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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN
MED POL**

Meeting of the Working Group to review the long-term implementation of National Action Plans
to address pollution from land-based activities

Barcelona, (Spain), 1-2 March 2007

REPORT

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW THE LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PLANS TO ADDRESS POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

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Introduction

1. At the meeting to review the implementation of NAPs, held in Durrës (Albania) from 1 to 3 June 2006, it was decided to establish a working group with the main task of proposing “how to apply the differentiated approach, with possible mechanisms, and to explore their implementations, thus contributing to a smooth transition between the existing SAP and the new SAP as regards formulation of measures and timetables”.

2. Further to this decision, and to facilitate the activities of the Working Group, the Secretariat had drawn up, with the assistance of regional experts, a paper reviewing several possible differentiation mechanisms, and it convened a meeting of the Working Group, which was held on 1 and 2 March 2007 at the *Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)*, Barcelona (Spain).

Participation

3. The following members of the Working Group representing Contracting Parties participated in the meeting: Albania, Croatia, Egypt, European Commission, France, Israel, Malta, Morocco, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey. Montenegro and the Palestinian participated as observers.

4. The following representatives of the specialized agencies of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations also participated in the meeting: UNEP/GPA Coordination Office, World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Centre for Science and High Technology of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (ICS-UNIDO).

5. The following were represented by experts: Institut de developpement durable et des relations internationals (IDDRI – France), University of the Aegean, Research and Development Centre of the Higher Council for Scientific Research (CID-CISC, Spain), the Enresa-Enviros Chair of Sustainability and Waste Management of the Technical University of Catalonia (UPC), and two non-governmental organizations – MIO-ECSDE and Medcities.

6. Finally, the Regional Activity Centre for the Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC) and the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) also attended the Meeting.

7. The full list of participants is contained in **Annex I** to this report.

Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting

8. Professor Jordi Bruno, Chief of the Enresa-Enviros Chair of Sustainability and Waste Management at UPC Barcelona, welcomed the participants. On behalf of UPC, he said that hosting such a meeting was of great significance in view of the involvement of the Enresa-Enviros in issues of sustainability and in the North-South scientific dialogue that it was seeking to develop for the benefit of the Mediterranean region. In this respect, the collaboration that had just commenced between UPC and the MED POL Programme was a tangible illustration of regional solidarity in combating pollution.

9. Mr Paul Mifsud, MAP Coordinator, thanked UPC for its hospitality and the means made available for the meeting and emphasized that the atmosphere of study and research which prevailed in these surroundings would undoubtedly be propitious for the discussions that were about to open and which followed those held in Durrës in June 2006. The work expected of the Working Group was based on the terms of reference established for it: to examine other possible criteria to serve as a basis for a differentiation mechanism for the responsibilities incumbent upon Mediterranean countries for the reduction of pollution from land-based activities. This work needed to be seen in relation to other developments that were occurring in the region, such as the recognition by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of the importance of the SAP and the NAPs, the "Horizon 2020" initiative and the preparation of a new SAP MED. The Secretariat therefore expected that the meeting would adopt relevant conclusions and recommendations on the measures to be adopted in relation to the issue of the differentiated approach. These elements would be submitted to the meeting of MED POL National Coordinators in June, the meetings of the focal points of the various MAP components in September and October, and finally to the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in December 2007.

10. Mr Francesco Saverio Civili, MED POL Coordinator, recalled certain points that appeared to him to be essential in relation to the meeting's objectives. The regional process of pollution reduction had commenced in 1997 with the adoption of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP). In 2001, the Contracting Parties adopted an operational document for the concrete implementation of the SAP objectives and activities that had been prepared by the Secretariat. In this document, the approach agreed upon for achieving pollution reduction had been that of a "flat rate", or in other words the countries had to achieve the same percentage of reduction established by the SAP for the specific pollutants. Over recent years,

as a basis for the operational phase, countries had been called upon to formulate National Diagnostic Assessments (NDAs) and National Baseline Budgets (NBBs) of pollutant emissions/releases and they had all responded positively, which meant that it was now possible to have a fairly exact and precise picture of the pollution inputs in the Mediterranean on a country basis.

