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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

Meeting of the MED POL National Coordinators

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**Proposed activities to be carried out by MED POL during the  
biennium 2004-2005**



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## 1. Programme policy and coordination

The biennium 2004-2005 will be a crucial period for the MED POL Programme. In fact, as agreed by the Contracting Parties, the MED POL Phase III will end in 2005 and a new programme will have to be formulated and adopted at the Contracting Parties Meeting in 2005.

As a result, during 2004-2005 the Secretariat will have to work with countries' experts and officials to prepare a draft programme and find consensus on its content. The elements to be possibly taken into account and the steps proposed for the implementation of the process include:

- an analysis of the need of the region in terms of water pollution control (coastal and marine areas and river basins) as a tool for sustainable development, taking into accounts the long-term targets of the SAP;
- an analysis of achievements and failures of the present Phase of MED POL;
- a review of the recent developments at the regional and international levels (e.g. larger number of EU countries in the region with specific obligations, the Johannesburg Action Plan, trends in other Conventions and Programmes including the application of the river basin and the ecosystem approaches);
- consideration of the new coverage of the LBS (to include the hydrologic basin);
- the need to fully integrate an economic dimension in the formulation of the programme;
- the need to formulate a programme with clear scientific characteristics in order to maintain contact with the scientific community but also with concrete managerial elements for decision makers.

In order to achieve the process in time, it is proposed to work with experts from the region for both the formulation of sectorial components of the programme and for their integration, and to foresee a number of small consultation meetings together with a larger meeting of Government-designated experts to review a first draft of the programme. The draft would then be presented to the 2005 Meeting of the MED POL National Coordinators and subsequently to Contracting Parties for adoption.

In parallel to the preparation of a new Programme, the implementation of the Phase III of MED POL will of course continue during 2004-2005 on the basis of its agreed objectives and principles.

As a result, during 2004-2005 the MED POL programme will continue to give emphasis to the implementation of the objectives and goals of the SAP according to its operational strategy. In this connection, the biennium will be especially important considering that during that period countries should complete the formulation of National Action Plans on the basis of the numerous preparatory activities being carried out during 2002-2003 (guidelines, regional plans, baseline budgets of releases, National Diagnostic Analyses, etc.). In parallel to the activities related to the SAP, special efforts will be made to strengthen those directly related to the implementation of the LBS Protocol, such as compliance monitoring and inspection systems. In the prospect of assisting countries in ensuring implementation of the SAP objectives on the long-term, the economic dimension of the activities will be further developed and will be integrated in the work programme.

The activities related to the assessment of pollution will continue and special attention will be given to the enhancement of the trend and biological effects monitoring national networks. Any efforts should be made for the formulation of national monitoring programmes that should be considered as an essential tool to verify the state of pollution and follow the progress made by the countries in the control of pollution. Emphasis will be given to river

monitoring and activities will be initiated as a contribution to the implementation of the revised LBS Protocol that now includes the hydrologic basin of the region.

Priority will continue to be given to capacity building. As in the past, assistance will be given to countries for the implementation of monitoring activities (training, purchase of equipment, data quality assurance, data processing) in parallel to assistance in relation to the implementation of all the elements of the SAP.

Special attention will be given to the finalization of a reporting system for the SAP and to the application of the existing reporting system related to monitoring.

The Secretariat will continue to work in close cooperation with the competent intergovernmental, international, regional and sub-regional Institutions and Programmes. WHO will continue to play a major role and be responsible for all the aspects related to human health, in particular in relation to the SAP and the LBS Protocol. Close cooperation will continue with IAEA/MEL in relation to data quality assurance and intercalibration for the chemical monitoring and with the University of Alessandria, Italy, for biomonitoring. Close contacts will be kept with WMO and IOC aiming at soliciting their contribution to the implementation of those aspects of the programme related to their field of expertise (e.g. airborne monitoring, eutrophication).

In connection with the implementation of the SAP, close contacts will be kept with the GEF Secretariat for the completion of the ongoing Mediterranean Project and for possible future Projects. On the basis of the positive experience deriving from the implementation of the GEF Project, contacts will be maintained with those partners who could contribute, on the long-term, to the implementation of the SAP such as FFEM, METAP, the World Bank, ICS-UNIDO. The UNEP/GPA Secretariat will continue to play a major role in providing guidance and experience-sharing for the implementation of the LBS Protocol and the SAP. Cooperation will be enhanced with the relevant Regional Activity Centre of MAP for the joint implementation of the SAP and the LBS Protocol. In particular, joint work will be carried out with the Blue Plan (indicators, assessments), RAC/ERS (eutrophication), PAP/RAC (river basin management and economic aspects) and CP/RAC (industrial pollution).

