



## Introduction

1. The Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators was held at the Centro Congressi del Parco delle Terme di Sangemini, Italy, from 27 to 30 May 2003. The meeting was partly sponsored by the association "Amici per la Vita Onlus", in cooperation with the Province of Terni and the Sangemini Group.
2. National coordinators or their representatives from the following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention attended the Meeting: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Commission, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey.
3. An observer for the Palestinian Authority was also present.
4. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations were represented: UNEP Regional Seas, Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GPA), Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC), World Health Organization (WHO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean (CIESM).
5. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Amici per la Vita Onlus, CEFIC/EUROCHLOR and MAREVIVO.
6. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

### **Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting**

7. Mr Mauro Paci, Mayor of Sangemini, welcomed the participants to the meeting and to Sangemini, which he described as a small community with a long tradition of paying great attention to the quality of life and the environment. Great importance was attached by those in the community to the sustainable management of its water resources, which of course provided its principal product, namely mineral water. He therefore wished the MED POL national coordinators every success in their important work.
8. Mr Gianni Pelini, Environmental Director of the Province of Terni, emphasized that, in a province with abundant water resources, it was clear that every effort needed to be made to protect that extremely valuable commodity. For that reason, programmes were being undertaken throughout the province to involve all schools in raising awareness of the need for the sustainable use of water, which was a precious resource for the future of humanity and had to be managed in such a way that future generations could enjoy its benefits in full. He added that, although Umbria was a region that did not have a sea coast, the action taken for the management of water throughout the hydrological basin had a direct effect on the water quality in the Mediterranean Sea.
9. Mr Aldo Iacomelli, Ministry of the Environment of Italy, thanked all those who had contributed to the organization of the meeting. He recalled that the voluminous documentation to be examined by the national coordinators represented two years' work by MED POL, but emphasized that it was now time to turn attention to the future of MED POL, and particularly to its adaptation to the decisions taken at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg in 2002. MED POL and the implementation of the SAP would need to be refocused and to move forward, for example by taking into account other issues, such as renewable energy. He added that, at the meeting of its Environmental Council held in March 2003, the European Union had recognized the need to

adopt joint strategies with the countries that shared responsibility for the North Sea, the Baltic and the Mediterranean so that the huge challenges involved could be addressed by all the countries concerned. That provided a conducive framework for the MED POL national coordinators to propose future policies to be endorsed by the Contracting Parties at their meeting in Catania in November 2003.

10. Mr Sergio Illuminato, President of Amici per la Vita Onlus, recalled that for over a decade his organization had been cooperating with UNEP and a large number of public and private institutions in the Mediterranean in order to encourage local authorities to focus attention on environmental priorities and promote awareness of the damage being caused to the environment. As part of that ongoing effort, Amici per la Vita Onlus, in cooperation with the Municipality of Catania, was proposing a new project entitled "Observatory on Communication for Environmental Protection and Healthy Nutrition (OCSASA)", whose aim was to disseminate an updated analysis of the marine environment and of the risk of pollution of the Euro-Mediterranean ecosystem. It would also include specific information and education campaigns directed at young people through activities in schools and universities and integrated communication projects. There would be a detailed study of current information on environment, health and nutrition issues and a special effort would be made to promote vocational training, study and research scholarships. An experimental study had already been initiated and was expected to be completed in November. A report on the study's outcome would be presented to the meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in Catania.

11. Mr Giancarlo Poli, President of the Sangemini Group, in welcoming the participants, indicated that the Group over which he presided had been founded over a century ago and had developed a culture of conserving and using mineral water, both in Sangemini and in other locations in Italy, in the service of the population as a whole. The Group had kept abreast of all the most modern technological developments and environmental conservation techniques, and to this effect worked in close collaboration with the relevant partners at the local, national and international levels. It was in recognition of the importance of environmental protection, and particularly the conservation of water resources, that it had readily agreed to lend its support to this important meeting.

12. Mr Elik Adler, UNEP Regional Seas Programme Coordinator, welcomed the participants on behalf of Mr Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of UNEP. He recalled that the WSSD had identified five major fields for sustainable development, namely water, energy, health, agriculture and biological diversity. It was no accident that the first of those was water, which fully deserved its place at the top of the international agenda. In that respect, the present meeting was of particular importance as it was called upon to guide the future development of MED POL and identify the manner in which it could best serve the needs of the Mediterranean community. He reminded the participants that when MAP had first been set up, over 20 years earlier, UNEP had provided it with much support. Now, MAP had grown up and become stronger and more independent. It was now UNEP's flagship regional seas programme and offered a very good example to other regions of how 20 countries had joined forces through their political commitment and the combination of their human and financial resources to address their common problems. As such, the approaches developed in the Mediterranean also took on importance for other regions. MAP had already provided guidance to countries from other regions on how best they could combine their efforts to preserve their common future and, as a pioneer, would have a greater role to play in future in helping such regions as East and West Africa, Latin America and South-East Asia to follow the Mediterranean example.

