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UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.443/Inf.16



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

31 July 2017
English only

Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 12-15 September 2017

Agenda item 5: Specific Matters for Consideration and Action by the Meeting

Reports of MED POL Thematic Expert Meetings 2016-2017

Regional Meeting on the Further Implementation of the Regional Plan for the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean, Tirana, Albania, 19-20 July 2016

Regional Meeting on NAPs Implementation – Lessons learned and the way forward, Marseille, France, 17-18 October 2016

Regional Meeting of Experts to review the Draft Desalination and Dumping Protocol Guidelines, Loutraki, Greece, 4-6 April 2017

Meeting of the Mediterranean Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement, Loutraki, Greece, 6-7 April 2017

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2017

**Report of the Regional Meeting on the Further Implementation of the Regional Plan for the
Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean**
Tirana, Albania, 19-20 July 2016



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UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

UNEP

7 November 2016
Original: English

Regional Meeting on the Further Implementation of the Regional Plan
for the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean

Tirana, Albania, 19-20 July 2016

**Report of the Regional Meeting on the Further Implementation of the Regional Plan for the Management of
Marine Litter in the Mediterranean**

**Co-organized with the IPA-Adriatic funded project entitled “Derelict Fishing Gear Management System in the
Adriatic Region” (DeFishGear)**

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2016

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Introduction

1. With the adoption by COP 18 of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention took an important commitment with regard to marine litter management. The Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean is the first ever legally binding regional plan containing measures and timeframes for their implementation on marine litter management, including prevention, reduction, monitoring and assessment. In addition, the Contracting Parties have set specific marine litter reduction targets (COP 19, Athens, Greece, February 2016).
2. In this context the representatives of 17 Contracting Parties and other participants from the region and other countries met in Tirana, Albania on 19 and 20 July 2016. The meeting was co-organized by the UNEP/MAP's MEDPOL Programme and the IPA-Adriatic funded DeFishGear project, with main scope to enhance the implementation of the Regional Plan for the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean. The meeting was also the closing event of the 3-year IPA-Adriatic funded DeFishGear project, which was an opportunity to share the collective experience gained from actions implemented on the science-policy-society interface for a litter free Adriatic and Ionian coast and sea.
3. During the meeting, the latest trends and findings on marine litter in the Adriatic, Ionian and Mediterranean Seas were presented with regards to amounts, sources, impacts, implications and solutions. The meeting was transformed into a forum where participants shared experiences, lessons learned and successes in combating Marine Litter, addressing land-based and sea-based sources of marine litter; and give updates on the implementation of Marine Litter reduction and prevention measures. The meeting also was informed on the new EU funded UNEP/MAP project on marine litter (EU funded ML MED Project) and bilateral discussions were held with the eligible countries for its implementation and follow up.

Participation

4. The meeting was attended by participants from the following countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. The UNEP/MAP Secretariat was represented by the Coordinating Unit, MED POL Programme, SCP/RAC and RAC/Blue Plan. The meeting was also attended by the Partners of the IPA-Adriatic funded DeFishGear Project. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

5. The meeting was opened by Mr. Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention; Mr. Pëllumb Abeshi, Director General of Environment Policies Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Administration, Albania; and Mr. Andrej Krzan, DeFishGear Coordinator & National Institute of Chemistry, Slovenia.
6. The coordinator of UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention, highlighted the presence of all participants as a sign of continued commitment to achieve the marine litter reduction targets, agreed by COP 19. He also pointed out UNEP's response to the marine litter challenges (i.e. UNEP/GPA Marine Debris Task Team, the specific resolutions adopted by UNEA-1 and UNEA-2, etc.), the G7 activity on marine litter and the importance of giving a regional dimension to the problem towards strengthening coordinated national actions to meet commitments on Marine Litter in the context of SDG. Special reference was also made to the Mediterranean countries that took an important step forward in 2013 in addressing marine litter management by adopting the first ever legally binding regional plan with the most important dimension of commitment to concrete actions on marine litter reduction and prevention. Concluding his opening speech Mr. Leone emphasized that UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat looked forward to create a network of collaboration to harmonize our common efforts and maximize result and recognized the added value of the DeFishGear project in

providing a strategic input towards tackling marine litter and contributing to the coordination and harmonization of actions on the science-policy-society interface for the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region.

7. In his opening remarks Mr. Pëllumb Abeshi welcomed the participants wishing a successful meeting and pointed out the work undertaken by Albania on marine litter and on the NAP preparation.

8. Mr. Andrej Krzan on behalf of the IPA-Adriatic funded DeFishGear thanked UNEP/MAP for the opportunity of jointly organizing this important meeting and for sharing the results of project with the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and election of the officers

(a) Adoption of the Agenda

9. The proposed Provisional agenda appearing in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.424/1/Corr.1, was adopted and appears as Annex II to the present report.

(b) Election of officers

10. In accordance with the Rules of procedures for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties the meeting elected one (1) President, two (2) Vice-Presidents and one (1) Rapporteur from among the participants, as follows:

Chair:	Mr Pellumb Abeshi, Albania
Vice-Chair:	Mr Mohammed Elbouch, Morocco
Vice-Chair:	Ms Anna Maria Cicero, Italy
Rapporteur:	Mr Hassan Hoteit, Lebanon

Agenda item 3: Implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean

11. Under the third Agenda item the following issues were discussed: a) New UNEP/MAP Marine Litter MED Project funded by the EU; b) Fishing for Litter Guidelines adopted by COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention; and c) The DeFishGear project: a pilot project for coordinated and harmonized actions on the science-policy-society interface to tackle Marine Litter issues in the Adriatic Sea.

12. The Secretariat presented the objectives and the main activities of new EU funded Marine Litter Project as well the Fishing for Litter Guidelines adopted by COP 19, Athens 2016. (Decision IG 22/10 of COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols). The DeFishGear Project Coordinator presented the DeFishGear project, including its background, aim, objectives, and main lines of action and achieved results.

13. A fruitful discussion was generated mainly targeted on the ways and means to fully and actively partake in the new EU funded Marine Litter project as an important input to support Marine Litter measures of the updated National Action Plans. The need for implementation of Fishing for Litter guidelines was stressed along with benefiting from the experiences and outcomes of the DeFishGear project. At the end of this session the representative of the Secretariat held bilateral discussion with the Marine Litter MED fund eligible countries related to the implementation of national activities on marine litter.

Agenda item 4: Enhanced knowledge on amounts, sources and impacts of Marine Litter, including micro-plastics

14. Under this Agenda item the following issues were discussed: a) Highlights and emerging issues; and b) New data and findings, including a Mediterranean survey on abandoned, lost and derelict fishing gear and the DeFishGear socio-economic implications study of Marine Litter in the Adriatic Sea.

15. On behalf of the Secretariat, the French representative presented the current and new issues identified in the recent 2015 UNEP/MAP Marine Litter Assessment Report as well as on Decision IG 22/10 on the Implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (Fishing for Litter Guidelines, Assessment Report, Baselines Values, and Reduction Targets).