Concerning CP/RAC, it is proposed to fully integrate its activities in the activities of SAP and to involve the Centre in all the activities related to the reduction of pollution. To this end, countries may consider to hold joint Focal Point Meetings with MED POL starting from next biennium.

Special attention will be given to the relation with the European Commission in view of the implication that the expansion of the membership to several Mediterranean countries will have on the implementation of the LBS Protocol and the SAP. In addition, the EuroMediterranean partnership is also expected to play an important role in assisting the implementation of the MED POL activities. The cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA) will continue in relation to the streamlining the monitoring data reporting system and the preparation of a new Report on the State of Pollution of the Mediterranean Basin.

Finally, cooperation will be strengthened with two very active sub-regional Agreements, RA.MO.GE. and the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (AII). The Secretariat will continue to cooperate with RA.MO.GE. in the field of biomonitoring, in which substantial contribution was provided in the past, and for the further development of the methodology for the preparation of the baseline budget of pollutant releases for which it already contributed substantially. Concerning the AII, close contacts will be maintained in relation to marine monitoring and river basin management, fields for which programmes and experience have already been successfully exchanged.

As in the past, NGOs will continue to be invited to participate in all MED POL activities to enhance information and experience sharing. NGOs are expected to play a fundamental role in disseminating information on the MED POL Programme and facilitate its implementation.

**Recommendation:**

*To the Secretariat:*

To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to work on the formulation of a new phase of MED POL (2006-2013) that should respond to the needs of the Mediterranean countries in terms of marine, coastal and river pollution assessment and control. The Programme should represent an effective tool for achieving sustainable development and should be based on, and in harmony with, the latest international and regional developments and in particular the Johannesburg Action Plan and the European Union strategies and legislation.

## **2. Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme**

### **National Action Plans (NAPs)**

The biennium 2004-2005 will be crucial for the long-term implementation of the SAP. In fact, after the completion of all the preparatory activities carried out during 2002-2003 (preparation of baseline budgets of pollution releases and national diagnostic analyses, preparation of technical guidelines and regional plans, preparation of guidelines for the formulation of NAPs, identification of national financial instruments, launching of the pre-investment studies funded by the GEF Project), the Secretariat feels that countries now have at their disposal a good technical and policy basis on which to formulate by the year 2005 National Action Plans to Address Pollution from Land-based Activities, as foreseen by the SAP Operational Document. In this context, the Secretariat, with the assistance of the GEF Project, will contract designated national experts to prepare the sectorial plans and finally the NAPs. The experts will be assisted by the Secretariat and other regional experts. Therefore it is expected that by the end of 2005 countries would have their NAPs finalized and operational.

In preparing NAPs, countries should consider the central role that the identified pollution hot spots should play in the objectives and targets that NAPs will contain. Pollution hot spots should in fact represent the main locations where the goals of the NAPs would be measured and followed up. In this framework, the Secretariat will continue to gather data on the identified hot spots and assist countries in measuring pollution reduction trends.

Ensuring the financial sustainability of the implementation of the NAPs and the existence of the appropriate institutional set up in the countries are considered two fundamental elements for the success of the SAP. To this purpose, an expert meeting is planned to review the national efforts to establish the appropriate coordinating mechanisms and a second Donors Committee Meeting will be held to follow the first one scheduled by the end of 2003. Concerning the Donors' Meeting in particular, special emphasis will be given to the follow up to the pre-investment studies carried out with the financial support of GEF, FFEM and ICS-UNIDO, since the long-term goal of the activity was to prepare the ground for specific investments in the selected hot spots.

**Recommendation:**

*To the Contracting Parties:*

To prepare National Action Plans to address pollution from land-based activities as part of the implementation of the SAP; the Plans should be operational by the year 2005, should

focus on the identified pollution hot spots and should take into account the objectives and targets of the SAP as well as the guidelines and regional plans developed by MEDPOL.

### Municipal Wastes

Taking into consideration the commitments of the Johannesburg Summit of 2002 and the recommendations of the Government-designated expert meetings held during 2002-2003 to review the related guidelines, a number of activities are proposed. They are directly linked to the Sanitation Commitment to halve the proportion of people without access to sanitation by 2015 and also support the implementation of SAP.