11. This solid basis had also enabled the countries to establish, in accordance with the major orientations of the SAP, their National Action Plans, which had been approved by the last meeting of the Contracting Parties. However, on the opinion of the Secretariat, based on the analysis of the large amount of data and information obtained, a new reality had gradually emerged: if the flat rate was maintained, countries would have the greatest difficulty in complying with the commitments that they had themselves made in their NAPs. At the Durrës meeting in June 2006, the Secretariat had therefore proposed a new formula based on a differentiated approach for pollution reduction. The countries reviewed the Secretariat proposal and felt that a wider range of differentiation criteria had to be examined, resulting in the decision to establish the present Working Group, with precise terms of reference. So as to prepare for the Working Group, the Secretariat had recruited two eminent experts, who had drawn up a document setting out a much wider spectrum of scenarios and options for differentiation mechanisms, describing their principles and implications. On the basis of this document, the Secretariat had prepared a new paper gathering together the essential elements for a new strategy for the implementation of the NAPs, with a proposed roadmap for 2008-2020. What the Secretariat expected from the meeting was clear guidance on the approach to be followed for the implementation of the NAPs, based on an applicable, equitable and practicable differentiation mechanism.

Agenda item 2. Election of Officers

12. The Secretariat indicated that, as the present meeting consisted of a Working Group, only the conclusions and recommendations would be adopted at the end of the meeting, and that the report would be drafted subsequently by the Secretariat and forwarded to the participants for their observations and approval. On the basis of the informal consultations held among participants, the meeting elected its officers as follows:

Chairperson	Mr Ahmed Abu-El-Seoud (Egypt)
Vice-Chairperson	Ms Nada Krstulovic (Croatia)

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

13. The Meeting examined and adopted the provisional agenda (UNEP(DEPI)MED WG. 307/1) and the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP(DEPI)MED WG. 307/2). The agenda is reproduced in **Annex II** of the present report.

14. One representative observed that agenda item 5, covering a “new revised strategy for the long-term implementation of NAPs”, did not appear to him to be in the terms of reference assigned to the Working Group in Durrës, namely “to propose how to apply the differentiated approach and to explore their implications, thus contributing to a smooth transition between the existing SAP and the new SAP”.

15. The MED POL Coordinator indicated that the meeting was not called upon to directly discuss a new SAP, but merely to discuss, review and possibly identify a differentiation mechanism which would then be one of the key elements taken into account in the formulation of the new SAP.

16. One representative emphasized the complexity of the situation. On the one hand, there was a SAP and NAPs, which had been adopted by the Contracting Parties, and on the other there was a new situation that was emerging over time and which required perspectives to be reviewed and new concepts to be examined, such as the ecosystem approach, on which a meeting had been held in Athens the previous week, and the differentiated approach that was being addressed today. What was at issue was not the establishment of new obligations, but merely to maintain flexibility to anticipate developments, without yet being certain of the outcome.

17. One representative considered that, in view of the multiplicity of plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives for pollution reduction in the region, what was important was to endeavour to harmonize them and coordinate their timeframes, and that even in a technical meeting such as the present one, this objective should not be overlooked.

Agenda item 4. Review of possible differentiation mechanisms to address pollution reduction in the context of the NAPs

18. The MED POL Coordinator indicated that the meeting would hear a presentation by Mr Jordi Bruno of information document UNEP(DEPI)MED WG. 307/Inf. 3, which had been drawn up in collaboration with Mr Jordi Pon. The two MAP consultants were both experts of

the Enresa-Enviros Chair at UPC. The paper was based on the terms of reference of the Working Group drawn up in Durrës and would enable the Group to base its discussions on a broad range of scenarios, options, principles and implications to guide it in any choice of the most appropriate differentiation mechanism for the implementation of the pollution reduction process, also taking into account geo-political and socio-economic considerations, the availability of data and the experience of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