16. The DeFishGear partners MIO-ECSDE and IWRS presented a summary of the new data and findings obtained from the monitoring activities of the DeFishGear project, on macro-litter and micro-litter respectively as well as on the methodological approach and the main outcomes of the DeFishGear socio-economic implications study on Marine Litter in the Adriatic. On behalf of the Secretariat the MIO-ECSDE representative presented the main results of the Regional Survey on Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) and Ghost Nets in the Mediterranean.

Agenda item 5: Best practices to tackle land-based sources of Marine Litter

17. Under this Agenda item the following issues were discussed: a) Extended producer responsibility schemes, voluntary agreements, plastic bag levy, deposit/refund schemes for beverage packaging; b) Banning of plastics landfilling, and c) the “Adopt-a-beach” concept.

18. SCP/RAC presented the best practices related to voluntary agreements and deposit/refund schemes for beverage packaging. The French representative presented the measure implemented by the Ministry of Ecology of France on the banning of single use of plastic bags and the representative from the Marine Unit of the Ministry of Environment of Ireland made an intervention on the Irish plastic bag levy best practice, including its background, key steps, main challenges and successes.

19. The Foundation for Waste Prevention in Catalonia presented on the Deposit, Return and Refund (DRS) System and the pilot implementation for beverage containers in Cadaqués (Catalonia). Plastic Europe presented a successful strategy for plastic waste reduction and the way we can exclude plastic material from landfilling towards having a 100% success in recovery, the cost benefits and challenges for the implementation of related measures. Marine Conservation Society presented the “Adopt-a-beach” concept, the best practices, and the added value and benefits when implemented at European level.

Agenda item 6: Best practices to tackle sea-based sources of Marine Litter

20. Under this Agenda item the following issues were discussed: a) Fishing for Litter: setting up DeFishGear management schemes, targeted recovery of ghost nets; and b) Better management of sea-based litter in ports.

21. The DeFishGear partners ISPRA, HCMR, IOF, IWRS and the Mediterranean Consortium presented the aforementioned measures including their main features and implementing modalities, the target groups and added value and their local/national implementation experiences, including the collective results and impact of these measures, the challenges encountered and the lessons learned.

22. An overview of the different fee systems for ship-generated waste was also presented by a representative of the Flemish Waste Agency, including their advantages and respective shortcomings. Furthermore, the applicability, added value, requirements of the no-special-fee system in the Mediterranean were explored and discussed. The representative of the Ministry of Environment of

Spain shared their experience related to the fixed fee in ports for MARPOL Annex V waste as an incentive measure to promote Marine Litter management in ports.

Agenda item 7: Hands-on exercise on Marine Litter management

23. Under this Agenda item the participants carried out Hands-on exercise on marine litter management.

24. The DeFishGear partner MIO-ECSDE facilitated a brainstorming exercise on identifying measures for the reduction of selected marine litter items. Participants carried out group work and reported back in the plenary session. The best measures were identified and were prioritized in terms of feasibility. Finally, the key steps of implementing the most feasible measure were also discussed.

25. The Secretariat finally moderated a fruitful discussion on concrete actions to be taken at national level and the regional support needed to implement the measures addressed during the meeting. The meeting agreed on a number of priority actions as contained in Annex III to this report.

Agenda item 8: Any Other Business

26. Under the eight Agenda item, participants didn't raise and discuss any other matters.

Agenda item 9: Closure of the Meeting

27. The vice chair in his closing remarks thanked the participants for their constructive contribution to the meeting which resulted in the very good consensus about the way forward for a successful implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. The vice chair also pointed out the importance of working together in synergy with other actors and projects and the example of organizing this meeting with DeFishGear project was highly appreciated as a tool to enhance the science-policy interface in an effective manner. The Vice chair thanked the Secretariat and the DefishGear project for all efforts made to organize this effective and very useful meeting.

28. After the expression of usual courtesies, the vice chair declared the meeting closed at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday 20 July 2016.

Annex I
List of Participants

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES / REPRESENTANTS DES
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Annex II
Agenda of the Meeting

Agenda

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

Agenda item 3: Implementation of the Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean

- a) *New UNEP/MAP Marine Litter MED Project funded by the EU*
- b) *Fishing for Litter Guidelines adopted by COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention*
- c) *The DeFishGear project: a pilot project for coordinated and harmonized actions on the science-policy-society interface to tackle Marine Litter issues in the Adriatic Sea*

Agenda items 4: Enhanced knowledge on amounts, sources and impacts of Marine Litter, including micro-plastics

- a) *Highlights and emerging issues*
- b) *New data and findings, including a Mediterranean survey on abandoned, lost and derelict fishing gear and the DeFishGear socio-economic implications study of Marine Litter in the Adriatic Sea*

Agenda item 5: Best practices to tackle land-based sources of Marine Litter

- a) *Schemes, voluntary agreements, plastic bag levy, deposit/refund schemes for beverage packaging.*
- b) *Banning of plastics landfilling*
- c) *Adopt-a-beach*

Agenda item 6: Best practices to tackle sea-based sources of Marine Litter

- a) *Fishing for litter: setting up DeFishGear management schemes, targeted recovery of ghost nets*
- b) *Better management of sea-based litter in ports*

Agenda item 7: Hands-on exercise on Marine Litter management

- a) *Hands-on exercise*

Agenda item 8: Any Other Business

Agenda item 9: Closure of the Meeting

Annex III
Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

Participants acknowledged the importance and the need of awareness raising and capacity building in the countries. The meeting specifically highlighted the need to focus on a number of priority actions and measures with the view to further implement the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean herein after referred to as the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management, as follows:

- i. To identify a limited number of common goals or common measures based on the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management and the updated NAPs, and implement them jointly throughout the Mediterranean thus contributing in a harmonized manner to the related SDG, international, regional and national marine litter agendas (such as the ban of single-use plastic bags or their reduction as well as the marine litter reduction targets adopted by COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention). Other additional common measures could be added in the future after considering all the measures provided for in the national Programmes of Measures and the updated NAPs. The countries are strongly encouraged to also implement all measures provided in the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management and the updated NAPs.
- ii. To further work and enhance political will and strengthen public opinion support and their social responsibility related to marine litter prevention and reduction measures. In this respect awareness activities are very important. Making use of MAP coastal day celebration to raise awareness also on marine litter should be considered. Preparation and distribution of short movies on ML is also encouraged. Support was also expressed to consider marine litter among the key criteria to grant the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award agreed by COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention.
- iii. To provide support to countries in developing cost benefit and socio economic analysis related to marine litter prevention and reduction measures as a tool to raise the awareness of policy makers. In this context the importance of environmental aspects of marine litter measures in relation to impacts on economic sectors such fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, shipping, etc. should be considered and proactively demonstrated as appropriate.
- iv. To promote the establishment of sustainable collaboration and ensuring commitments of the main key national and local relevant public authorities to streamline marine litter in their sectorial policies and agendas.
- v. To involve the relevant key sectors and promote networking and partnerships, voluntary agreements with retailers, services, industries, fisheries, etc., to set marine litter reduction targets and streamline marine litter measures in their business plans and enhance their corporate social responsibility. In this context the use of incentive instruments to make local actors interested to contribute to marine litter prevention and removal measures should be highly considered.
- vi. To encourage countries to strengthen marine litter education programmes in addition to training and capacity building. The participants also expressed their interest regarding the GPA online training course on marine litter to be disseminated to relevant networks.
- vii. To provide support to countries in developing national monitoring and enforcement programmes on marine litter including monitoring and assessment of marine litter riverine inputs.