Following the preparation of the guidelines for sewage treatment and disposal in the Mediterranean region, the Secretariat will promote the launching of programmes to identify and validate sewage treatment technologies. In order to be most effective, issues like alternative sewage treatment for areas with special characteristics and technologies for small sewage treatment plants should be addressed. It is therefore proposed to prepare in cooperation with national experts and authorities:

- a document on natural systems of wastewater treatment, as well as on small systems for less than 10,000 inhabitants.

The development of programmes for sharing and exchanging technical information is one of the directions that not only will provide useful information on the subject of sewage treatment and reuse but that will also contribute to a better preparation of the NAPs. It is proposed to prepare and properly disseminate information on a number of issues that have been raised during the meeting of Government-designated experts held in Athens in April 2003. Although it was considered that appropriate workshops would facilitate the dissemination of information, financial reasons suggest that the preparation of the following documents will be more cost effective:

- a document on environmental impacts and financial aspects of sewage treatment plants;
- guidelines for sludge treatment, disposal and reuse;
- a document on environmental impact of wastewater reuse practices and guidelines on physicochemical parameters for reuse of wastewater, together with a code of good practice for wastewater reuse.

The review of the various guidelines by the experts has proven to be very useful, as the experts indicated the correct direction to follow when dealing with technical issues and highlighted the specific needs for both the country and the Mediterranean region. As a result, it is proposed to convene a Government-designated Experts Meeting that will review the regional guidelines for sludge treatment, disposal and reuse as well as the other above mentioned documents.

According to the SAP Operational Document, countries are expected to update and/or adopt national regulations on sewage discharges to the sea and rivers. In this effort, Parties requiring assistance in the formulation of updated regulations could be technically assisted by the Secretariat upon request.

In relation to the formulation of NAPs to be carried out during 2004 as foreseen by the SAP, it is worth recalling that, when tackling the issue of environmentally sound management of sewage, NAPs should include activities aiming at the connection of all coastal cities and urban agglomerations of more than 100,000 inhabitants to a sewer system, the appropriate location of coastal outfalls, the promotion of all levels of sewage treatment, the adequate



design of treatment facilities and their satisfactory operation and maintenance, as well as the reuse of treated effluents and the organization of training programmes.

### Solid Wastes

During 2000-2001 an assessment of the management systems of coastal litter in the Mediterranean countries was prepared by the Secretariat that was followed in 2002-2003 by the preparation of specific Guidelines. The assessment showed a generalized lack of coordination between national administrations and often the lack of national plans for the proper management of solid waste in the coastal areas. According to the SAP Operational Document, a number of activities should be implemented during the biennium 2004-2005, namely the development of national plans for the reduction at source and the environmentally sound management of urban solid wastes, the establishment of systems of collection and disposal of urban solid wastes in cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants and the promotion of waste reduction and recycling. Considering the preparation of NAPs due during the biennium, the Secretariat feels that the above issues should now be addressed by the countries and incorporated in their NAPs, at least in relation to coastal litter. The Secretariat will assist countries in their efforts and, in doing so, will establish close contacts with the new Regional Centre for Solid Waste Management recently established in Tunisia by the World Bank (METAP) with the financial assistance of the EU.

### Air Pollution

Air pollution is considered for many cities including the coastal ones, as the most important type of pollution that not only affects the cities themselves, but also contributes to the marine pollution when transported by winds. A recent study by WHO has also shown that the air quality in large Mediterranean port cities sharply deteriorates due to the intense traffic of ship vessels, either cargo or passenger, mostly during summer time, when tourism considerably increases.

As indicated in the SAP, activities at regional level regarding air pollution should include the formulation of quality objectives for atmospheric pollutants; as a result, during 2004-2005 it is proposed to prepare a document on the above subject with the assistance of WHO/MED POL.

According to the SAP, countries are expected to develop national plans and programmes to control air pollution from mobile sources. These programmes should include a number of measures such as promotion and provision of incentives for public transportation, improved traffic management, promotion of lead-free petrol, improved inspection and maintenance of vehicles, promotion for the introduction of gaseous fuel or other alternative sources of energy. It is therefore expected that countries will take the above into account when preparing their NAPs.