Nature of the measures

19. Mr Jordi Bruno briefly recalled the main aspects of the situation that had led to the formulation of the paper. With regard to the nature of measures to combat pollution, he made a distinction between two groups: (a) targeting reductions in pollutant loads in relation to total baseline emissions or emission/release intensity; and (b) achieving environmental quality objectives by applying emission limit values (ELVs) or achieving environmental quality standards (EQSs). When engaged in the reduction of emissions of industrial origin, it was rational to determine an optimal emission/release level per sector by estimating the emission factors expected through the adoption of best available techniques (BATs). He illustrated these options as they applied to Mediterranean countries, sectors and industrial installations, and “virtual” industrial sectors. The nature of the measures and their scope of application would have to be determined and combined based on the nature of the substances concerned (persistent and toxic, with localized effects, hazardous waste), the nature of their sources (distributed throughout the region, grouped by sector or subsector, concentrated in “hot spots”, located near to protected areas).

20. During the discussion on this first part, all the speakers praised the quality of the paper and recognized that covering such a complex field, with significant political implications, in a few dozen pages constituted a real feat. Several considered that there was a certain confusion between measures and objectives, also in the application of the concept of BATs which, in practice, depended on the capacity of the countries concerned and their level of development, and even in the definition of ELVs, indicators, EQSs and EQOs (or EcoQOs). The MAP Coordinator emphasized that Mr Bruno was clearly not proposing either measures or objectives, but merely reviewing the situation, with the various available options, and that the meeting would then discuss a working paper containing the Secretariat’s proposals established on the basis of the paper that was now under discussion.

21. The MED POL Programme Officer recalled that the essential objective of the present exercise was the application of the SAP, adopted in 1997 and launched in 2001, and therefore of its sub-objectives relating to two essential components, pollution caused by urban development and pollution from industrial sources. As the purpose of the present exercise was to propose a possible differentiation mechanism for the responsibilities incumbent upon countries, the target was pollution from industrial sources and it would be necessary to remain within these limits. Pollution due to urban development was of a more general nature and was not covered by a differentiation mechanism, as it was difficult to quantify.

Differentiation mechanisms

22. Mr Bruno then described the various possible differentiation mechanisms, beginning with the background to the basic conceptual framework and principles which historically had been progressively included in many international instruments, such as the Rio Declaration and the Framework Convention on Climate Change, and ending up with mechanisms of common but differentiated responsibilities and burden sharing, with different legal obligations and the concept of financial assistance from developed countries and the transfer of technology. The SAP established overall objectives in terms of the percentage reduction of specific pollutants in relation to a reference value and within a specific time-frame. Data available in the bibliography showed that the "flat rate" approach was neither impartial, equitable nor cost-effective. Certain rules for the sharing of burdens therefore needed to be established and agreed upon, while ensuring that the operational basis for such rules was observed, including universal application, simplicity and facility of adjustment to developments.

23. In the discussion that followed, one participant expressed some doubts on the generalized application of the principles of differentiation. This concept was only recommended in the case of international treaties, such as the Kyoto Protocol, and for effects at the planetary level. Nothing required the Barcelona Convention to adopt such an approach, even though certain of its provisions called for the socio-economic and environmental conditions specific to the various countries to be taken into account. It would in practice be the first time that such an approach had been adopted at the regional level.

24. Another representative noted the absence in the paper of the polluter-pays principle, which was laid down in the Barcelona Convention. In the reality of globalization, pollution was caused not so much by countries as by major multinational companies, and great

attention needed to be paid to the social problems that could be caused, such as relocation, nor should the fact be overlooked that other conventions were applicable to the Mediterranean. One participant noted the difficulty in identifying the approach to be adopted: the title of the paper referred to the NAPs, which covered the national level, while the terms of reference established in Durrës concerned the SAP, which applied to the regional level.

25. In contrast, one representative indicated that in developing countries the principle of common but differentiated responsibility appeared to be essential. Far from being new, it had been included in environmental and development agreements for the past ten years and took into account the other priorities of the countries of the South, such as poverty, education, health, etc. Although these countries were certainly endeavouring to protect and value their environment, they could not go beyond their capacities and therefore called upon the developed countries in the North to recognize their responsibilities in relation to the state of the planet and the Mediterranean.