13. Mr F.S. Civili, MED POL Coordinator, thanked the Sangemini Group, the municipality of Sangemini, the Province of Terni and the Association Amici per la Vita Onlus for their support and collaboration in hosting the meeting. He commended the Province of Terni on

providing a good example of the management of local resources, and particularly water, and on enhancing the image of Italy through its care for the environment. Finally, he thanked UNEP headquarters for the interest that it continued to show in the Mediterranean programme.

**Agenda item 2. Election of officers**

14. The Meeting unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	Mr Aldo Iacomelli (Italy)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mr Samir Kaabi (Tunisia)
	Mr José Rizo (European Commission)
Rapporteur:	Ms Alenka Malej (Slovenia)

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

15. The Meeting adopted the proposed agenda contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/1, which appears as Annex II to this report.

16. The Rules of Procedure for the meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) applied *mutatis mutandis* to the Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators.

17. Mr Civili said that the meeting had before it a larger number of documents than in the past, most of which were related to the implementation of components of the GEF Project. However, most of them had passed through the hands of national coordinators several months earlier, and they were therefore already aware of their content. Some had already been revised by the Secretariat on the basis of comments received.

18. The representative of Spain thanked the Secretariat and all participating institutions for the preparation of the documents and particularly welcomed the inclusion in the agenda of Item 7 (Future orientations and strategies of MEDPOL: towards MEDPOL Phase IV). The next phase would involve the development of links with the MCSD and with the work on the marine environment strategy to be undertaken by the European Union (EU). It was an opportunity to influence EU policy that should not be missed. As for the consideration of documentation from a technical point of view, there was a need to consider holding separate meetings to discuss technical questions, which were in any event likely to increase once the LBS Protocol was in force and legally-binding measures and deadlines had to be identified. A sectoral approach should be adopted, and he proposed that consideration be given to setting up technical working groups on the various issues involved.

19. Mr Civili thanked the representative of Spain for appreciating the work carried out by the Secretariat and for his very constructive proposal. Document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/23 incorporated all the ideas that he had mentioned regarding the philosophy behind the future phase of MED POL, and the Secretariat was encouraged that it seemed to be on the right path. If the meeting were to adopt the proposal to establish a technical working group to follow the development and implementation of the LBS Protocol and SAP, he would be very pleased to present it to the MAP Focal Points Meeting in September 2003 and then to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

**Agenda item 4. Review and approval of activities carried out during 2002-2003 under the MED POL Programme**

20. The Chairperson, noting the large number of documents submitted for discussion, said that only three documents, namely UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/11, 21 and 22, needed to be formally adopted by the meeting for presentation to the MAP Focal Points Meeting in September 2003.

21. Mr Civili introduced the review of activities carried out by MED POL during the biennium 2002-2003 (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/3), explaining that it had been prepared in accordance with the new structure and followed the lines of the Strategic Action Programme. He indicated that there had been no change in MED POL's organizational structure or personnel during the period under review. Cooperation with United Nations agencies, particularly with WHO and IAEA/MEL, had been excellent. While the level of cooperation with UNESCO/IOC and WMO had perhaps been lower, efforts were being made to boost cooperation with both organizations. Cooperation with ICS-UNIDO had been formalized with a view to participating in the GEF Project and close contacts were maintained with the European Commission. In the context of data quality assurance related to biological effects monitoring, he drew attention to the agreement signed with the Universities of Genoa and Alessandria in Italy. Moreover, the report before the meeting highlighted the close working relations with RAMOGE and the cooperation with the Adriatic and Ionian initiative, which was expected to increase. He added that cooperation with the GEF was ongoing and that the French GEF (FFEM) had allocated a sum of about € 2 million, mostly for pre-investment studies.

22. He explained that MED POL had made Mediterranean data available for UNEP's global assessment of persistent toxic substances (PTS) and noted with satisfaction that the data had been declared to be of high quality and reliable.

23. He indicated that the Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC) had become more closely involved in MED POL activities because of its important role in sustainable development. The possibility of holding joint meetings of MED POL-CP/RAC Focal Points had been examined, but for technical reasons it had not proved possible to do so during the period under review.

24. Mr Victor Maciá, Director of CP/RAC, briefly described the Centre's activities and its approach to cleaner production. He pointed out that the pressure on the environment exerted by industry was well-known, but it was necessary to reconcile the limited availability of resources and development needs. To this end, cleaner production was one tool that could be used but taking into account that every measure had to be adapted to the local situation.

25. Mr Civili concluded by indicating that some thought had already been given to preparing the next phase of MED POL. It was expected that information and ideas would be gathered by the Secretariat so that a preliminary text could be prepared in 2004.