### Industrial Pollution

The reduction of industrial pollution is perhaps the most important and challenging target of the SAP. Most of the efforts deployed by the Secretariat during the biennium 2002-2003 were in fact addressed to the preparation of the technical and policy basis on which countries could, on the medium- and long- term, operate the necessary action aimed at the eventual reduction and elimination of industrial pollution to be included in their NAPs. It is in this context that many Guidelines and Regional Plans were prepared including the application of

BAT and BEP and that the process of preparing the baseline budget of pollutant releases and National Diagnostic Analyses was launched.

The biennium 2004-2005 is therefore expected to see the preparatory process completed and, through the preparation of NAPs, the first concrete steps towards the reduction of industrial pollution initiated.

In order to finalize the activities dealing with the preparation of the baseline budget of releases during the biennium the secretariat will continue to assist financially or through the help of experts those countries which may face some difficulties in finalizing their reports.

Updating national regulations dealing with industrial waste management is an essential activities that countries should perform under the provisions of the SAP. In this context, the Secretariat will provide the necessary information and assistance that could be used by national authorities to update their regulations.

The expected reduction of 50% of BOD from industrial sources is considered of utmost importance and thus a Regional Plan was prepared by the Secretariat and widely circulated. As a result, NAPs being prepared during the biennium should contain information on the planned national actions in this direction.

The SAP indicates the need to provide countries with technical information and advice on the nine pesticides and PCB substitutes and make appropriate recommendations. Therefore, the Secretariat is proposing to prepare a document providing the above information aiming at reducing industrial pollution, and in particular, at considering alternative methods to avoid the use of Priority Organic Pollutants (POPs).

As the secretariat prepared Guidelines for the environmental sound management of sea water desalination activities, it is essential that countries would disseminate them to national authorities dealing with their planning and management with a view of their full implementation. It was in fact recommended by Government-designated experts to consider desalination an industrial activity subject to the provisions of the LBS Protocol.

## **Recommendations**

### *To the Contracting Parties:*

To adopt the approach proposed by the Secretariat in the Regional Plan for the reduction of 50% of BOD from industrial sources and ask the Secretariat to update the data and information included in the Plan on the basis of the national baseline budgets of pollutant releases;

To adopt the approach proposed by the Secretariat in the Regional Plan for the reduction of 20% of hazardous wastes from industrial sources and ask the Secretariat to update the data and information included in the Plan.

## **Monitoring**

Considering the close link between monitoring activities and the implementation of the SAP as well as the role that the results of monitoring have for planning and implementing coastal zone management in the framework of sustainable development, all possible efforts should be jointly exerted by the Secretariat and the countries to plan and formulate national monitoring programmes and to complete and extend their geographical coverage to the whole region. To this end, the Secretariat will closely work with national experts and officials

to draft new programmes and to update the ongoing ones. It is necessary to recall that the present coverage of the monitoring activities is still unsatisfactory since it only includes about half of the countries of the region. Assistance will be provided to countries as in the past and according to the availability of funds for training, data quality assurance and purchase of equipment and materials.

After the work carried out during 2002-2003 to create a new database for MED POL and to have it operational, during 2004-2005 an overall evaluation of the database will be done in order to be able to assess its implementation by the countries. In this context, the Secretariat will urge countries to transmit any missing data and information to be able to make status and trend analyses. For this purpose, collaborative efforts of regional and national experts would be needed as well as the convening of a workshop. The Secretariat is planning to present a first document on data assessment during the second review meeting of monitoring activities scheduled for the end of 2003.

Since all the work regarding the operation of the new database will be completed during the current biennium, the Secretariat would assume that in the next biennium there will be a continuous interaction of the national and regional scientists with the database and a continuous dataflow to this database through the implementation of ongoing and new monitoring programmes. The web site established to obtain information on the MED POL monitoring programmes will continue to be available and its data inventory will be frequently updated. The Secretariat is also studying the possibility to allow access to MED POL data through internet.

In the context of the development of the MEDPOL data base, it is proposed to adapt the actual data base to handle the data on sources of pollution deriving from the preparation of the baseline budget of pollutant releases implemented in the framework of the SAP and to couple the data base to a GIS system and other information dissemination systems.

After getting the approval of National Coordinators, monitoring of eutrophication in the Mediterranean coastal waters will be incorporated into the MED POL monitoring programme as a new component. The inclusion of this new component according to the criteria set by the short-term strategy should be achieved in all the new national programmes. In parallel, some of the ongoing programmes will need to be revised accordingly. After the implementation of the first steps of the data quality assurance programme in 2003, the activity will continue during 2004-2005 and will include training, inter-calibration exercises and distribution of reference testing material to the laboratories. In addition, the Secretariat will inform the National Coordinators and the participating laboratories about the medium/long-term plan of the programme mainly related to the biological indicators of and the supplementary techniques. For this purpose, the activities will be planned as test pilot projects in cooperation with national authorities and regional/international experts.