26. The MED POL Coordinator indicated that it was not the first occasion on which differentiation had been mentioned. In Durrës, the basic contention had been that, particularly for economic reasons, many Mediterranean countries would not be capable of fulfilling the commitments made in the NAPs. Perhaps things had gone a little fast at the time, but the approach had appeared rational and it had been considered that it was necessary to explore it in all its options, on the understanding that its implementation could take years and would need to be adapted to the conditions in the region. This was only the first stage of a long-term process which should be approached without undue haste. It was part of a dynamic process, the outcome of which should be a new legally binding SAP, and it was a difficult and complex moment for the Secretariat and for national experts.

27. The MAP Coordinator reaffirmed that the purpose of the meeting was to address a regional problem: disparities between countries in their economic and technical capacity to combat the pollution of the Mediterranean, leading to the idea of the differentiated approach, which had been endorsed in Durrës, even though the methodology of its presentation had appeared inadequate. It was true that the Convention did not explicitly offer a legal basis for this approach. It was not the role of the present meeting to take political decisions, but to examine how progress could be made in this direction and within what type of very general timeframe. The paper prepared was limited in scope to a technical analysis.

28. Mr Bruno continued by describing how to proceed from principles to the practical application of operational rules for the sharing of responsibility, namely: (1) *sovereignty*: all

countries reduced their waste by the same percentage as a function of their respective current contributions; (2) *the rule of equity*: countries contributed to the overall reduction objective in proportion to their share of the total population of the region; (3) *responsibility*: countries reduced their releases in proportion to their responsibility; (4) *capacity*: countries contributed in proportion to their respective wealth or aptitude to defray the cost of reduction (such as GDP per capita); (5) *needs*: burdens were attributed according to development indicators; (6) *opportunities*: countries contributed in accordance with the cost-efficient opportunity for pollution reduction; (7) *the multicriteria rule*: combining needs, responsibility and capacity, or: (8) combining opportunity, responsibility and capacity. The consultant provided examples of burden sharing for each of the principles referred to above as applied to an overall reduction objective using data for fictional countries with profiles that fitted the Mediterranean region. He then demonstrated how the results achieved could be used to identify and group countries according to whether they were in a position to “act now”, “required cooperation to act now” or would need to benefit from a different timeframe, temporary exceptions, etc. A case study was presented relating to a particular industrial sector with the objective of achieving convergence between countries in relation to the emission/release intensity obtained following the adoption of best available techniques (BATs). Finally, Mr Bruno described criteria and mechanisms which could be used to adopt a flexible approach to differentiation.

29. One participant considered that it would be necessary to adjust the real data of the countries in the case study when a differentiation mechanism, whichever it might be, was presented to them. In this respect, the Chairperson and the MED POL Coordinator recalled that this was a phase of exploration and agreement on principles, but not on a firm mechanism for application in the near future. At the present time, the role of the Working Group consisted of agreeing upon a roadmap for the possible and progressive formulation and adoption of such a mechanism.

30. The consultant, turning to the last part of his presentation, reviewed the various data available and which would be required for a differentiated application of pollution reduction measures: NBBs, NDAs, the European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER), PRTR Registers, the MAP Technical Reports Series and documentation from the EEA, Blue Plan and MEDSTAT. For the emission factors that could be achieved with BATs, a good source of information was the European Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Bureau (EIPPCB) and its reference documents (BREF). In order to take into account the various national situations, socio-economic data were required which could be obtained from EIB, the World Bank, the OECD and EUROSTAT, as well as in the Blue Plan's Environment and

Development Report. Finally, Mr Bruno enumerated the means available through the MED POL programme and its various types of data, including data on trend monitoring of specific pollutants and on “hot spots”. Similarly, CP/RAC in Barcelona offered a wealth of documentation on industrial pollution and cleaner production procedures in the Mediterranean, and SPA/RAC on the state of biodiversity. In conclusion, he presented a summary table of the information required, with the timeframe of its availability, for the application of a differentiated approach based on the selected objectives: percentage reduction in relation to total baseline emissions and emission/release intensity, EVLs and EQSs.

