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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

Consultation meeting on marine and coastal wastes  
in the Mediterranean

Athens, Greece, 20-21 December 1999

**REPORT OF THE  
CONSULTATION MEETING ON MARINE AND  
COASTAL WASTES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

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## **Introduction**

1. At the invitation of MAP/MED POL, the Consultation meeting on marine and coastal wastes in the Mediterranean was held at the MAP office in Athens on 20-21 December 1999.

## **Attendance**

2. The consultation was attended by seven Mediterranean experts in the field of marine and coastal litter management (MCLM) from Italy, Lebanon, Israel, France and Greece together with experts from IOC, WHO, HELMEPA(NGO) and the Secretariat. The full list of participants is attached in Annex 1.

## **Opening**

3. The consultation meeting was opened by Mr F.S. Civili, MED POL Coordinator who welcomed the participants and introduced the scope and objectives of the meeting which was held as a result of the concerns expressed by the Mediterranean governments concerning the degradation of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment by marine and coastal litter (MCL).

4. He stressed on the importance of the meeting which would provide the platform for the exchange of views and experiences needed to set up the elements for the elaboration and implementation of a Mediterranean marine and coastal waste project as part of MED POL.

5. He gave the participants an overview of the existing legal aspect related to the project, and recalled that under the LBS protocol provisions solid waste are included as source of pollution and that the Strategic Action Plan adopted by the Parties contained activities specifically dealing with solid waste management.

## **Adoption of the agenda**

6. Mr Civili introduced the proposed agenda which was adopted by the meeting and appears as Annex II.

## **Background and scope**

7. Mr F. Abousamra, MED POL Program officer, introduced the document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.164/2 entitled "Summary Background Paper by the Secretariat".

8. After a short introduction on the harmful effects of MCL on the marine environment and life, Mr Abousamra presented a review of MED POL previous activities in the field of marine litter. Explicitly, he mentioned the two technical reports that have achieved and stressed on the importance of these two reports as background information for further studies.

- MAP Technical Report No. 50 (1991) entitled "Bibliography on marine litter", and
- MAP Technical Report No. 56 (1991) entitled "Assessment of the state of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by persistent synthetic materials which may float, sink or remain in suspension"

9. He also stressed on the necessity to tackle the marine litter issue as part of the integrated approach of MCLM system in the Mediterranean coastal areas considering that any failure in the

implementation of the MCLM system would have direct impact on the marine environment.

10. Finally he introduced the Secretariat views in relation to the preparation of the Terms of Reference(TOR) for an assessment of the actual MCLM system in selected coastal cities, human settlement and ships, as short term activity, and the preparation of preliminary TOR for the implementation of the SAP solid waste management (SWM) activities as medium term activities.

### **Presentation of the experts**

11. In general, the experts welcomed and supported the secretariat approach in dealing with the issue of MCLM and their effects on the marine environment .They stressed on the needs to support the contracting parties in their efforts to improve the implementation of the MCLM systems especially the technical assistance dealing with collection and disposal of solid waste, capacity building programs and finally public awareness campaigns.

12. Mr W. Nasr, the Lebanese expert, outlined the METAP solid waste management project in Lebanon and exposed the current situation related to solid waste in the coastal Lebanese areas. He stressed on the importance of the legal and institutional aspects of the system and the necessity to provide the Mediterranean countries with guidelines for the implementation of SWM system.

13. Mr A. Febvre, from the French NGO "CEDRE", after exposing the CEDRE activities, stressed on the importance of the illegal spill of wastes and oils from ships in Western Mediterranean region. He mentioned that the SWM issue may differ from region to region depending on the geographic situation, the touristic activities and the population habits.

14. Mr A. Bousoulengas, from IOC, gave an overview of IOC global and regional solid waste (SW) activities and indicated that the sources of SW in the Mediterranean marine environment are different from the sources in the Atlantic or in the Carribean. He expressed the willingness of IOC to contribute to the project in the Mediterranean in areas such as a regional review of MLCM activities.

15. M. A. Skordilis, from the Greek Ministry of Environment, outlined the SWM systems applied in different Greek coastal areas and stressed on the role of local authorities in the proper implementation of the system. He finally recalled on the necessity to separate the household hazardous wastes from the municipal solid waste.

16. Mr L. Rounis, from HELMEPA, exposed the activities of HELMEPA in the field of SWM in ships and mentioned that HELMEPA was supporting the IMO decisions but that the lack of receptions facilities made the implementation of decisions sometimes difficult. He gave emphasis on the human factor in the SWM issue and the necessity to consider highly this factor in the proper implementation processes.

17. Mr E. Adler, from the Israeli Ministry of Environment, after mentioning Israel's experience in the filed of SWM in coastal area, he emphasized on the role of legislation and NGO in the implementation processes and considered that the major problem of SW in the Mediterranean region is resulting from the beach goers who left wastes on the beach.

