



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



EP

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 337/Inf.19
19 June 2009

ENGLISH



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the MAP focal points

Athens, Greece, 7-10 July 2009

**INFORMATION DOCUMENT ON THE DRAFT DECISION ON SUSTAINABLE
CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION AND SOUND CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT**

Background Paper on integrating Sustainable Consumption and Production into the Mediterranean Action Plan

Why Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean?

It is becoming increasingly clear that current development trends in the Mediterranean are not sustainable. With the economic development expected for the next decade, the growing population in the Mediterranean region, the upcoming Mediterranean Free trade agreement, the special vulnerability of the region to climate change and a rapid urbanization the dimension of sustainable consumption and production into planning frameworks, research and policy reforms will be necessary to decouple economic and social development from the depletion of natural resources.

Figures speak for themselves. Statistics show a rapid growth in terms of ¹:

- GHG emissions (between 2006 and 2025, CO2 emissions from energy consumption could rise by 55% in the Northern Mediterranean Countries (NMC) and by 119% in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (SEMC)),
- resource consumption trends (e.g. electricity consumption in SEMC may triple by 2025),
- water scarcity (Mediterranean countries account for 60% of the population of the world's "water-poor" countries),
- biodiversity loss and changes in ecosystem services due to habitat degradation, pollution and overexploitation (e.g. over 65% of all fish stocks in the region are outside safe biological limits²)

These figures in combination with the uneven repartition of natural resources and the increasing differences between the Northern and the Southern shores in terms of economic well being³ and living standards, as well as the fact that due to increasing trade emissions and pollution do not necessarily occur at the point of consumption, strategies for a change in consumption and production patterns are necessary to make sure that the carrying capacity of the region will not be overloaded in the near future.

Traditionally the focus of activities lay on mitigating contamination caused by human activity, especially in coastal areas. A number of positive impacts have already been reached in this respect. However, as a consequence of an increasing influence of consumers on the supply on the market, as well as an ever increased consumption of resources, a more integrated perspective analyzing the links between sustainable consumption and production will be necessary.

While the impacts of production have been studied in detail and data availability is usually good, the impacts of unsustainable consumption patterns on production and sustainable development are a relatively new field for comprehensive research and need further investigation.

¹ Data from Sustainable Future for the Mediterranean, Blue Plan, 2005

² European Environment Agency

³ Environment & development outlook, Blue Plan, 2006

The need for sustainable consumption and production- the issue at a glance:

Important drivers for consumption and production in the Mediterranean region:

- Rapid global population growth – the Mediterranean Region could grow by 137 Million people until 2050, this growth would especially account for the Southern and the Eastern Rim
- A consumption culture among higher income groups, who account for the greatest per capita share of consumption and are mainly to be found in the Northern rim of the Mediterranean, leads to a widening of social and economic disparity in the region.
- The Mediterranean free trade agreement between the Mediterranean and the EU which is expected to change consumption and production patterns.

Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean is putting unsustainable and increasing stress on:

- The Mediterranean – a rare and fragile “eco- region” where environmental degradation already hinders development. Costs for environmental degradation are estimated at nearly 3% of GDP in Tunisia and 5% of GDP in Syria, Algeria and Egypt⁴
- The supply of energy and material resources needed for industrial growth – The ecological footprint of each Mediterranean country is exceeding its potential for renewal.⁵
- Generally healthy consumption patterns relating to Mediterranean lifestyles which will be negatively impacted and northern consumer habits, production processes and mobility patterns will be exported with all related social and environmental impacts.
- Environmental Sustainability - Increasing pollution generation- for example an increase in cement production by more than 150% in SEMC.

What can be done to tackle these challenges? How does SCP fit into the activities of the MAP?