31. In the discussion that followed covering the whole of the consultant’s presentation, one participant considered that it constituted an excellent work but that it needed to be confronted with the reality. According to the tables and scenarios presented for certain sharing rules, countries which had a negative level of authorized final releases would have to reduce their emissions by 100 per cent and would also have to contribute to emission reduction in other countries. It was difficult to see how countries could accept such an obligation. Some economic considerations were also to be added, starting with the estimated cost of the various sharing rules envisaged. Certain rules might be more beneficial in terms of cost-efficiency, for example in relation to the “flat rate”, although this still needed to be demonstrated. With regard to the grouping of countries with similar national situations, it should be noted that countries adopted broadly differing definitions and obligations in terms of their environmental policies, especially in the case of EU Member States, which placed emphasis on quality objectives in accordance with the Water Framework Directive, and it was difficult to see how these countries could be united under the same mechanism. The Barcelona Convention provided a legal basis, and certain of the obligations proposed, such as the transfer of technology and financial assistance, went well beyond its provisions. Finally, with regard to the temporary exemptions from which certain countries would benefit, it was necessary to take into account the time factor and its cost, although this factor was not covered by the paper.

One participant proposes that the National Diagnostic Analysis (NDA), Baseline Budget (BB), Economic Instruments (EI) and Sectoral Plans (SP) and finally National Action Plan (NAP) reports which were prepared by the Contracting Parties should be reviewed by MEDPOL in order to determine the regional and sub-regional priorities for pollutants and associated sources in the Mediterranean Region. Then the Contracting Parties would be grouped at sub regional level to address their common priority pollution source types. Thus some projects on

land based sources of pollution would be developed to reduce these priority pollution source types. Finally a capacity building programme would be implemented in parallel.

32. With regard to the time factor, Mr Bruno replied that it was an underlying aspect of all the proposed mechanisms, even if there was no explicit reference to it. In relation to the economic evaluation of costs, it would have been very complex and would have gone well beyond the framework established in the Durrës terms of reference. The Secretariat added that such a study had been sketched out for the Durrës meeting with regard to the reduction of BOD in view of the large amount of data available, which had shown that the “flat rate” approach was inequitable. In relation to the legal basis, Articles 9 and 7 of the LBS Protocol provided, respectively, for the transfer of technology and the various characteristics of countries to be taken into account, which could be assimilated to a principle of differentiation.

33. On this latter point, it was argued that differentiation did not necessarily mean burden sharing, particularly in the context of globalization, when more needed to be done in relation to multinational enterprises than States and governments. The polluter-pays principle, set forth in the Convention, therefore appeared more applicable at the operational level. Another participant defended the principle of burden sharing and observed that developing countries had not polluted in the past, even if they were causing pollution now, while in contrast industrialized countries bore a historical responsibility.

34. The MAP Coordinator, in reply to the observation by a representative, reaffirmed that the terms of reference of the Working Group were clear: to examine the manner in which the principle of joint but differentiated responsibility could be applied to the process of pollution reduction launched under the auspices of the Convention through the adoption of the SAP and implemented at the national level through the NAPs with a view to facilitating this process, as the flat rate approach had been considered inadequate for a number of countries. In this sense, the Working Group was invited to establish a roadmap on a basis proposed by the Secretariat, but which it had full latitude to review, amend and challenge.

Agenda item 5. New revised strategy for the long-term implementation of NAPs

35. The MED POL Coordinator presented sections 1 and 2 of the working paper UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 307/3, entitled “Revised strategy for the long-term implementation of the NAPs”. The first part was based on an evaluation of NDAs, NBBs and NAPs and was intended to retarget and regroup substances on the basis of three timeframes for action: 2010, 2015 and 2025. For 2010 there was a list of substances which constituted a reminder

of the priorities that had been directly established by countries in their respective NAPs and on which they had the means to intervene. For 2015, priority substances were indeed identified but on the understanding that capacity building and the gathering of more data were necessary. He noted that for the timeframe 2025 it was not yet possible to provide precise targets and, while awaiting relevant data and information, it would be necessary to put off the decision as to whether or not they were to be included in the list of reduction targets.

