from their territories and the action plans, programmes and measures promoted

This activity will be carried out according to the requirements of the LBS reporting system to be implemented in the framework of the MED POL Programme. Following the preparation of a unified reporting system as described in (a) above, reports on monitoring data, on the nationally authorized and actual annual amounts of radionuclides released from the installations as well as action plans, programmes and measures promoted will be prepared by national experts and submitted, through the Secretariat, to the meeting of the Contracting Parties. Reporting would take into account the experience of the Paris Convention and would be harmonized internationally as much as possible in order to facilitate assessments on the influence of radioactive releases to the marine environment on a regional level;

- i) To publish a report on the State and Evolution of the Mediterranean Environment at regular intervals

The information collected on the levels and trends of loads of pollution reaching the Mediterranean Sea will be compiled into a report on the State and Evolution of the Mediterranean Environment, also including other aspects of the Mediterranean environment, to be published at regular intervals;

- j) To develop public tracking and reporting systems of pollutants, known generically as *Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTRs)*, in cooperation with the OECD

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development's (UNCED) Agenda 21 calls on governments to implement and improve databases about chemicals including inventories of emissions, with the co-operation of industry and the public. In accordance with UNCED's Agenda 21, industry should provide data on the pollutants they release, specifically those needed for the assessment of potential risks to human health and the environment. These data should be made available to national authorities, international bodies and other interested parties involved in hazard and risk assessment. One type of data referred to are emissions data which could be brought together in a Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR).

A PRTR is an environmental database or inventory of potentially harmful releases or transfers to air, water and soil as well as wastes transported off site for treatment and disposal. In addition to collecting data for PRTRs from stationary sources, PRTRs are also designed to include estimates of releases from diffuse sources such as agricultural and transport activities.

The development and implementation of a PRTR system adapted to national needs represents a means for governments to track generation, release and the fate of various pollutants over time. A PRTR can therefore be an important tool in the total environmental policy of a government, providing otherwise difficult to obtain information on the pollution burden, encouraging reporters to reduce pollution by implementation of cleaner technologies and engendering broad public support for government environmental policies. PRTRs can be complimentary to industry programmes such as ISO 14 000 and Responsible Care®.

Member States are encouraged to establish by 2001, and thereon agree to implement and make publicly available, a PRTR system. Governments would agree to cooperate with affected and interested parties to develop a set of goals and objectives for the system. Accordingly, facilities releasing potentially harmful substances to air, water and soil as well

as wastes transported off site for treatment and disposal would agree to report periodically as to what was released, how much, and to which environmental media. Data would then be made available to interested parties. The principles and information contained in the OECD Guidance to Governments Manual for PRTRs [OCDE/GD(96)32] could provide a useful tool in the implementation of this activity.

As a first step, in the period 2001-2002 a regional trainer training programme, workshop, or conference could be organised on the subject, in an effort to facilitate the implementation of this activity.

ANNEX IV

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

Pollution prevention and control (MED POL)

Recommendations to the Secretariat

1. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to continue to assist countries in the preparation, finalization and implementation of their National Monitoring Programmes which should include monitoring of trends, biological effects monitoring and compliance monitoring.
2. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to work on the processing and analysis of the data resulting from the trend monitoring and to give priority to the implementation of data quality assurance programmes.
3. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to give special emphasis to the organization of activities related to compliance with, and enforcement of, the regional and national legislation related to land-based pollution and, as a result, to establish, organize and coordinate the work of an Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement.
4. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to re-organize the research component of MED POL Phase III by identifying and following up on a regular basis emerging pollution issues in cooperation with National Coordinators, Mediterranean experts and the competent UN Cooperating Agencies in order to formulate relevant studies, assessments and research projects to be carried out by Mediterranean national Institutions.
5. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to cooperate fully with the GEF Secretariat for the coordination of the Mediterranean GEF Project and, accordingly, to give priority during the biennium to the MED POL activities related to the pollution control included in the GEF Project and in the SAP.
6. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to start the process of updating the SAP by taking into account developments in the scientific, technical, economic, environmental and legal fields in order to ensure effective implementation of the SAP.
7. To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to continue the work related to the preparation of the necessary Guidelines, as required by Articles 4 and 6 of the 1995 Dumping Protocol, with a view to their adoption by the Contracting Parties.

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties

1. To give emphasis to the implementation of action-oriented pollution control activities and, to this effect, to give priority to the implementation of the activities of the SAP and especially to those included in the GEF Mediterranean Project; in particular, activities related to pollution hot spots where the full cooperation and contribution of the countries are indispensable for their success.
2. To formulate and implement national monitoring programmes, including trend monitoring, biological effects monitoring, biological monitoring as feasible, as well as compliance monitoring related to the control and enforcement of national and regional legislation.
3. To continue and strengthen cooperation with the competent United Nations Cooperating Agencies, Regional Activity Centres, intergovernmental and international organizations, subregional agreements and programmes and, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations for the implementation of the SAP and other MED POL-related activities approved by the Contracting Parties. In particular, to welcome the continued cooperation with WHO in relation to the pollution control activities, the very positive cooperation established with GEF, FFEM, METAP and the other supporting organizations for the implementation of the Mediterranean GEF Project and the important contribution from RAMOGE for the implementation of the activities related to biological effects monitoring.
4. To establish Interministerial National Committees for a full coordination of the activities related to the implementation of the Mediterranean GEF Project.
5. To adopt the Guidelines for the Management of Dredged Material which were prepared by the Secretariat in close cooperation with government-designated experts as part of the implementation of the Dumping Protocol.