The Secretariat will continue to support scientific activities related to Mediterranean emerging environmental issues. These activities mainly support the organization of, and the participation of MEDPOL scientists at, workshops, conferences etc. In addition, a limited number of research projects on subjects related to MED POL could be partially supported. An issue that may need to be explored in relation to the implementation of the SAP is the quantification of releases of pollutants from diffuse sources. In this context, the Secretariat could tackle that issue in coordination with the EU Joint Research Centre in Ispra and other competent Institutions.

Considering that an integrated water monitoring programme (including rivers) will be part of the new MED POL Programme (2006-2013) as a requirement of the LBS Protocol, capacity building activities will be organized during 2004-2005 in relation to river monitoring. In fact, using the opportunity given by the GEF Project, the Secretariat has prepared a set of Power

Point presentations to be used for regional and national training courses on river monitoring. The presentations will be translated into national languages whenever needed. Supplementary manuals for specific issues related to river monitoring will also be prepared.

It is assumed that Mediterranean quality criteria for bathing waters will have been in principle agreed by the end of 2003. In this perspective, it is worth recalling that the new orientations of WHO on bathing water quality are also followed by the European Union, although with some differences observed in the numerical values used. Therefore, the approach to be adopted by the Mediterranean countries is in harmony with that of EU and it does not create any problem for the EU countries where their implementation is mandatory. Consequently, during the biennium 2004-2005 some preliminary activities regarding bathing areas could commence, as for example:

- the preparation of the beach profiles of the bathing areas.

In view of the success of the publication "State and Pressure of the Marine and Coastal Mediterranean Environment" published by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in 1999 in cooperation with MAP/MED POL, it is proposed to prepare a new volume by the year 2005 which would make use of the new data and information collected since 1999 through the implementation of the MED POL monitoring activities and the SAP.

#### **Recommendation:**

##### *To the Contracting Parties:*

To consider monitoring an essential tool for water pollution assessment and control in the framework of sustainable development and, as a result, to make any effort to formulate and implement national monitoring programmes in accordance with the agreed MED POL objectives and methods.

#### Capacity building

In addition to the capacity building activities related to the implementation of the monitoring programmes which will continue during 2004-2005 through the organization of individual and group training courses, provision of equipment and material and the implementation of data quality assurance programmes, the Secretariat will organize a training course for trainers on river monitoring at the end of 2003 and four national training courses scheduled in late 2003 and 2004.

During the biennium 2002-2003 MEDPOL and CP/RAC, with the assistance of the GEF Project, produced a number of Guidelines for industrial waste management, the use of BAT and BEP in industry, and others to be used for planning national activities in the context of the implementation of the SAP. Countries should disseminate these guidelines at national level to the relevant administrations dealing with the implementation of the SAP and others related national activities.

Taking into consideration the requirements of the SAP, a general manual and guidelines on urban policies directed towards energy saving and pollution reduction could be prepared during the biennium 2004-2005 in cooperation with the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).

Considering that the GEF project is expected to be extended to 2004, it is proposed to hold national training courses on environmental inspection systems and on municipal wastewater treatment plants operation and management.

Moreover, if additional funds will be available through the GEF Project, it is proposed to hold a regional training course on wastewater reclamation and reuse practices. This activity would enable those Mediterranean countries with shortage of water to better implement appropriate water management policies and activities.

The SAP Operational Document adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2001 stresses the importance of national institutional aspects and considers them as key elements for the success of the long-term implementation of the SAP. It is therefore suggested to carry out pilot projects in some selected countries to test the clustering approach in the context of SAP.

### Public Participation

Activities related to enhance public participation in the process of implementation of the SAP will continue to be a joint effort by MAP and all its components, on the basis of the MAP's strategy approved by the Contracting Parties. The MED POL Programme will continue to involve NGOs in its activities and will support their activities especially when related to the diffusion of information to the public on the SAP and its objectives.