1) Embedding SCP in environmental policies and policies to fight climate change

- a. Improve the awareness of Mediterranean decision makers concerning the links between SCP and environmental degradation and climate change

To improve the awareness of Mediterranean decision makers on the importance of a change towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns will be of great importance. In a region that is as sensitive to climate change and environmental degradation as it is the Mediterranean, it will be of great importance to define integrated strategies and policies towards sustainable development that include sustainable consumption and production. This necessity has already been realized in 2005 when the Contracting Parties of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona Convention) approved the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), which establishes sustainable consumption and production and the sustainable management of natural resources as a major and crosscutting objective to achieve sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

However, currently scientifically based information which provides the link between the use of ecosystem services and consumption is less available than information on the direct impacts of production. According to the UNEP CSCP Centre 80% of data currently collected focus on impacts from manufacturing; however 80% of the impacts themselves occur during end use. One example that illustrates this fact is private mobility, 81% of emissions arise during using a private car, 16% during production and 3% for spare parts.

So even if we achieve great improvements by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of our production processes, the general challenge to sustainable development can only be solved if we also focus on the underlying cause for production, the demand for products and services and consequently consumption. Additionally it is important to realize that sustainable consumption does not necessarily mean less consumption, but rather more efficient and less resource intensive consumption that is adapted to the specialities of the Mediterranean culture. This is especially

⁴ Blue Plan, 2008

⁵ WWF, Living Planet Report, 2004

important for those countries of the Mediterranean where increased consumption is an important step towards economic well being of the society.

To be able to define a strategy that contains all the above mentioned factors, it will be necessary to (1) analyze the way countries in the Mediterranean produce and consume goods and services, (2) to identify how and why those patterns of consumption and production contribute to the ecosystems' degradation and the generation of environmental and health risks to population and (3) to implement a mixture of instruments that take the linkages between consumption and production into account and tackle them in an integrated way.

- b.** Identify those areas of consumption and production (hot spots) with the main impacts on the degradation of the Mediterranean ecosystems and the generation of environmental and health risks to population;

Although figures show that EU countries in the Mediterranean create the biggest impacts related to production: France, Spain, Italy and Greece account for approximately 90% of the total Hazardous Waste generation (20 million tones) and 70% of total carbon dioxide (CO₂) generation in the region⁶ and the highest quantities of plastic debris in the world (1,935 items/km²) are found in the seabed of the Northwest area of the Mediterranean sea, nearby the coasts of France, Spain and Italy⁷, environmental degradation in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries is rapidly increasing. Statistics show a rapid growth in SEMC, both in terms of resource consumption trends (e.g. electricity consumption in SEMC may triple by 2025) and in pollution generation (e.g. waste generation will triple in SEMC while doubling in NMC).

A recent study on environmental pressures from European consumption and production showed that a reduced number of sectors account for around 60- 70% of all impacts from consumption. The 8 sectors identified are: construction works, food and beverages, electricity, wholesale and retail services, products of agriculture, hunting and forestry, transport equipment, hotel and restaurant services, transport, storage and communication services.⁸ Further research will be needed to confirm which sectors cause the major impacts related to environmental degradation and climate change in the Mediterranean region.

- c.** Support the implementation of the MSSD by focussing research on those consumption and production hot spots hindering progress in the 7 priority areas of the MSSD and by providing strategies on how a change in consumption and production patterns provides positive impacts on the MSSD.

When comparing available data on consumption patterns and their impacts from the EU with the priority areas of the MSSD a strong overlap can be seen. The rational use of energy, the tourism sector as a leading economy in the Mediterranean, agriculture and mobility are areas where consumption can directly be linked to environmental impacts. One other important direct impact of consumption and production on the Mediterranean Eco- system is fishery and fish consumption. Current consumption patterns are unsustainable and might even lead to the extinction of certain species. The ecological balance is especially threatened when talking about the consumption of top predators such as swordfish or tuna. Only if consciousness for the harmfulness of current overexploitation rises and the trend goes towards labelled fish coming from those fisheries that implement the eco- system approach and benefit local population from their own resources a long term impact on sustainability can be reached.