36. There was a lengthy exchange of views on the purpose, justification and relevance of the proposed grouping of substances and several clarifications were asked from the Secretariat.

37. The Secretariat noted that a similar discussion had already been held in Durrës, where the meeting had agreed to entrust the current Working Group with the task of refining the establishment of priorities. By proposing the 2010, 2015 and 2025 priority targets, the Secretariat was not taking any initiative of its own, but was putting forward the principle elements drawn from its analysis of the NBBs and NAPs, thereby reflecting the decisions made by countries for their interventions to combat pollution based on the objectives and timeframes set out in the SAP. There was no question of a binding text, but of providing guidance. All the references were available in the list of information documents. This part of the document should be read in relation to the NAPs, which was why there were no details. However, the Secretariat was open to any amendment or proposal. Indeed, that was the purpose of the Working Group.

38. Following the reminder by the Chairperson that the meeting consisted of a group of experts with the objective of reviewing and recommending new approaches, and that it was not a meeting of decision-makers, Mr Civili proposed that, once the presentation had been completed and any further discussions held, the sitting should be interrupted so that members of the Working Group could draft conclusions and a roadmap reworked in the light of the discussions. This text would then be submitted to the Working Group in plenary sitting for examination and approval.

39. The representatives of the European Commission, France, Israel, Morocco, Turkey and Spain volunteered to be members of drafting group.

40. Mr Abousamra, MED POL Programme Officer, presented sections 3 and 4 of the working paper. He explained that, when proposing the differentiated approach, the objective

sought was the implementation, through the NAPs, of a process of pollution reduction which offered the best possible cost-efficiency ratio. This necessity had been emphasized in the many meetings that had accompanied the preparation of the NAPs, in the doubts expressed by countries in relation to their possibilities of achieving the specified pollution reduction objectives without jeopardizing their legitimate development needs, and the analysis of the NAPs carried out by MED POL. On the basis of the information document that had been presented and examined previously, the Secretariat was making a proposal which retained three of the mechanisms enumerated by the consultants: (1) the reduction of loads on the basis of the NBB and the emission factors derived through BATs; (2) quality of the environment on the basis of ELVs and/or EQOs; and (3) combinations of mechanisms. While the second mechanism was undoubtedly the most appropriate, it would take years. This had led to the proposal of a roadmap in two stages which covered several possible timeframes. It was for the meeting to express an opinion and to provide guidance on the initiation of a process and the possibility, in the more or less long term, of reaching agreement on the criteria to be applied.

41. The discussion was marked by six positions: (1) difficulties in applying ELVs in certain countries, without any guarantee of the reduction of total loads and, in general, the impossibility of introducing uniform ELVs in the region due to the disparity between capacities and resources, which was why the differentiated approach appeared to be the only realistic solution; (2) the requirement to apply the polluter-pays and the precautionary principles, which were foremost among the general obligations set out by the Convention, without waiting for the current objectives of the SAP and the NAPs to be revised during the course of negotiations on indicators, ELVs, EQOs and NQOs, which were not yet sure to take place and were of a long-term nature: the core of the problem of the effectiveness of the pollution reduction process was the adoption as of now and progressively of BATs and BEPs, which implied major investments in industry, and it was only then that burden sharing could be envisaged by calling on other bodies; (3) the determining role of international financial institutions, as the Barcelona Convention was clearly not intended or capable of replacing them for the required investments; (4) the grouping of neighboring countries in priority sub-regions based on certain substances or groups of substances which caused heavy pollution; (5) as the above interventions nearly all implied a revision of the objectives of the SAP and the NAPs, it would be necessary to justify the change in objectives by reasons other than theoretical and bibliographical considerations and to introduce a great deal of caution and flexibility in the proposed measures, depending on the substances, without taking the risk of once again having to review everything in ten years' time; and (6) defence of the principle of differentiation, which was the only way of introducing equity

between industrialized and developing countries, without leaving aside load reduction and environmental quality standards, where possible having recourse to a country approach and a sectoral approach within each country, and the combination of the mechanisms described by the consultant.