### Reporting

A draft Reporting System covering the Convention and all the Protocols has been prepared by MAP and is being tested in a number of countries. Reporting on the application of the SAP has not been included so far in the MAP Reporting System in view of the complexity of the SAP and the evident difference in nature of the action contained therein (e.g. policy action, pollution reductions, implementation of action plans, etc.). Considering that SAP should eventually be included in the system, the Secretariat has prepared a draft report entitled "Evaluation of compliance under the provisions of the SAP" which is presenting to this Meeting for comments and approval. The document outlines in detailed form the necessary information that countries have to collate in order to report on their compliance with the SAP requirements. If approved, the Secretariat will launch a test trial on the applicability of the proposed reporting system in selected Mediterranean countries.

As indicated in the SAP, information on levels and trends of loads of pollution will continue to be collected through MED POL as a result of the national monitoring programmes, used for regular assessments and published on the MAP Technical Report Series or other specific volumes. In addition, the preparation of the baseline budgets of pollutant releases prepared under the SAP will allow the Secretariat to collate data on sources of pollution until now not available.

As a result of the successful launching of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) pilot project in Alexandria, Egypt, the Secretariat, in cooperation with ICS-UNIDO, is organizing on 30 June – 1 July 2003 in Alexandria a regional meeting to review the accomplishments of the Egyptian PRTR team and the Guidelines for PRTR implementation in the Mediterranean region and to decide on the list of chemicals and industrial sectors to be included in the Mediterranean PRTR system. The experience gained through the implementation of the project will allow the Secretariat to launch during 2004-2005 the preparation of PRTR in other countries and gradually expand the initiative throughout the region in accordance to the requirements of the SAP.

As a result of the experts meeting on the elaboration of MEDPOL strategy for Marine Pollution Indicators (MRI) held in 2003, the Secretariat will launch during the 2004-2005

biennium the implementation of the “road map” described in the concept paper on Marine Pollution Indicators for the Mediterranean which proposes the DSPIR approach and a framework for the calculation of a core and supplementary sets of MRI, falling under three types of indicators: concentration of chemicals, change in the marine ecosystem and biomarkers, in line with the approach proposed by the European Environment Agency (EEA). The concept document proposes to make use of the indicators for environment and development generated by the Blue Plan in the framework of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).

## **Recommendation**

### *To the Contracting Parties*

To adopt the reporting system related to the implementation of the SAP proposed by the Secretariat

### *Other activities related to the LBS Protocol and the SAP*

As it resulted from the activities carried out during the biennium 2002-2003, those related to environmental compliance and enforcement issues were especially appreciated by a number of countries willing to enhance their capabilities in this field and further develop their inspection systems. In view of the importance of the issue, complementary to the compliance monitoring activities and directly related to the application of the LBS Protocol, during 2004-2005 it is proposed to continue providing assistance to the countries upon request in order to strengthen compliance and enforcement of legislation and systems of inspection in the region.

## **3. Activities related to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol**

With the preparation of the last two Guidelines on dumping of platforms and on dumping of inert material, requested by Art. 3 and 6 of the 1995 Dumping Protocol, and with the preparation of a full report on dumping activities for the period 1995-2001, the Secretariat feels that the work to facilitate the implementation by the countries of the new Protocol has been completed.

On the assumption that the 1995 Dumping Protocol will soon enter into force, during the 2004-2005 biennium the Secretariat will ensure the maximum diffusion of all the Guidelines prepared to national and local authorities and will offer technical and legal assistance to the countries for the application of the Protocol. Information on the application of the Protocol will be collated by the Secretariat in the framework of the MAP Reporting System being tested in the region.

## **Recommendations**

### *To the Contracting Parties*

To adopt the Guidelines for the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures proposed by the Secretariat which were prepared in close consultation with national authorities;

To adopt the Guidelines for the dumping of inert uncontaminated geological materials proposed by the Secretariat which were prepared in close cooperation with national authorities.

#### **4. Activities related to the implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol**

As mentioned above in this document, the MEDPOL and CP/RAC Secretariat produced during the biennium 2002-2003 a Regional Plan for the management of hazardous waste, a Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% of hazardous waste generated by industrial activities and a Regional Plan for the management of PCBs and nine pesticides including an inventory. While it is assumed that those plans will be playing a major role in the pollution reduction activities that NAPs will contain, It is proposed that during 2004-2005 the Secretariat, in cooperation with CP/RAC, will update the information included in the inventory and will organize a consultation meeting to assist countries in the implementation of the Regional Plans taking into consideration the activities implemented at national and regional levels under the provisions of Basel and Stockholm Conventions.