As a result of the above mentioned challenges, a change in unsustainable consumption and production patterns and ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources have been defined as one out of four major cross cutting objectives of the MSSD. Thus the integration of SCP into the Mediterranean Action Plan would provide an important lever for the implementation of the MSSD in different areas of activities and help to achieve a decoupling of economic growth, getting from an "emergency" to a "prevention culture and reaching win- win solutions for national economies and the environment. Many member countries already started interesting initiatives that are directly linked to the challenge of promoting sustainable development by fostering sustainable consumption and production. In Turkey for example the Budgay Association for Supporting Ecological Living created an 100% organic market place for farmers in three different cities. The initiative provides support to sustainable production in rural areas and directly links producers and consumers to create

⁶ Regional Plan for the Reduction by 20% of the generation of Hazardous Waste (CP/RAC). Sustainable Future for the Mediterranean, Blue Plan, 2005

⁷ Plastics Debris in the World's Oceans, Greenpeace 2006.

⁸ European Topic Center for Sustainable Consumption and Production, 2009

a market for sustainable products. It will now be important to identify those existing best practices and to disseminate results to other regions and countries in the Mediterranean region.

- d. **Support the adjustment of human activities to the carrying capacity of the Mediterranean Sea by researching the critical role that a change to sustainable consumption and production patterns plays for implementing the eco- system approach, especially related to the management of coastal areas and marine resources.**

Another important factor where Sustainable Consumption and Production will play an important role in supporting sustainable development in the Mediterranean is in the application of the Eco System approach. Over the last three decades, one of the major causes for the loss of habitat in Mediterranean Coastal zones has been coastal development driven by increasing coastal population and tourism. One example for the cause of permanent loss of habitat is the increased beach tourism, which has altered the nesting behaviour of turtles.⁹ Only if the carrying capacity of the coastal areas and marine resources is taken into account and human activities are adjusted to the carrying capacity of the Mediterranean Sea further degradation of the Eco- System can be avoided. The Mediterranean Action Plan therefore approved the application of the Eco- System approach which is exactly tackling these challenges. Sustainable Consumption and Production can be seen as a further upgrading of the approach. Only if consumption and production patterns are decoupled from environmental degradation and pollution and are changed to avoid that growing population, increasing tourism etc. affect the Eco- System in a negative way, sustainability of the Eco- System Mediterranean Sea can be reached. Joined- up thinking and further research on the links between habitat loss and human lifestyles will be necessary, especially in relation to increasing tourism, fishery and population growth in the Mediterranean area. Especially in the area of fishing consumption is a major driving force for increased over fishing. Policies that support eco- labelling can have an important impact on fishing practices and thus on the sustainability of the Mediterranean Eco- System.

- e. **Align the activities of the MAP with the objectives of UNEP and its Marrakech Process and create synergies and cooperate with the 7 Marrakech Task Forces.**

Both at regional and global level, SCP has become a priority in programmes for environmental protection and sustainable development.

UNEP identified SCP as a thematic priority in its Medium -Term Strategy for 2010-2013 and the European Commission has recently adopted an Action Plan on SCP (July 2008). Likewise, key actors to sustainable development as the business sector (e.g. World Business Council for Sustainable Development, BusinessEurope, Businessmed) and civil society (NGO's and consumer organizations) have largely recognized SCP to be the right approach to encompass the three pillars of sustainability: economy, society and the environment. Aligning activities of the MAP with these initiatives and the creation of cross sector partnerships for promoting SCP in the Mediterranean will increase impact and visibility of the MAP.

Most regions of the world have joined the "Marrakesh Process", an initiative launched by UNEP and UNDESA to support the elaboration of a framework to support regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards SCP as demanded by the WSSD's Johannesburg Plan of Action. Aligning the activities of the MAP with the objectives of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP will increase the impacts and the outreach of the activities promoted by the MAP.