Agenda item 6. Other business

42. No other business was raised.

Agenda item 7. Conclusions and recommendations

43. The text of the draft conclusions drawn up by the small drafting group based on the discussions was distributed, examined carefully, discussed, reworked and finally approved by the meeting, as reproduced in **Annex III** to this report. The Secretariat recalled that a full report of the meeting would be drafted later and sent to the participants for observations/modifications before being finalized.

Agenda item 8. Closure of the meeting

44. The MED POL Coordinator said that the meeting had undoubtedly been difficult, with frank and sometimes intense discussions, and that for the Secretariat, far from regretting this, it demonstrated that MED POL had passed from theory to the reality of practical action. The conclusions adopted by the Working Group were constructive, clarified any misunderstanding and provided clear indications of the wishes of countries and the route that they intended to follow or not follow to make the process of pollution reduction in the region more effective.

45. Following the usual exchange of courtesies, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed on Friday 2 March 2007 at 5.10 pm.

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.** Election of Officers

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

- Agenda item 4.** Review of possible differentiation mechanisms to address pollution reduction in the context of the NAPs

- Agenda item 5.** New revised strategy for the long-term implementation of NAPs

- Agenda item 6.** Other business

- Agenda item 7.** Conclusions and recommendations

- Agenda item 8.** Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX III

CONCLUSIONS
(adopted in session on 02 March 2007)

The working group to review the process of long-term implementation of the NAPs, meeting in Barcelona, Spain, 1-2 March 2007;

Aware of the importance of the contribution of the SAP (adopted in 1997), and the related NAPs, and working towards regional pollution reduction and the implementation of the MSSD;

Noting with satisfaction that all Mediterranean countries have prepared the NDAs and NBBs that were used in preparing sectoral plans, economic instruments and NAPs;

Aware that implementation of the NAPs is the responsibility of the Parties, and will require adequate financial resources and capacities, and will enhance economic, technological and social development at local and national levels;

Noting that the implementation of the 1997 SAP through NAPs has to be adjusted in order to make it possible for its targets to be achieved by Contracting Parties;

Considering that the Parties and the Secretariat have to take appropriate measures to make use of the possibilities offered by the Horizon 2020 Initiative and the GEF Strategic Partnership in order to achieve the objectives of the LBS Protocol, the SAP, and the NAPs;

Considering that the implementation of the NAPs represents a fundamental step towards actual reductions in pollution;

Considering the socioeconomic and environmental differences between the Mediterranean countries, the varying ability of the countries to achieve pollution reductions; and their differential responsibilities vis-à-vis releases of specific pollutants;

Considering that the development of the new SAP may benefit from the development of the process described below;

Aware that, in view of the different contributions to environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities;

- While continuing the implementation of the process of the NAPs, according to their national capabilities and capacities, agreed to continue to develop a differentiated approach for the application of the pollution reduction process;

- To this end, agreed on the following road map:

(2008-2009)

- assess the state of the art of ELV development,
- propose a list of common, as appropriate, regional and sub-regional ELVs for priority substances and sectors covered by NAPs, taking into consideration national ELVs and ELVs based on BAT (as appropriate);
- develop a differentiation mechanism for the implementation of regional ELVs including monitoring and control processes, taking into consideration that national total released loads should not increase;
- approve the differentiation mechanism, by the Contracting Parties;

- start the process of developing, as appropriate, regional and/or sub-regional, Environmental Quality Objectives (EQOs) for the marine environment;

(2010-2015)

- adjust the implementation of the actions described in the NAPs on the basis of the approved differentiation mechanism, for the priority list of substances and sectors according to the annexes of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme;

(2015)

- adoption of EQOs;

(2015-2020)

- implementation of measures to achieve EQOs.