Regional Meeting on NAPs Implementation – Lessons learned and the way forward
Marseille, France, 17-18 October 2016



UNITED
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UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.426/5



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

9 December 2016
Original: English

Regional Meeting on NAPs Implementation – Lessons learned and the way forward

Marseille, France, 17-18 October 2016

Report of the Regional Meeting on NAPs Implementation – Lessons learned and the way forward

The meeting has been organized in collaboration with the EU-funded Regional Project “SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism”



SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism

Project funded by the European Union

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2016

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Introduction

1. In COP18, Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention undertook an important commitment to update their National Action Plans (NAPs) in view of achieving GES targets through the implementation of the LBS Protocol Regional Plans and the provisions of SAP/MED. The updated NAPs were endorsed by the decision IG.22/8 “Implementation of Updated National Action Plans (NAPs) Containing Measures and Timetables for their Implementation” adopted by the COP19, which, among others, urged the Contracting Parties to implement the NAPs, strengthen the coherence between NAP programmes of measures and other national policies, foster conditions for their long-term sustainability, and report on their implementation.

2. In this context, the representatives of 18 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and other participants from the region and other countries met in Marseille, France on 17 and 18 October 2016. The meeting was co-organized by the UNEP/MAP’s MEDPOL Programme and the EU-funded Regional Project “SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism”, with the main scope to support the Contracting Parties in their effort to implement the NAPs in a coherent and coordinated manner by sharing lessons learned and paving the way forward.

3. During the Meeting, the discussions were focused on the main findings from the NAPs updating process, including the identified measures, operational targets, and indicators, the assessment of hotspot and sensitive areas, as well as the interlinkages between the programmes of measures/measures and the priority project fiches prepared for their implementation. The meeting was transformed into a forum where participants shared experiences, lessons learned and success stories in preparing updated NAPs/Programmes of Measures (PoM), and identified priority common actions, measures and targets to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES).

Participation

4. The meeting was attended by representatives from the following Contracting Parties: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey. Jordan also attended the meeting. The UNEP/MAP Secretariat was represented by the MAP Coordinating Unit, MED POL Programme, REMPEC and Blue Plan/RAC. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the SWIM and Horizon 2020 support mechanism. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

5. The meeting was opened by Ms. Tatjana Hema, Deputy-Coordinator and MED POL Programme Officer; Mr. Michael Scoullos, SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism Team Leader; and Mr. Didier Sauzade, Plan Bleu’s Marine Ecosystems Programme Manager.

6. In her opening remarks Ms. Hema, highlighted the large participation at this meeting as a sign of continued commitment to implement the updated NAPs/PoM in an effective and coordinated manner. She acknowledged the important work that has been undertaken by the Contracting Parties in developing their updated NAPs/PoM and the high level of coherence among these national instruments. Special reference was made to the next steps that should focus on implementation of the NAPs/PoM with an emphasis on future implementation of common measures and adoption of common indicators to achieve GES, supported, as appropriate, by UNEP/MAP and Horizon 2020.

7. Mr. Scoullos pointed out that the meeting is a demonstration of significant progress in protecting the Mediterranean Sea, resulting from more than 30 years of work in the region. He underlined the important role of the EU as a major player in the region, from a political, economic and environmental perspective and reaffirmed that environment is a key element of EU policies. In this

regard, the importance of maximising synergies, mainstreaming regional and international commitments into national activities and avoiding fragmentation, was emphasized. Finally Mr. Scoullos highlighted the importance of Horizon 2020 in achieving these objectives by supporting national initiatives and enhancing their regional dimension.

8. In his opening remarks Mr. Sauzade welcomed the participants wishing a successful meeting, thanked the City of Marseille for allowing the meeting to take place in the Villa and shared with the participants a few words on the history of the venue.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

a) Adoption of the Agenda

9. The proposed Provisional agenda appearing in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.426/1, was adopted and appears as Annex II to the present report.

b) Election of officers

10. In accordance with the Rules of procedures for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties, the meeting elected one (1) President, three (3) Vice-Presidents and one (1) Rapporteur from among the participants, as follows:

Chair:	Ms Nazli Yenel, Turkey
Vice-Chair:	Ms Naima Ghalem, Algeria
Vice-Chair:	Ms Ghada Abdel Moneim, Egypt
Vice Chair:	Ms Marion Besancon, France
Rapporteur:	Ms Barbara Skevin Ivosevic, Croatia

Agenda item 3: Presentation of the updated NAPs by the Contracting Parties

- a. Midterm assessment
- b. Revised list of hotspots and sensitive areas
- c. Operational targets, Programme of measures/Measures and investment needs/Project fiches

11. Introducing this agenda item, Ms. Hema again congratulated all the countries for the excellent work undertaken at national level in updating the NAPs, by streamlining ecological objectives, GES targets and Regional Plans provisions

12. Then, representatives from the following Contracting Parties (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) and Jordan took the floor during this agenda item to present their updated NAPs/PoM or the progress achieved so far, for those countries that are still in the process of preparing their NAPs/PoM, in order to share experiences, lessons learned and success stories.

13. During the discussions held following the presentations, the need for taking the necessary formal steps for having the NAPs adopted by the national competent authorities as soon as possible was highlighted. Participants were particularly interested in exchanging views on this procedure. The Secretariat urged the participants to pursue the adoption of the NAPs/PoM in line with relevant national legislation and offered its assistance in providing legal advice to countries as need be. In addition, the importance of socioeconomic aspect of the NAPs was highlighted and the lack of socioeconomic assessment was identified as a gap to be addressed in the future.

Agenda item 4: NAPs Common Programme of Measures/Measures to achieve GES, NAPs operational Targets, NAPs follow up indicators and linkages to H2020 Initiative and SDG relevant indicators

14. Under this agenda item, Mr. Mohamad Kayyal, consultant under the EU-funded Regional Project “SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism”, presented the main findings of an analysis of the updated NAPs, addressing common operational targets, priority measures, the identification of hotspots and a list of common indicators.