2) Implementing SCP mechanisms as levers for the greening of the Mediterranean economy

- a. **to support the greening of the Mediterranean economy by fostering mechanisms that encompass economic, social and environmental criteria within the production and trade flows of Mediterranean organizations and enterprises;**

Another important factor to take into account, when talking about Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean, are production and trade flows between Mediterranean countries, as well as with other regions. Trade has traditionally always been an important factor for economic

⁹ European Lifestyles and Marine Eco Systems (ELME)

growth in the region and, if supported by an integrated policy framework, can be used as a trigger to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns and thus sustainable development in the region.

One important agreement under the Barcelona convention is the Euro- Med partnership, which aims at trade liberalisation between Europe and the Mediterranean. It is already strengthening the partnership between the two regions and an important opportunity to foster economic growth and stability. Currently around 45% of imports and exports from the Mediterranean region are directed towards the EU. Trade has been growing steadily throughout the last decades and is expected to grow even more once the free trade agreement is in place. However, impacts on sustainable development can be adverse if the liberalisation is not accompanied by an integrated policy framework to promote sustainable consumption and production.

This was one of the findings of a study commissioned by the EU that was analyzing the impacts of the Euro- Mediterranean Free Trade Agreement.¹⁰ Due to an improved access to imports, especially countries from the Southern rim will change current sustainable consumption behaviours to more unsustainable ones. Additionally it will not be possible to balance the increase of environmental impacts and resource use that will arise due to an increase in flows of goods and services by measures that only improve the production side.

Comprehensive research that focuses on the links between trade and consumption and production approaches is a relatively new subject. Aspects that are currently discussed are the so called "pollution haven hypothesis" and consumption based approaches to impute emissions. While in the first case it is analyzed in how far developed countries outsource resource intensive and polluting production processes to countries that are not part of international environmental agreements or have less strict environmental regulations, the second approach attributes CO2 responsibility to the goods and services consumed domestically and those imported instead of focussing on production. Both concepts are highly relevant for the Mediterranean region with its wide range of different countries and economic realities. CPRAC already started to analyze the impacts of consumption based inventories of CO2, however to be able to promote effective policies that will positively influence consumption and production patterns, to promote regional cooperation and partnerships, further research will be necessary.

The recently approved SCP Action plan of the European Commission outlines policy priorities and provides a policy framework to stimulate market transformation towards products with a better environmental performance. This policy framework relies on a mixture of regulatory and voluntary instruments. It includes several legislative proposals and will lead to a transformation on the EU's policy on products and procurement, which may have effects on the EU trade behaviour in the future. A focus on sustainable consumption and production patterns for the Mediterranean can already prepare countries from the Mediterranean for this change of behaviour of the EU. Additionally multi sector partnerships that include the private sector to jointly develop strategies on how to tackle the challenges mentioned above should be promoted.

b. Support for greening of the MED economy

The promotion of best practices on sustainable consumption and production can contribute to reinforce an overall positive impact of trade flows for sustainable development. A number of successful initiatives such as the promotion of sustainable supply chains, green public procurement or Eco- labelling are initiatives to support sustainable development in the Mediterranean and to combat pollution and a degradation of the eco-system.

Sustainable supply chains for example have proven to be an effective means to make production more sustainable. Increasing pressure from consumers for more ecological and social responsibility of international companies led to improved environmental and social standards in supply chains, not only in developed, but also in developing countries. However, to make sure that SMEs especially in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries are able to qualify as suppliers for multinational or big companies, and to be able to respond to a possible change in the EU policy on products and procurement, capacity building programmes for sustainable production for SMEs will be necessary.

¹⁰ European Commission, SIA Study of the Euro- Mediterranean Free Trade Area, 2007

The promotion of Eco- Labelling is another mechanism which on the one hand contributes to an improved environmental and social performance in the production process and on the other hand expands market access for products and supports sustainable consumption. A successful example for Eco- Labelling is the tourism sector. Different Mediterranean Countries such as Greece, Croatia and Malta implemented an eco- label for tourism in the last years, which is ever more demanded by the tourists.