18. Mr A. Iacomelli, the Italian expert, outlined the European Directives concerning the SWM and stressed that, in his opinion, litter coming from ships played a more important role than expected.

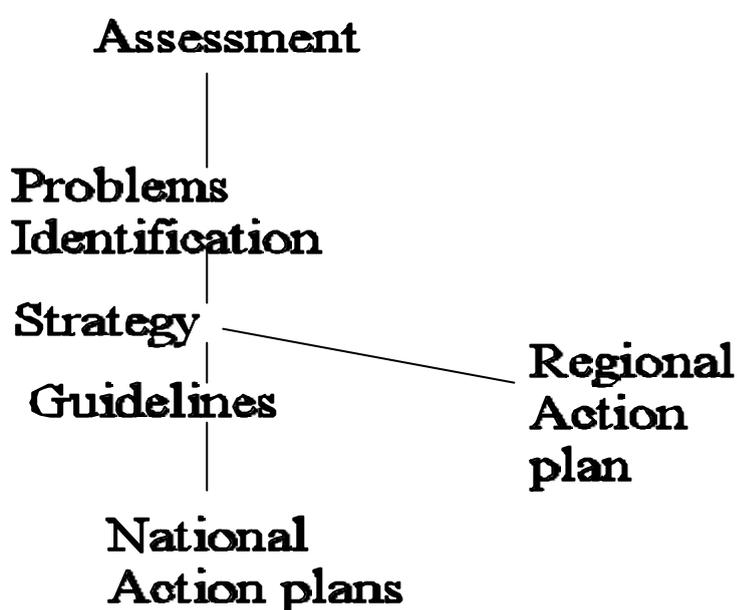
19. Finally, Mr G. Kamizoulis, WHO representative, enumerated the major reasons for the deterioration of the marine environment by solid waste and stressed on the necessity to achieve the assessment as soon as possible in order to set up action plans.

### Conclusions and recommendation

20. After a thorough discussion on the possible content of a project to be implemented as part of MED POL, the participants agreed as follows:

#### A The MED POL marine and coastal litter management project:

21. The following flow chart outlines the project:



22. The assessment phase would be fulfilled by the national focal points and experts in selected coastal areas. A special expert for assessing the ships MCLM system would be assigned. This phase would tentatively last 5/6 months.

23. **The assessment phase** will deal with the following topics of the MCLM system in the selected area:

- the role of public in the management system including NGOs;
- the economical aspect;
- the legal aspect;
- the institutional aspect; and,
- review of the regional activities under consideration by the regional and international environmental agencies.

24. **The problems identification phase** would be achieved by national experts who would analyse the assessment results and define the common key problems in each aspect of the MCLM system, the national specific problems and finally the sub regional problems related to the MCLM system. This phase would tentatively last 3/4 months.

25. According to the exhaustive analysis of the assessment phase, the national focal points and experts together with the Secretariat would set up a **strategy for action**. This strategy would comprise action plans and programs to be implemented at the regional level to improve the MCLM system in the region. It will also include the actions to be taken in preparation of guidelines. This phase would tentatively last 3/4 months.

26. The **guidelines phase** would be fulfilled by national experts and include preparation of guidelines for environmentally sound and economically feasible systems of marine and coastal litter collection and disposal and identify and validate technologies appropriate for the control of MCLM systems. This phase would tentatively last 4/5 months.

27. According to the results of the fourth previous phases, the national focal points together with the Secretariat would formulate **National action Plans** for improving the MCLM systems in their national coastal areas. This phase would tentatively last 6/7 months.

**B. Elements to be considered in the project implementation:**

- The project would be implemented at the national level through the national focal point.
- Two types of questionnaires would be proposed in relation to:
  - General information dealing with MCLM national policy and preliminary identification of suffering sites. The questionnaire is fulfilled by the national focal point.
  - Exhaustive technical and management information for selected coastal areas. The public's participation is essential in this procedure. The questionnaire is fulfilled by national experts.
- The Secretariat and the NFP would carefully select the national sites which could be representative for the study purposes and according to the results of the general information questionnaire.
- The assessment should be achieved at the most economical ways.
- The assessment should be achieved with the shorter possible time. The regional and national action plans should be completed by October 2001 in order to present the results at the next Contracting Parties meeting.
- It is essential to involve the NGOs in the project implementation processes at the very early stage.

**Closure of the consultation**

28. Mr Civili thanked the participants for their active preparation and participation to the meeting and expressed his gratitude for their contribution to this important phase of the elaboration of the project. He closed the meeting at 14:00 hrs on Tuesday 21 December 1999.

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## **ANNEX II**

### **AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Background and purpose of the Meeting
3. Review of MED POL activities and decisions related to marine and coastal solid waste
4. Secretariat's views on the possible content of a draft project on solid waste as part of MED POL
5. Discussion on the content, including workplan and timetable, of a draft project, based on the participants' experience and data availability
6. Drafting of the terms of reference of a Mediterranean project
7. Closing of the Meeting