15. Mr. Scoullos briefly presented the main findings and recommendations of the SWIM H2020 Steering Committee meeting, held in Brussels on 27-28 September 2016. He highlighted the links between the SWIM and Horizon 2020 support mechanism and the implementation process of the NAPs, since many of the main themes of the new mechanism correspond to the areas discussed during the Meeting, including among others industrial pollution, solid waste management, hazardous wastes, marine litter, urban wastewater, environmental integration, ICZM-IWRM, Green Economy etc. and he stressed out the importance of integrative methodological framework. He further presented the main actions provided for by the mechanism that can support the implementation of NAPs, as well as the requests on water and environment related issues, most of which are in direct link with the NAPs. Finally, attention was drawn to the regional activities work plan in relation to H2020 and crosscutting themes to demonstrate the links with the NAPs, as presented during the Meeting.

16. The discussion following the presentations pointed out the importance of using the high political momentum of NAPs endorsement by COP 19 to foster their implementation. In this regard both the Secretariat and Horizon 2020 through the EU-funded Regional Project “SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism” and the work of the Pollution Reduction and Prevention Group (the investment component of H2020) would provide valuable support to the countries.

17. The Secretariat provided information on three ongoing projects in the framework of the 2016-2017 Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP that are relevant to the implementation of the NAPs, namely the EU funded projects: EcAp MED II, supporting the implementation of IMAP, the Marine Litter MED, launched in Tirana in July 2016 to support the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter, and a new project under the UfM Horizon 2020, implemented together by EEA and UNEP/MAP on SEIS, supporting PRTR, enhancing national coordination, and strengthening and streamlining the information system and reporting on marine pollution.

18. The Secretariat also informed the meeting that UNEP/MAP had applied to GEF for a large scale six year programme. Under this programme, three projects have been envisaged to address NAPs priorities in cooperation with the EIB and EBRD. If approved, this programme would provide strong support to the region in meeting its commitments towards marine pollution reduction/prevention from land based sources.

Agenda item 5: Potential new/updated measures to achieve GES on pollution and litter

19. Ms. Hema, introducing this agenda item, recalled the mandate given by COP19 to further analyse the gaps of the existing regional measures with regards to the GES. In this context, work was undertaken by the Secretariat in collaboration with the EU-funded ActionMed Project to identify and assess gaps related to regional measures and potential new/updated measures required to achieve GES with the objective to submit it to the EcAp Coordination Group.

20. Ms. Marina Markovic, UNEP/MAP consultant under the ActionMed Project, presented the potential new/updated measures analysis at regional level.

21. Following discussions, some participants stressed out the need to focus on a small number of sectors (e.g. plastic bags, rainwater management, agriculture etc.). The organisation of capacity building and training workshops as well as the development of pilot projects in collaboration

with Horizon 2020 was highlighted by some participants as an important step in view of assessing the applicability of measures.

Agenda item 6: NAPs investment portfolio: lessons learned and challenges

22. Mr. Michael Scoullou, on behalf of the EIB and Horizon 2020, presented the main findings from the analysis of the NAPs of MENA countries, namely Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia, focusing on the relation between the hotspots, the proposed measures and the project fiches. Investment measures in the framework of MeHSIP targeting NAPs hotspots and their status of implementation were also presented. General and country-specific conclusions were drawn, with regards to effective streamlining of investment needs and fiches with NAPs targets and measures.

Agenda item 7: Recommendations on the way forward

23. The participants reviewed, commented and approved, the draft Conclusions and Recommendations prepared by the Rapporteur, based on discussions held, highlighting key actions needed to provide support and guidance for NAPs implementation, from a regional perspective. The final Conclusions and Recommendations are attached as Annex III to the present report.

Agenda item 8: Any Other Business

24. A first presentation was made by Mr. Yaron Zinger, an expert from Israel on urban runoffs in the framework of the Water Sensitive City concept trying to give answers to identified challenges, such as stormwater treatment, to reduce excess of nutrients. A nature-based solution, called biofilters was presented, aiming at treating stormwater in a natural way prior to discharge. Interest was expressed by the participants regarding the function of this system, its maintenance, the management of absorbed nutrients and the total costs for its implementation. It was also stressed that biofilter treatment meets water quality guidelines and drinking water guidelines for chemical and toxins, and that it is self-maintained and cheaper than desalination.

25. Mr. Sauzade Didier from Plan Bleu/RAC made a short presentation of the EcAp based Science-Policy Interface (Meeting Information document WG.426/Inf.6), aiming at supporting IMAP implementation. The project addresses the issue of ineffective operation of the interface between policy makers and scientists and establishes actions to overcome the identified barriers, including workshops bringing together the two sides. Mr. Sauzade presented the main components of the project and the preliminary lessons learned from its implementation so far.

Agenda item 9: From measures to investment needs and projects (Capacity building session)

26. Representatives of the Contracting Parties participated in a training session, organised by the Secretariat, with the support of SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism, aiming at bridging the investment needs and projects with NAPs measures and operational targets.

27. Participants assessed and ranked a project fiche from their NAPs using the presented criteria and methodology.

28. Certificates were given to all the participants in the training session.

Agenda item 10: Closure of the Meeting

29. The Chair in her closing remarks thanked the participants for their constructive contribution to the meeting which resulted in the very good consensus about the way forward for a successful implementation of the updated NAPs/PoM and thanked the Secretariat and the SWIM

Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism for all efforts made to organize this effective and very useful meeting.

30. After the expression of usual courtesies, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 18:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 18 October 2016

Annex I
List of Participants

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Annex II
Agenda of the Meeting

Agenda of the Meeting

- Agenda item 1: **Opening of the Meeting**
- Agenda item 2: **Adoption of the agenda and election of officers**
- Agenda item 3: **Presentation of the updated NAPs by the Contracting Parties**
- Agenda item 4: **NAPs Common Programme of Measures/Measures to achieve GES, NAPs operational Targets, NAPs follow up indicators and linkages to H2020 Initiative and SDG relevant indicators**
- Agenda item 5: **Potential new/updated measures to achieve GES on pollution and litter**
- Agenda item 6: **NAPs investment portfolio: lessons learned and challenges**
- Agenda item 7: **Recommendations on the way forward**
- Agenda item 8: **Any Other Business**
- Agenda item 9: **From measures to investment needs and projects (Capacity building session)**
- Agenda item 10: **Closure of the Meeting**

Annex III
Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

On 17 and 18 October 2016, the Regional Meeting on NAPs Implementation – Lessons learned and the way forward was held in Marseille, France at Villa Valmer at the kind invitation of Plan Bleu and the City of Marseille. The meeting was jointly organized by UNEP/MAP {MEDPOL-Plan Bleu} and SWIM/Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism. Following its deliberations, the Meeting concluded as follows:

1. The Contracting parties were commended for preparing their updated NAPs/PoM addressing the three major ecological objectives adopted by UNEP/MAP related to Eutrophication (EO5), Contaminants (EO9) and Marine Litter (EO10).
2. It was acknowledged that most of the updated NAPs were developed following the guidelines prepared for this purpose as approved by the MEDPOL focal points meeting in 2015. This led to the formulation of NAP documents with a harmonized outline and a considerable number of common operational targets and measures. Common priority measures selected by the Countries address different aspects including building/extending sewage networks, upgrading municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants, upgrading municipal and hazardous waste treatment facilities, remediating contaminated industrial sites, establishing and reinforcing collection, reduction, prevention and recycling of municipal waste, constructing municipal solid waste landfills, strengthening waste collection and disposal systems, and closure and rehabilitation of illegal dump sites, etc.
3. It was noted that the PoMs prepared by the Contracting Parties which are members of EU to implement the MSFD, overall meet also the requirements of the NAPs. There are relevant synergies between both these policy documents aiming at the same goals.
4. It was highlighted that the large number of existing measures analyzed in the framework of NAPs attest to the good work carried out in the Mediterranean in the last decade. It was agreed to continue these efforts and to improve the efficiency of their implementation.
5. It was also acknowledged that the NAPs/PoM selected operational targets, measures and their timetables are fully aligned with the commitments taken at the regional level with a particular focus on the Regional Plans taking into account specific national circumstances, and that the successful and the effective implementation of the NAPs/PoM will systematically contribute in a concrete manner to the achievement of GES and H2020 targets for a cleaner and healthy Mediterranean, where appropriate, taking also into account the need for external support.
6. It was highlighted that the key to successful NAPs/PoM implementation hinges on the ability of countries to implement existing and new measures; enforce related national regulatory frameworks; inform and achieve the cooperation of stakeholders including partnerships with other actors to support national efforts; strengthen their capacities; and realize key investments.
7. Complementarities were highlighted and recommended to be further strengthened between UNEP/MAP and H2020 Initiative in the three components: Investment, Review and Monitoring, and Capacity Building. Countries were strongly urged to use every opportunity offered by the project SWIM/H2020 Support Mechanism for the implementation of priority measures in the NAPs/PoM including capacity building.
8. Countries are encouraged to ensure coordination and synergies with other relevant national policies and inter-sectoral coordination to achieve effective implementation of the NAPs/PoM.

9. The Contracting Parties that have not completed their NAPs/PoM are encouraged to conclude the consultation process as early as possible with the view to have their NAPs/PoM submitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible.
10. Following the endorsement of the NAPs by decision IG 22/8 of COP 19, the Contracting Parties were encouraged to get the NAPs approved by the national competent authorities in line with the national procedures. The meeting calls for the highest commitment of the countries for implementation of the NAPs.
11. Taking into consideration the progress made since the adoption of the first cycle of the NAPs in 2003; the meeting remarked the significant achievements accomplished by the Contracting Parties in reducing the number of hotspots in 2015. The meeting noted however that there remain a considerable number of hotspots of Categories A and B. Every effort should be exercised to eliminate them. Strong synergies with H2020 investment component including MeHSIP and other relevant available mechanisms should be further strengthened and streamlined for that purpose.
12. It was acknowledged that the proposed list of indicators selected using the bottom-up approach contains relevant IMAF indicators, H2020 indicators, as well as SDG indicators. It was agreed to provide written feedback by Mid November 2016 on the list of proposed indicators at the latest. It was also recommended to take into account the process related to the indicators for MSSD implementation and to continue this work in the framework of H2020 Review and Monitoring sub-group co-chaired by the EEA and UNEP/MAP, for final consideration at the MEDPOL focal point meeting in 2017.
13. It was noted that the Regional Gap analysis carried out under MAP PoW in synergy with the EU funded Action Med Project and the experience the Contracting parties shared regarding the NAP update are reinforcing each other and is a good basis for outlining the need for new/updated regional measures in the future.
14. A more concrete proposal on potential new updated regional measures will be further developed based on document WG 426/4, as well as the Contracting Parties' written feedback by Mid November 2016 to be presented at the next MEDPOL FP meeting for its consideration and guidance on the next steps.
15. Finally the meeting concluded that the timely implementation of the NAPs/PoM is the responsibility of the Contracting Parties, and for this purpose written comments regarding priority areas for support by the Secretariat to foster regional and sub-regional cooperation should be provided by end of November 2017 at the latest. In this context, annual review of and meetings on the progress of the NAPs implementation involving directly the Contracting parties should be considered by the Secretariat for inclusion in the biannual programme of work.

**Report of the Regional Meeting of Experts to review the Draft Desalination and Dumping
Protocol Guidelines**
Loutraki, Greece, 4-6 April 2017



UNITED
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UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.435/6



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

21 May 2017
Original: English

Regional Meeting of Experts to review the Draft Desalination and Dumping Protocol Guidelines

Loutraki, Greece, 4-6 April 2017

Report of the Regional Meeting of Experts to review the Draft Desalination and Dumping Protocol Guidelines

For environmental and economic reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2017

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Introduction

1. In accordance with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2016-2017 adopted by COP 19, Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016, the Secretariat organized the Regional Meeting of Experts to review the Draft Desalination and Dumping Protocol Guidelines from 4 to 6 April 2017 in Greece.

2. The main objectives of the meeting were:

- a) to review the proposed draft updated Desalination Guidelines
- b) to review the proposed draft updated Guidelines under the Dumping Protocol of the Barcelona Convention related to Dredged Materials and Artificial Reefs.
- c) to undertake a discussion on the status of implementation of the Dumping Protocol by the Contracting Parties and issues at stake

Participation

3. The meeting was attended by representatives from the following Contracting Parties: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey and the State of Palestine. The UNEP/MAP Secretariat was represented by the MAP Coordinating Unit and MED POL Programme. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

4. The meeting was opened by Ms. Tatjana Hema, Deputy-Coordinator of MAP - Barcelona Convention Secretariat.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

a) Adoption of the Agenda

5. The proposed Provisional agenda appearing in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.435/1, was adopted and appears as Annex II to the present report.

b) Election of officers

6. In accordance with the Rules of procedures for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties, the meeting elected one (1) Chair, three (3) Vice-Chairs and one (1) Rapporteur from among the participants, as follows:

Chair: Mr Jose Luis Bucetta Miller, Spain
Vice-Chair : Mrs. Ivana Bulatovic, Montenegro
Vice-Chair : Mr. Khalid Margaa, Morocco,
Vice-Chair : Mr Ran Amir, Israel
Rapporteur: Mr Georgios Melekis, Greece

Agenda item 3: Review of Proposed Updated Dumping Protocol Guidelines

- a) Updated Guidelines on Dredged Materials
- b) Updated Guidelines on Artificial Reefs

7. Ms. Hema presented, with the technical support of Mr. Fouad Abousamra, regional expert, the updated draft guidelines related to the Dumping Protocol of the Barcelona Convention.

8. The meeting embarked on discussions on the proposed updated guidelines and reviewed them section by section. A number of revisions were agreed upon for some issues, the meeting requested the Secretariat to further work and share the guidelines with the MED POL Focal Points for their additional comments.