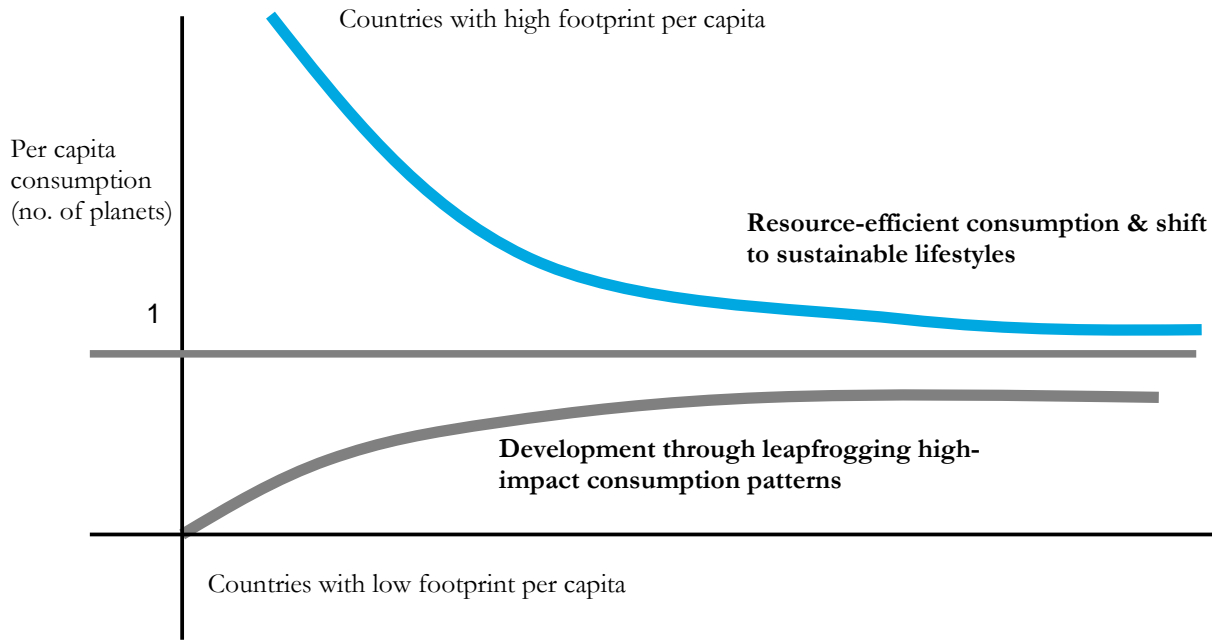
Green Public Procurement (GPP) is another approach to trigger sustainable consumption and production. Public Procurement accounts for a large share of consumption in a country, for example in countries as Tunisia, Morocco, France and Spain, it accounts for 18%, 22%, 15% and 13% of the total national GDP. The government is normally the biggest single consumer in an economy and integrating environmental criteria into its procurement policies can create important markets for sustainable products. In the Mediterranean region, only few countries have already adopted regulatory instruments for the implementation of GPP. National plans for GPP have recently been approved in Cyprus, France, Israel, Italy and Spain. However, even in the countries that realized the need for GPP awareness raising, especially in local authorities and other public organizations is still necessary.

3) Use SCP to promote and educate on the values of Mediterranean culture

- a. Specifics of consumption patterns in the Mediterranean Lifestyle and promotion of sustainable lifestyles adapted to the Mediterranean societies

Sustainable consumption and production does not only mean less consumption or the consumption of more eco- efficient products and services. It is not a concept only addressed to those countries and parts of society where over consumption is a problem, but can be used to develop consumption opportunities that allow everybody to meet its needs. Therefore it is important to realize that sustainable consumption does not necessarily means less consumption, but rather more efficient and less resource intensive consumption that is adapted to the specialities of the Mediterranean culture. This is especially important for those countries of the Mediterranean where increased consumption is an important step towards economic well being of the society.

