

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting

The Meeting will take place at the Caravel Hotel (Athens) and will be opened at 09.30 hours on Wednesday, 12 December 2007 by the MAP Coordinator and the MED POL Coordinator.

Agenda item 2. Election of Officers

The Meeting shall elect a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur.

Agenda item 3. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

The Provisional Agenda (doc. UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.321/1) and the Provisional Annotated Agenda (doc. UNEP(DEPI) WG.321/2) will be reviewed, amended as necessary, and adopted by the Meeting. Simultaneous translation in English and French will be provided during the Meeting. While the Meeting will examine and adopt a list of Conclusions and Recommendations, a full report will be prepared by the Secretariat at a later stage and sent to all participants for comments and review before its adoption.

Agenda item 4. Scope and Purpose of the Meeting

The MED POL Coordinator will briefly present the background, scope and purpose of the Meeting which is organized following a recommendation of the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Portoroz, Slovenia, 8-11 November 2005). This series of biennial meetings provide an opportunity for MED POL managers and scientists involved in national monitoring programmes to review various aspects of the monitoring activities. During the third review meeting (Palermo, December 2005) monitoring data and activities were presented and evaluated. This time, more emphasis will be given to the problems and their solution in an effort to augment the usability of monitoring data for management purposes (e.g. assessment of effectiveness of pollution reduction measures taken, protection of human health, etc) in prospect of the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities. To this end, country representatives will be expected to contribute to the identification of problems and put forward ideas for their solution.

Agenda item 5. Elements of monitoring activities

5.1 Designing of monitoring programmes

5.1.1 State and trend monitoring

5.1.2 Compliance monitoring

5.2 Sampling strategy

5.3 Data quality assurance

5.4 Data collection and reporting

5.5 Data interpretation and utilization

The Secretariat will introduce document UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.321/3 that provides information on a number of elements of the monitoring activities and ideas for improvement of the situation. The Meeting is expected to review and discuss its content and propose further action aiming at enhancing the effectiveness of the monitoring programme and in improving the usefulness and usability of monitoring results for management purposes.

Under agenda item 5.1.1 the Secretariat will make a presentation on the problems encountered in analyzing MED POL data for trends and the variations that should be minimized in trend monitoring activities.

Under agenda item 5.1.2 the two aspects of compliance monitoring, will be discussed: a) Quantification of pollutant inputs and (b) Health-related monitoring.

As far as quantification of inputs is concerned, emphasis will be given on the estimation of inputs from rivers and streams as well as from diffuse sources including atmospheric inputs. In the meantime, efforts should be made to verify the estimates of inputs from point sources. In health-related monitoring, a comparison will be presented of the two assessments on microbial pollution and the use of the new indicator (faecal streptococci).

Under agenda item 5.3 a presentation will be made on MED POL activities regarding Data Quality Assurance for chemical contaminants, eutrophication parameters and biomarkers and a discussion will follow on the necessary changes to make the DQA programme more effective.

Under agenda item 5.4 the meeting will be informed of the problems encountered in uploading the data received in the database and of the progress achieved in the preparation of the MED POL Information system.

Under agenda item 5.5 participants will be asked to give examples from their countries regarding the use of the monitoring data for management purposes.

Agenda item 6. Specific issues

6.1 Biomonitoring

Under this agenda item, the meeting will have in front of it document UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.321/Inf.3 regarding the MED POL workshop on biological effects monitoring (Alessandria, Italy, 20-21 December 2006) and review its conclusions and recommendations.

6.2 Sediment monitoring strategy

Under this agenda item, the meeting will be invited to comment on the latest version of the Manual for sediment sampling and analysis (UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.321/Inf.4).

6.3 Eutrophication monitoring strategy and assessment

Under this agenda item, the meeting will be invited to comment on the latest version of the document on eutrophication monitoring strategy (UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.321/Inf.5) and on the new document on eutrophication assessment (UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.321/Inf.6).

6.4 Ecosystem approach

Under this agenda item, the meeting will be briefed on the recent developments concerning the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities by MAP and the possible implications it may have on the MED POL monitoring programme.

6.5 Indicators

Under this agenda item, the meeting will be informed of the activities relating to the development of marine pollution indicators (MPIs) and will be invited to comment on document UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.321/Inf.7 relating to the feasibility of implementing MPIs at the national level. In addition, a proposal will be discussed for capacity building in the

determination of ecological indicators in view of the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities.

Agenda item 7. Other Business

The Meeting will discuss any other business that may be raised by the participants or the Secretariat.

Agenda item 8. Conclusions and Recommendations

While a full report will be prepared by the Secretariat at a later stage and sent to all participants for review and amendments before its adoption, the Meeting will examine, amend as appropriate, and adopt a set of draft conclusions and recommendations which will be prepared by the Secretariat as a result of the discussions.

Agenda item 9. Closure of the Meeting

The Chairperson will close the Meeting at 13.00 hours on Friday 14 December 2007.

TIMETABLE

Wednesday 12 December 2007

09.30 – 10.30 h Agenda items 1, 2, 3 and 4
10.30 – 11.00 h *Coffee break*
11.00 – 13.00 h Agenda items 5
13.00 – 14.30 h Lunch break
14.30 – 16.00 h Agenda item 5 (cont'd)
16.00 – 16.30 h *Coffee break*
16.30 – 18.00 h Agenda item 5 (cont'd)

Thursday 13 December 2007

09.30 – 10.30 h Agenda item 6
10.30 – 11.00 h *Coffee break*
11.00 – 13.00 h Agenda item 6 (cont'd)
13.00 – 14.30 h Lunch break
14.30 – 16.00 h Agenda item 6 (cont'd)
16.00 – 16.30 h *Coffee break*
16.30 – 18.00 h Agenda items 6 and 7

Friday 14 December 2007

10.30 – 11.00 h *Coffee break*
11.00 – 13.00 h Agenda items 8 and 9