9. The meeting agreed to submit the Updated Guidelines, further revised as appropriate, to the MED POL Focal Points meeting in May 2017 for review and approval. In particular, the meeting requested to include in the updated version two technical annexes from the previous version of the Guidelines on the dredged materials and agreed to introduce a new Annex addressing the Action List and related thresholds. For both updated draft guidelines, the meeting requested the Secretariat to prepare and submit a legal analysis in relation to both proposed updated guidelines.

10. The meeting final conclusions related to this agenda item and the latest version of the draft guidelines after the consultation with the MED POL Focal points and meeting participants are presented in Annex III to this report and its Appendixes 1 and 2.

Agenda item 4: Review of Proposed Updated Desalination Guidelines

11. Ms. Hema presented, with the technical support of Ms. Nurit Krest, regional expert, the proposed updated guidelines related to Desalination Activities in the Mediterranean under the Land based Sources and Activities Protocol of the Barcelona Convention.

12. The meeting reviewed the proposed updated Guidelines section by section and agreed some revisions. The meeting agreed to submit the updated Guidelines, to the MED POL Focal Points meeting in May 2017 for review and approval.

13. The meeting final conclusions related to this agenda item and the latest version of the draft guidelines are presented in Annex III to this report and its Appendixes 3.

Agenda item 5: Updated Assessments of Dumping and Desalination Activities in the Mediterranean

14. The Secretariat presented the main findings of the draft assessment reports and questionnaires prepared through research and with inputs from the MED POL Focal Points as well as from the information provided by the Contracting Parties in their available reports on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, Dumping and LBS Protocols since 2005.

15. The Secretariat also referred at the meeting an issue paper prepared as information document on the management of dredged materials in the Mediterranean highlighting a number of actions related to an Action lists and related thresholds that if agreed by the MED POL Focal Points can further enhance the environmental performance of this sector. (Reference paragraph 9 above)

16. The meeting provided feedback and inputs on the follow up of these discussions. It highlighted the need and requested the Contracting Parties to complete the desalination activities questionnaires prefilled by the Secretariat and completed by few of them, as well as to provide additional information and data on dumping activities by 5 May 2017 with the view to allow the Secretariat to finalize the first assessment drafts for their submission to the Meeting of MED POL Focal Points in May 2017.

Agenda item 6: Conclusions and Recommendations

17. The participants reviewed, commented and approved, the draft Conclusions and Recommendations prepared by the Rapporteur, based on discussions held, highlighting key actions needed to finalise the proposed updated Guidelines and the updated assessments of dumping and desalination activities with the view to submit them to the MED POL Focal Points Meeting. The final

Conclusions and Recommendations are attached as Annex III to the present report including the three draft guidelines.

Agenda item 7: Any Other Business

18. No issue was raised under this Agenda item.

Agenda item 8: Closure of the Meeting

19. The Chair in its closing remarks thanked the participants for their constructive contribution to the meeting which resulted in the very good consensus about the next steps towards the finalization and approval of the updated Guidelines by the MED POL Focal Points Meeting and thanked the Secretariat and its MED POL team for all efforts made to organize this effective and very useful meeting.

20. After the expression of usual courtesies, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 13:30 p.m. on Thursday, 6 April 2017.

Annex I
List of Participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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**SECRETARIAT TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION
AND COMPONENTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN
SECRETARIAT DE LA CONVENTION DE BARCELONE ET COMPOSANTES DU PLAN
D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE**

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Annex II
Agenda of the Meeting

Agenda of the Meeting

- Agenda item 1.** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda item 2.** Adoption of the Agenda and Election of Officers
- Agenda item 3.** Review of Proposed updated Dumping Protocol Guidelines
- a) Updated Guidelines on Dredged Materials
 - b) Updated Guidelines on Artificial Reefs
- Agenda item 4.** Review of proposed updated Desalination Guidelines
- Agenda item 5.** Updated Assessments of Dumping and Desalination Activities in the Mediterranean
- Agenda item 6.** Conclusions and Recommendations
- Agenda item 7.** Any other Business
- Agenda item 8.** Closure of the Meeting

Annex III
Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Meeting of the Regional Meeting of Experts to review the Draft Desalination and Dumping Protocol Guidelines was held on 4-6 April 2017, at the Club Hotel Casino Loutraki, Loutraki, Greece.

Following review and discussions of all agenda items, the meeting agreed on the following deliberations, conclusions and recommendations:

Review of Proposed Updated Desalination Guidelines (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.435/3)

1. The meeting reviewed in depth the proposed updated guidelines and suggested some changes to ensure further clarifications on some aspects.
2. The meeting recommended to include the questionnaire template on desalination activities contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.435/Inf.3 as a tool to facilitate the collection of information and data from desalination activities for assessment purposes.
3. The meeting agreed to recommend the proposed draft guidelines as contained in Appendix I to these conclusions and recommendations, to the meeting of MED POL Focal Points in May 2017 for consideration and approval.
4. At the request of some representatives, the meeting agreed to provide additional time, for comments by 14 April 2017 at the latest. The meeting highlighted the necessity to comply with this deadline, in order to finalize the document with the view of its submission in line with the rules of procedure, to the meeting of the MED POL Focal Points.

Review of Proposed Updated Dumping Protocol Guidelines (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.435/4, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.435/5)

a) Updated Guidelines on Dredged Materials

5. The meeting reviewed in depth the proposed updated guidelines, suggested further details and specifications to be added in a number of sections. The meeting also recommended the reorganization of some sections and annexes in order to ensure a better clarification of flow of work in the decision making process addressing different aspects of management of dredged materials.
6. The meeting recommended to include in the proposed updated guidelines a number of sections addressing the characterization of dumping sites as well as two annexes contained in the current version of the Guidelines adopted in 1999. Due to time constraints to review both newly introduced Annexes, and noting the need for updating their content, it was agreed the Secretariat would circulate them as soon as possible in English and French to the meeting participants and/or MED POL Focal Points for comments by 20 April 2017 for any adjustment required as appropriate.
7. The meeting requested the Secretariat to complete the section on BEP with new dredging technologies for consideration by the MED POL FP meeting.
8. The meeting agreed with the proposed content of the paragraph on confinement and cleared it from the technical point of view. It decided to leave this paragraph in square brackets for further discussion by the MED POL Focal Points meeting in May 2017 following the submission by the Secretariat of a legal analysis whether a permit should be issued for this activity and whether it is a

placement or a dumping related activity. The meeting recommended to the Secretariat to take into consideration best relevant global, regional and national practices on this matter.

9. The meeting recommended the inclusion of an action list of contaminants and threshold levels in the updated Guidelines and its Annex III with the view to guide, as appropriate, the national competent authorities in the process of developing their national threshold and levels.

10. The meeting encouraged all Contracting Parties to provide information on related national regulation and legislation related to existing action lists and relevant threshold levels.