In the Mediterranean, a two sided approach to sustainable lifestyles will be necessary. While in the Northern Mediterranean countries, which are the ones that are currently putting the greatest pressure on the eco- system, the promotion of sustainable lifestyles, a reduction in consumption and improved production will be necessary, the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries have the chance to leapfrog certain harmful consumption patterns. Now is the moment to promote more sustainable systems, for example in the area of transport or tourism development, and to create sustainable lifestyles that really fit with the social and cultural values and heritage of each society. This two sided approach can be seen in the graphic below, over- and under consumption have to be integrated into a joint strategy for sustainable consumption and production in the Mediterranean, using the different concepts and focussing on the areas discussed in this paper.



Source: Adapted from Wuppertal Institute, Fair Future

There is a danger that due to increased trade flows and globalization current healthy consumption patterns relating to the Mediterranean diet will be negatively impacted. Northern consumer habits, production processes and mobility patterns are exported including their social and environmental impacts.

The creation of sustainable lifestyles that respect the Mediterranean diet and that preserve the Mediterranean culture will be of great importance to reach sustainable development in the region and to beside of all the existing challenges not overburden the Mediterranean Eco- System. This does not only include the production and consumption of goods and services, but also the preservation of historical sites and other cultural values.

With increasing gaps between the Northern and the South- Eastern Mediterranean a strategy towards sustainable consumption and production can also be seen as a means towards alleviating poverty. Sustainable production and consumption can help to remove barriers to economic development by promoting the access to basic services, such as water and health services.

One relevant example for the Mediterranean as a water stressed region is the promotion of water usage plans, the minimization of distribution losses and water pollution and the promotion of those technologies that use less water.

- b. Creation of information and education programmes that promote those lifestyles and inform about SCP

The MAP can play an important role to empower people (from administrations and governments in the Mediterranean countries, as well as from civil societies and NGOs) by increasing awareness for sustainable consumption. The MAP should provide a platform for the exchange of successful examples from the different member countries.

This platform can provide access to appropriate knowledge and develop projects that help countries to define the most important success factors for sustainable consumption and production in their specific context and support the building of mindsets to allow people to be active contributors to the shift towards sustainability.

DECISION PROPOSAL FOR THE 16TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE BARCELONA CONVENTION

PREAMBLE AND EXPLANATION FOR PROPOSALS

PREAMBLE FOR THE DECISION PROPOSAL

The omnibus decision proposal on chemical management is as follows:

The 16th Meeting of Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention,

On new POPs

Recalling the obligations set out in the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities,

Decides to adopt the following joint decision proposed by MEDPOL and CPRAC on Sound Chemical Management:

1. The Contracting Parties agree to start the work on the technical support for the new POPs included in the Stockholm Convention, inter alia in relation to the production, use, trade articles and products and wastes containing those substances, and the stockpiles of the following substances with the aim of preparing Regional Plans pursuant to the Article 15 of the LBS Protocol:
 - Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane
 - Beta hexachlorocyclohexane
 - Hexabromobiphenyl
 - Chlordecone
 - Pentachlorobenzene
 - Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and Pentabromodiphenyl ether
 - Hexabromodiphenyl ether and Heptabromodiphenyl ether
 - Lindane
 - Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and its salts and Perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and its salts

Invites the Contracting Parties to take necessary measures to the implementation of the above mentioned decision.

On cooperation and coordination

Recalling the progress made at International level on the need to ensure coordination and cooperation between the chemicals conventions and programmes,

Decides to adopt the following decision on Sound Chemical Management:

2. MAP Secretariat (the RACs and MEDPOL) agrees to enhance cooperation and coordination with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, in particular, Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam Conventions and Climate Change and take advantage of the link between them.

