



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.365/2
27 October 2011

ENGLISH



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

MEDPOL

Consultation Meeting to Review MED POL Monitoring Activities

Athens, 22-23 November 2011

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting

The Meeting will be held in Athens, at the Caravel Hotel. It will be opened on 22 November at 0930 hrs by Mr Francesco Saverio Civili, MED POL Programme Coordinator.

Agenda item 2. Election of Officers

The Meeting will elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur

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

The participants will review and amend as necessary the Agenda as presented in docs. UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.365/1 and UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.365/2) with a view to its adoption. The Meeting will be conducted with English and French simultaneous translation. The report of the Meeting will be prepared by the Secretariat after the Meeting and circulated to all participants for amendments before finalisation.

Agenda item 4. Scope and purpose of the Meeting

Mr Civili will brief the Meeting on the background and the objectives of the Consultation Meeting. A Meeting to review the MED POL monitoring activities is held every two years with the purpose of presenting and discussing the result of the work carried out by the national institutions, the Secretariat and the partner bodies with a view at identifying gaps and problems and finding appropriate correcting measures. In view of the implementation of the gradual application of the Ecosystem Approach (ECAP), the Meeting this year will present and discuss assessment reports on the state of the marine environment regarding hazardous substances and on pollution trends. Also, the meeting will discuss the steps undertaken for the development of Ecological Objectives and Operational Objectives related to pollution, and a Background document on a methodology for the development of Environmental Assessment Criteria for hazardous substances will be presented (see Agenda item 8.). Furthermore, the meeting will discuss the future of the monitoring activities of MED POL and specifically on the role of MED POL in the development of the integrated MAP monitoring programme in the framework of the ECAP, which will be developed during the next biennium (see Agenda item 8.). Finally the revised Manual for sediment analysis will be presented for adoption.

Agenda item 5. Overall review and analysis of the implementation of monitoring activities

The Secretariat will make a short overall review of the status of implementation of monitoring activities by highlighting the current strategy and challenges of the Programme, the participation of countries and the spatial and temporal gaps of data and programmes.

Agenda item 6. Data collection and reporting

- 6.1 MED POL III and IV marine monitoring database (MED POL)
- 6.2 Data Quality assurance
 - 6.2.1 Hazardous substances (Ms E. Vasileva-Veleva, IAEA, Monaco)
 - 6.2.2. Nutrients (MED POL)
 - 6.2.3. Biomarkers (Mr. A. Viarengo, DISAV, Italy)

Under agenda item 6.1, a more detailed and technical analysis will be presented on the status of implementation of national monitoring programmes in the Mediterranean countries, in line with the requirements of MED POL Phases III and IV, including data collection and reporting. Under agenda item 6.2, presentations will be made on the status of implementation of the Data Quality Assurance Programme of MED POL for hazardous substances, nutrients and eutrophication parameters, and biomarkers (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.365/3, chapters 3 and 4.). A discussion will follow each presentation with a view to identify gaps and problems and seek solutions.

Agenda item 7. Assessment of the state and trends of pollution

7.1. Assessment of the state of marine coastal environment: hazardous substances in sediments and biota (Mr J. Albaiges).

7.2. Assessment of pollution trends in marine biota from hot spot areas (Mr R. Precali)

Under agenda item 7, two assessments will be presented: (a) on the levels of hazardous substances in sediment and biota across the Mediterranean (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.365/Inf.4) and (b) on the results of site-specific pilot study for monitoring temporal trends at hot-spots (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.365/Inf.5). Both assessments are based on the MED POL marine database and outline achievements, problems and gaps (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.365/3, chapter 5). A discussion will follow each presentation with a view to identify gaps and to add information from the countries, with the aim to prepare a MED POL Thematic Assessment Report on Hazardous Substances during the next biennium.

Agenda item 8. MED POL's role in, and contribution to the process of implementation of the Ecosystem Approach

Under this agenda item, the steps already taken for the gradual application of the Ecosystem Approach (ECAP) will be presented, including the proposed Ecological Objectives and Operational Objectives with appropriate indicators (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.365/Inf.6). Furthermore, the capacity of the MED POL monitoring programme to generate data for the pollution related Ecological Objectives will be presented (eutrophication, contamination and litter) (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.365/3, chapter 6). Also the Secretariat will present two documents on methodologies proposed for the setting of threshold values for the definition of Good Environmental Status: (i) on eutrophication (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.365/Inf.7) (Mr. F. Giovanardi) and (ii) on the hazardous substances in sediment and biota (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.365/Inf.8) (Mr. Albaiges and Mr. Herut).

Agenda item 9. Sediment monitoring strategy

Under this agenda item, the meeting will be invited to comment on the latest revised version of the Manual for sediment sampling and analysis, with the addition of a chapter on methods to measure the sedimentation rate (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.365/inf.9). Once adopted, the document will be recommended for use in the implementation of the National Monitoring Programmes in the Mediterranean region.

Agenda item 10. The MED POL Information System

The Secretariat with the assistance of Mr. Marco Montuori, MED POL expert, will present the MED POL Info System, which has been finalised and is expected to be fully operational by the beginning of 2012.

Agenda item 11. Other Business

The participants and the Secretariat will be able to propose, under this agenda item, any other business related to the subjects dealt with by the Meeting.

Agenda item 12. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Secretariat will prepare a set of draft conclusions and recommendations deriving from the discussions of the Meeting, for discussion and approval. Such conclusions and recommendations will be included at a later stage in the Report of the Meeting.

Agenda item 13. Closure of the Meeting

The Meeting will be closed by The Chairperson at 1830 hrs on 23 November 2011.

WORK PLAN AND TIMETABLE

TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 08.30 – 09.30 h | Registration |
| 09,30 - 10,00 h | Agenda items 1., 2., 3., 4. |
| 10,00 - 10,30 h | Agenda item 5. |
| 10,30 - 11,00 h | Coffee break |
| 11,00 - 13,00 h | Agenda item 6. |
| 13,00 - 14,30 h | Lunch break |
| 14,30 – 16,30 h | Agenda item 6. (cont'd) and Agenda item 7. |
| 16,30 – 17,30 h | Coffee break |
| 17,30 – 18,30 h | Agenda item 7. (cont'd) |

WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER

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| 09,30 – 11,00 h | Agenda items 8. |
| 11,00 – 11,30 h | Coffee break |
| 11,30 – 13,00 h | Agenda item 8. (cont'd) |
| 13,00 – 15,00 h | Lunch break and preparation by the Secretariat of draft Conclusions and Recommendations |
| 15,00 – 16,30 h | Agenda item 9., Agenda item 10. |
| 16,30 – 17,00 h | Coffee Break |
| 17,00 - 18,30 h | Agenda items 11., 12. and 13. |