11. The meeting agreed to recommend the proposed draft guidelines as contained in Appendix II to this conclusions, to the meeting of MED POL Focal Points in May 2017 taking also into account the outcome of the written procedure provided for in paragraph 6 of these conclusions and recommendations.

12. The meeting highlighted the necessity to comply with this deadline, in order to finalize the document with the view of its submission in line with the rules of procedure, to the meeting of the MED POL Focal Points.

b) Updated Guidelines on Artificial Reefs

13. The meeting reviewed in depth the proposed updated guidelines, suggested further details and specifications to be added in a number of sections. The meeting also recommended the reorganization of some sections and added new elements in several paragraphs to emphasize the need for better practices for the protection of ecosystems.

14. The meeting requested clarifications on the legal aspects referred to in the updated Guidelines deriving from the current version of the guidelines and recommended their deletion in most cases as not in line with the Protocol.

15. The meeting requested the Secretariat to undertake a legal analysis for further discussion by the MED POL Focal Points meeting in May 2017 whether placement should be subject to permitting and provide advice on the respective legal basis. The meeting recommended to the Secretariat to take into consideration best relevant global, regional and national practices on this matter.

16. The meeting agreed to recommend the proposed draft guidelines as contained in Appendix III to these conclusions, to the meeting of MED POL Focal Points in May 2017 considering the outcome of the written procedure by 20 April 2017 at the latest.

17. The meeting highlighted the necessity to comply with this deadline, in order to finalize the document with the view of its submission in line with the rules of procedure, to the meeting of the MED POL Focal Points for consideration and approval.

Updated Assessments of Dumping and Desalination Activities in the Mediterranean

(UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.435/Inf.3, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.435/Inf.4, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.435/Inf.5,)

18. The meeting highlighted the need and requested Contracting Parties to complete the desalination activities questionnaires prefilled by the Secretariat and completed by few of them, as well as to provide additional information and data on dumping activities by 5 May 2017 at the latest.

This would allow the Secretariat to finalize the first assessment drafts for their submission, as information documents, to the Meeting of MED POL Focal Points in May 2017.

Meeting of the Mediterranean Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement
Loutraki, Greece, 6-7 April 2017



**UNITED
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UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.436/5



**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

21 May 2017
Original: English

Meeting of the Mediterranean Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement

Loutraki, Greece, 6-7 April 2017

Report of the Meeting of the Mediterranean Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2017

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Introduction

1. In accordance with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2016-2017 adopted by COP 19, Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016, the Secretariat organized the Meeting of the Mediterranean Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement from 6 to 7 April 2017 in Greece.

2. The main objective of the meeting was to bring together national experts working in the environmental permitting and inspection systems to:

- a) review the proposed guides prepared by the Secretariat related to the application and selection of most adequate Best Available Technologies and related environmental inspection
- b) share best practices and recent developments related to the national environmental permitting, inspection and enforcement systems

Participation

3. The meeting was attended by representatives from the following Contracting Parties: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Turkey and the State of Palestine. The UNEP/MAP Secretariat was represented by the MAP Coordinating Unit and MED POL Programme. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) and the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE). The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

4. The meeting was opened by Ms. Tatjana Hema, Deputy-Coordinator of MAP - Barcelona Convention Secretariat.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Election of Officers

a) Adoption of the Agenda

5. The proposed Provisional agenda appearing in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.436/1, and its timetable was adopted and appears as Annex II to the present report.

b) Election of officers

6. In accordance with the Rules of procedures for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties, the meeting elected one (1) Chair, three (3) Vice-Chairs and one (1) Rapporteur from among the participants, as follows:

Chair:	Mr Georgios Melekis, Greece
Vice-Chair:	Mr Ali Elkekli, Libya
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Jawad Benhmidane, Morocco,
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Boris Žbona, Slovenia
Rapporteur:	Ms. Ledjana Bojaxhi, Albania

Agenda item 3: Compliance and Enforcement in the Mediterranean region

- a) State of play of National Inspection and Permitting Systems in place: success stories and barriers

- b) Collaboration with relevant Compliance and Enforcement Networks
- c) Ways and means to promote Compliance and Enforcement

7. All representatives of the Contracting Parties present at the meeting took the floor and introduced the most recent developments of the environmental inspection bodies and regulations in their countries. This session provided a great opportunity to briefly present the state of play of national inspection systems, and share concrete results regarding law implementation, success stories and challenges faced.

8. Mr Junker Harald, representative of IMPEL network made a presentation on the work carried at European level on issues related to environmental compliance and enforcement and informed a meeting on possible projects for collaboration.

9. Participants embarked on discussions with the view to propose concrete actions on ways and means to promote and enhance environmental law enforcement in the region in line with national legislation and obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. In this respect the meeting highlighted that in spite of progress achieved and success stories, challenges are still considerable in particular related to a) insufficient human resources, b) needs for capacity building and enhancing technical competency of competent authorities in addressing both permitting and inspection and c) sharing best practices across the region and beyond.

10. The meeting recommended that the informal network on compliance and enforcement should provide more opportunities for the Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to work together to enhance environmental performance and effectiveness of national enforcement bodies within the scope of the MAP Programme of Work and highlighted the need for better collaboration with other enforcement networks such as IMPEL with the view to promote sharing of best practices and capacity building.

Agenda item 4: Strengthening the Inspection and Permitting Systems to promote the use of Best Available Techniques (BAT)

11. The Secretariat with technical support from a regional expert, presented the draft Guides for the introduction and inspection of BAT implementation in industrial facilities, aiming to assist the permitting authorities of the Contracting Parties to extract and evaluate the necessary information contained in the complex literature in order to assess the information provided by the applicants for permits concerning BAT introduction in industrial installations and ensure that their application is effective. Some examples of inspection checklists will be also presented.

a) Guide on the selection of Best Available Techniques in Industrial installations

12. The meeting reviewed the proposed guide and suggested minor changes to ensure further clarifications such as environmental quality standards.

13. The meeting agreed to recommend the proposed draft guide to the meeting of MED POL Focal Points in May 2017 for consideration and agreement in using it as an effective tool to enhance permitting process and competence of the national authorities ensuring that the proper BAT are selected by the operators/proponents.

14. The meeting requested the Secretariat, subject to external resources mobilization, to consider the possibility of preparing the publication of the guide in the official languages of the MAP system and support capacity building activities for its implementation and recommended the development of a number of case studies by the Secretariat (waste water including sludge management, landfill management, petroleum refinery (next biennium), offshore Industry (next biennium), electric arc furnace).

15. The Contracting Parties were encouraged to prepare and send to the Secretariat, as appropriate case studies on BAT assessment addressing different sectors with a particular focus on those affecting marine and coastal environment with the view to demonstrate and highlight the Mediterranean success stories and promoting and sharing best practices in the region.

b) Guide on Inspections of Industrial Facilities

16. The meeting reviewed the proposed guide prepared by the Secretariat and suggested some changes to ensure a better streamlining of the enforcement indicators already agreed in the framework of the MAP-MED POL Network on Compliance and Enforcement in the Mediterranean. It agreed to recommend the draft Guide to the meeting of MED POL Focal Points in May 2017 for consideration and agreement in using it as an effective tool to enhance national environmental inspection performance.