Invites the Contracting Parties to take necessary measures to the implementation of the above mentioned decision.

On consistency on policies

Recognizing that there is a need to ensure effective use of resources and coherence between the sectorial policies related to chemicals at the national level,

Decides to adopt the following decision on Sound Chemical Management:

3. The Contracting Parties agree to endeavour to ensure consistency between the different national chemicals strategies (National Implementation Plans of Stockholm Convention and National Profiles for SAICM) with the National Action Plans under the LBS protocol of Barcelona Convention.

Invites the Contracting Parties to take necessary measures to the implementation of the above mentioned decision.

On the endorsement of CPRAC

Recognizing the decision SC-4/23 approved during the 4th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention and the important work made at CP/RAC on the transfer of technology and the capacity building in Mediterranean Countries on BAT, BEP and the Sound Chemical Management,

Decides to adopt the following decision on Sound Chemical Management:

4. The Contracting Parties agree to support the endorsement of CP/RAC as Regional Centre under the Stockholm Convention for the capacity building and technology transfer in the Mediterranean Region.

Invites the Contracting Parties to take necessary measures to the implementation of the above mentioned decision.

On the coordination between centres

Recognizing the importance of ensure cooperative action between centres,

Decides to adopt the following decision on Sound Chemical Management:

5. The Contracting Parties agree to promote the role of CP/RAC as the facilitator to the necessary coordination of Mediterranean Regional Centres under the Stockholm and Basel Conventions and the National Centres of Cleaner Production of the Mediterranean Region with the aim of preparing joint programmes as appropriate.

Invites the Contracting Parties to take necessary measures to the implementation of the above mentioned decision.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DECISION PROPOSAL

DECISION PROPOSAL 1: ON NEW POPs

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are becoming an increasingly important role due to their long persistence in the environment, capacity of long-range transport, bioaccumulation, biomagnification in food chains and potential significant impacts on human health and the environment in general.

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty aiming to protect human health and the environment from POPs. Among the 164 countries that are party to Convention, 16 are Mediterranean countries¹¹.

Chemicals included in the Annexes A or B of the Stockholm Convention, are subjected to elimination or restriction respectively by the signatory Parties, while Annex C of the Convention's text is related to unintentional emissions of chemicals (mainly dioxins and furans).

The 4th Conference of the Parties (COP4) to the Stockholm Convention took place in 4-8 May 2009, in Geneva. The Convention requires international action on POPs, promoting Governments for replacing existing POPs by means of the prevention and development of new ones and for the use of less hazardous or not hazardous alternatives.

¹¹ Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Community, France, Greece, Lebanon, Libya, Monaco, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, and Tunisia.

One of the key decisions taken at COP4 was the amendment of the Convention's Annexes with nine new POPs. Specifically, in Annex A of the Convention (chemicals subjected to elimination), were included:

- **Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, beta hexachlorocyclohexane, hexabromobiphenyl, chlordecone, and pentachlorobenzene**, with no exemptions for production or use.
- **Lindane**, with a specific exemption for its use as a human health pharmaceutical for control of head lice and scabies as second line of treatment.
- **Tetrabromodiphenyl ether, pentabromodiphenyl ether, hexabromodiphenyl ether, heptabromodiphenyl ether**, with a specific exemption for articles containing these substances in accordance with provisions of Part IV of Annex A.

In Annex B, (chemicals to be restricted), were incorporated:

- **Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)**, its salts and **perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF)**, with acceptable purposes including, among others, photo-imaging, fire-fighting foam and insect baits for leaf-cutting ants; and specific exemptions including, among others, metal plating, leather and apparel, textiles and upholstery, paper and packaging, rubber and plastics.

For the reasons above exposed, it is proposed that the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) agree to take action to identify the current state of the new chemicals included in the Stockholm Convention for the Mediterranean region, in order to develop and implement appropriate measures, in particular in relation to their production, use, trade, articles and products and wastes containing those substances and stockpiles.

DECISION PROPOSAL 2: ON COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

In order to improve the efficient implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, it's considered necessary to enhance cooperation and synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, in particular Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam and Climate Change Conventions.

On a multilateral perspective, the sound management of chemicals is a priority in a regional as well as a national context.

In this context, the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions agreed to establish an *Ad Hoc* Joint Working Group (the AHJWG)¹² to prepare joint recommendations on enhanced cooperation and coordination among the three conventions for submission to the Conference of the Parties of all three conventions.

Furthermore, in the last COP of each of the three Conventions, it was approved the recommendation on enhancing coordination and cooperation between them.

Since most of the Mediterranean countries are Parties of the Conventions, this decision encourages MAP to promote joint activities and cooperation with the Multilateral Environmental Agreements mentioned and act as a platform for their implementation in the field of its competence.

DECISION PROPOSAL 3: ON CONSISTENCY ON POLICIES

Under the scope of the LBS Protocol, all participating countries are required to prepare a NAP against land-based pollutants.

In addition, Parties of the Stockholm Convention have two years after their ratification, to develop a strategy (National Implementation Plan) for taking measures for the reduction of unintentional releases of POPs, disposal of POPs stocks, etc.

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was adopted on 6 February 2006 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the **Strategic Approach** as a policy framework to foster the sound management of chemicals. Countries are encouraged to develop a National Profile for SAICM in order to achieve the 2020 goal adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in South Africa in 2002.

This decision encourages MAP to facilitate countries the development of the National Strategies, avoiding duplication of efforts derived from the development of several national strategies regarding the sound management of chemicals thus matching all their national strategies coherently.

¹² By decision SC-2/15 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, decision RC-3/8 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and decision VIII/8 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

DECISION PROPOSAL 4: ON THE ENDORSEMENT OF CPRAC

The last Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention, in the decision SC-4/23 approved during its 4th Meeting held in Geneva, May 2009,

Endorses the nominated Stockholm Convention centres listed in annex I to the present decision as Stockholm Convention Regional or subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology for a period of four years.

DECISION PROPOSAL 5: ON THE COORDINATION BETWEEN CENTRES

The last Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention, in the decision SC-4/23 approved during its 4th Meeting held in Geneva, May 2009,

Requests the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity building and the transfer of technology, within their respective regions, to cooperate and coordinate among themselves and present to the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, a joint proposal on the specific areas of expertise in which they wish to provide assistance pursuant to decision SC-2/9.

CPRAC has been endorsed by the 4th Conference of the Parties as Regional Centre for the Stockholm under the Stockholm Convention for capacity building and technology transfer developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Given those decisions and that there are several centres working for the Mediterranean Region with the purpose of implementing the Conventions in the Countries and applying Cleaner Production, This decision proposal encourages the role of CP/RAC as the facilitator to the necessary coordination of Mediterranean Regional Centres under the Stockholm and Basel Conventions and the National Centres of Cleaner Production of the Mediterranean Region with the aim of preparing joint programmes as appropriate.

ANNEX I

Region	Institution	Location
Asia and the Pacific	Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Asia and the Pacific	Beijing, China
	Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research	Kuwait City, Kuwait
Central and Eastern Europe	Research Centre for Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology	Brno, Czech Republic
Latin America and the Caribbean	Centro CETESB- Companhia de Tecnologia de Saneamiento Ambiental de Brasil	Sao Paulo, Brazil
	Centro Nacional de Investigación y Capacitación Ambiental (CENICA)	Mexico City, Mexico
	Centro Nacional de Investigación e Información de Medicamentos y Tóxicos	Panama City, Panama
	Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centre	Montevideo, Uruguay
Western Europe and others	Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production, Mediterranean Plan.	Barcelona, Spain