17. The meeting requested the Secretariat, subject to external resources mobilization, to consider the possibility of preparing the publication of the guide in the official languages of the MAP system and support capacity building activities for its implementation including exchange of inspection officers between countries and recommended that countries should consider reporting in future meetings of MAP-MED POL Network on Compliance and Enforcement in the Mediterranean, data and assessment of the performance inspection indicators and as appropriate their trends during the last years.

18. The meeting suggested to gradually extend the scope of the work of this network that may consider inspection activities related to other source of pollution such as dumping, offshore, etc., and in particular, the interaction of pollution impacts with the protection of marine and coastal biodiversity and highlighted the need for enhanced visibility of the work undertaken by the network and dissemination of its products.

Agenda item 5: Conclusions and Recommendations

19. The participants reviewed, commented and approved, the draft Conclusions and Recommendations prepared by the Rapporteur, as contained in Annex III to the present reporting including as appendixes both agreed Guides.

Agenda item 6: Any Other Business

No issue was raised under this Agenda item.

Agenda item 7: Closure of the Meeting

20. The Chair in his closing remarks thanked the participants for their constructive contribution to the meeting and the Secretariat and its MED POL team for all efforts made to organize this effective and very useful meeting.

21. After the expression of usual courtesies, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 17:30 p.m. on Friday, 7 April 2017.

Annex I
List of Participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES**

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**SECRETARIAT TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION
AND COMPONENTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN
SECRETARIAT DE LA CONVENTION DE BARCELONE ET COMPOSANTES DU PLAN
D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE**

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Annex II
Agenda of the Meeting

Agenda of the Meeting

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| Agenda item 1. | Opening of the Meeting |
| Agenda item 2. | Adoption of the Agenda and Election of Officers |
| Agenda item 3. | Compliance and Enforcement in the Mediterranean region |
| Agenda item 4. | Strengthening the Inspection and Permitting Systems to promote the use of Best Available Techniques (BAT) |
| Agenda item 5. | Conclusions and Recommendations |
| Agenda item 6. | Any Other Business |
| Agenda item 7. | Closure of the meeting |

Annex III
Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Meeting of the Mediterranean Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement was held on 6-7 April 2017, at the Club Hotel Casino Loutraki, Loutraki, Greece.

The meeting brought together national experts working in the environmental permitting and inspection systems. Following review and discussions of all agenda items, the meeting agreed on the following deliberations, conclusions and recommendations:

Compliance and Enforcement in the Mediterranean region

1. Following the presentations made by all countries represented at the Meeting, it was acknowledged that important progress has been achieved in setting up and strengthening national environmental inspection systems which are operational in all Mediterranean countries.

2. Lessons learnt shared during the meeting show clear progress in ensuring effective collaboration among different inspection bodies at national level, enhancing compliance, pollution reduction; protection of endangered species.

3. The meeting highlighted that in spite of progress achieved and success stories, challenges are still considerable in particular related to a) insufficient human resources, b) needs for capacity building and enhancing technical competency of competent authorities in addressing both permitting and inspection, (i.e, risk assessment for effective inspection planning, enforcement indicators and evaluation of environmental benefits of inspections, prevention of non-compliance, shipment of waste, etc.) c) sharing best practices across the region and beyond.

4. The meeting recommended that the informal network on compliance and enforcement established under the MAP/BC should provide more opportunities for the Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to work together to enhance environmental performance and effectiveness of national enforcement bodies within the scope of the MAP Programme of work.

5. The meeting also highlighted the need for better collaboration with other enforcement networks such as IMPEL with the view to promote sharing of best practices and capacity building.

Strengthening the Inspection and Permitting Systems to promote the use of Best Available Techniques (BAT) (*UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.436/3Corr.1, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.436/4*)

Guide on the Selection of Best Available Techniques (BAT) in Industrial Installations

(UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.436/3Corr.1

6. The meeting reviewed the proposed guide prepared by the Secretariat related to the application and selection of most adequate Best Available Techniques in the permitting process and appreciated its content, usefulness and practicality. The meeting suggested minor changes to ensure further clarifications such as environmental quality standards.

7. The meeting agreed to recommend the proposed draft as contained in Appendix I to these conclusions and recommendations, to the meeting of MED POL Focal Points in May 2017 for consideration and agreement in using it as an effective tool to enhance permitting process and competence of the national authorities ensuring that the proper BAT are selected by the operators/proponents.

8. The meeting requested the Secretariat, subject to external resources mobilization, to consider the possibility of preparing the publication of the guide in the official languages of the MAP system and support capacity building activities for its implementation.

9. The meeting recommended the following case studies to be developed by the Secretariat to address BAT assessment in the permitting system:

- a) Waste water including sludge management
- b) Landfill management
- c) Petroleum refinery (next biennium)
- d) Offshore Industry (next biennium)
- e) Electric arc furnace

10. The meeting encouraged all Contracting Parties to prepare, as appropriate, and send to the Secretariat, as appropriate case studies on BAT assessment addressing different sectors with a particular focus on those affecting marine and coastal environment with the view to demonstrate and highlight the Mediterranean success stories and promoting and sharing best practices in the region.

Guide on Inspection of Industrial Facilities

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.436/4

11. The meeting reviewed the proposed guide prepared by the Secretariat related to the Best Available Techniques inspection process and suggested some changes to ensure a better streamlining of the enforcement indicators already agreed in the framework of the MAP-MED POL Network on Compliance and Enforcement in the Mediterranean.

12. The meeting agreed to recommend the proposed draft as contained in Appendix I to these conclusions and recommendations, to the meeting of MED POL Focal Points in May 2017 for consideration and agreement in using it as an effective tool to enhance national environmental inspection performance. The meeting recommended to add a footnote to the annexes in order to highlight that the annexes have been prepared for indicative purposes only.

13. The meeting requested the Secretariat, subject to external resources mobilization, to consider the possibility of preparing the publication of the guide in the official languages of the MAP system and support capacity building activities for its implementation including exchange of inspection officers between countries.

14. The meeting agreed and recommended that countries should consider reporting in future meetings of MAP-MED POL Network on Compliance and Enforcement in the Mediterranean, data and assessment of the performance inspection indicators and as appropriate their trends during the last years.

15. Finally the meeting also suggested to gradually extend the scope of the work of this network that may consider inspection activities related to other source of pollution such as dumping, offshore, etc., and in particular, the interaction of pollution impacts with the protection of marine and coastal biodiversity.

16. The meeting requested the Secretariat to make more visible the work undertaken by this informal network and disseminate its product by creating for example a clear link on UNEP/MAP website on enforcement and compliance

17. At the request of the Meeting it was agreed to allocate one week for any additional comments to be sent to the Secretariat.