26. Mr Adler outlined the broader perspective of the Regional Seas Programme, which had been re-oriented following the WSSD and the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of UNEP's Governing Council held in February 2003. The Programme now covered 17 regions and 140 countries, although some of its components were still at an embryonic stage. UNEP administered certain Conventions directly, whereas it had no official role in others. The Programme promoted integrated management and sustainable development, the establishment of the structures needed to implement activities, and monitoring programmes to serve as a scientific basis for policy-making. Several priority areas had been defined: pollution from

land-based activities; ship-generated and marine-based pollution; impact of urbanization and coastal development; conservation and management of marine resources; over-exploitation and depletion of living resources; and monitoring and assessment. The new strategies were aimed at making the Regional Seas Programmes an instrument for putting into practice the principles of sustainable development, as well as a platform for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and global programmes, and fostering a sense of ownership.

27. During the discussion, the European Commission's future Marine Strategy mentioned in the review was welcomed, but the importance of not duplicating work and of building on what had already been done was underscored.

28. In response, the Chairperson said that it was the Italian Government's intention to move ahead with the EC Marine Strategy during Italy's term as President of the European Union and that he would present a recommendation on the matter to the MAP National Focal Points and subsequently to the Contracting Parties.

29. Responding to concerns about the involvement of non-EU member countries in the Strategy, the representative of the European Commission explained that whereas the Strategy would only have legal implications for members of the European Union, it would nevertheless involve all those European countries that wished to be associated with it. The Strategy would take into account regional differences and priorities that had already been established, and it would not be a question of a single strategy applicable to all countries regardless of their specificities. It was also hoped that what had already been achieved at the Mediterranean level could be incorporated into the Strategy.

30. Mr Civili added that the enlargement of the European Union would obviously have repercussions for the MAP. It was important to maintain harmony and it was intended to hold a meeting with the Commission in order to review the Strategy's implications for the MAP. In that connection, he drew attention to and called for comments on an informal document prepared by the Secretariat showing the Strategic Action Programme's goals and timetable in comparison with those of the European Commission. The document was distributed at the Meeting.

31. The meeting noted that OSPAR would hold a meeting at the ministerial level to discuss harmonization with the European Marine Strategy and it was suggested that MAP do the same.

#### Agenda item 4.1 Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme and LBS Protocol

##### *National Action Plans (NAPs)*

32. Introducing the discussion on this point, Mr Civili recalled that NAPs provided the framework at the national level for taking concrete action to combat pollution. On the basis of the work carried out during the 2002-2003 biennium, and particularly the guidelines for the preparation of national diagnostic analyses (NDAs) and the baseline budget of releases (BB) (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/Inf. 3), countries were expected to formulate their NAPs during the course of 2004 with a view to them being ready for 2005. He emphasized that funds would still be available during 2004 under the GEF Project for the provision of assistance to countries for this purpose, for example for the funding of national experts or national stakeholder meetings. He noted that a series of sub-regional meetings had been held to assist countries in the process of preparing the baseline budget of releases.

33. Reviewing the guidelines that had been developed to assist in the preparation of NAPs (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/4), Mr Abousamra, MED POL Programme Officer, emphasized that NAPs were expected to be prepared using a bottom-up approach, going from the local to the national levels, and that NAPs should be based on the same geographical components as the NDAs. The guidelines also called for a broad participatory approach to be adopted with the involvement of a wide range of actors at the local level, including local authorities, NGOs and chambers of commerce and industry. It was also important for NAPs to indicate the financial resources required and identify the responsible institutions and bodies. Finally, he noted that NAPs should adopt an integrated approach to the achievement of the targets set out in the SAP.

34. Ms Annie Muchai, UNEP/GPA Coordination Office, gave a brief presentation of the national programmes of action undertaken by the Global Programme of Action with national governments. She reviewed its "hilltops to oceans" approach and the stages in the preparation of national programmes of action, which included: the identification and assessment of problems; the establishment of the priorities to be addressed; the management of objectives and the encouragement of broad stakeholder participation; regional cooperation; and the identification, evaluation and selection of strategies and programmes. Important elements included a process of national political endorsement and the promotion of pilot projects as part of the national programmes of action.

35. A number of national coordinators welcomed the information provided. They noted many similarities between the approach adopted by the GPA and the process of the formulation and implementation of NAPs.

36. In a discussion of the proposed timetable for the preparation and adoption of NAPs, it was generally agreed that 2005 was a realistic deadline for the finalization of the process. However, the question was raised as to whether the targets set out in the SAP (such as the reduction of BOD by 50 per cent by 2005) were in practice feasible. In that respect, Mr Civili recalled that at the last meeting of the Contracting Parties (Monaco, 2001) the decision had been taken not to make a single general updating of SAP, but to review its implementation, and therefore its targets and timetables, every biennium in order to assess the action that had been taken and what remained to be done. In effect, that almost amounted to a real-time updating process with a view to maintaining the momentum of implementation based upon realistic target dates and on socio-economic, technical and legal developments at the international and regional levels.

37. Mr Abousamra added that good progress was being made by most countries in the preparation of NDAs and baseline budgets for releases. It was realistic to expect that most countries would have completed their NDAs and baseline budgets by October 2003. However, he had no information on the progress that had been made in that regard in France and Italy. Once the guidelines for the preparation of NAPs had been approved by the present meeting and sent out to the countries, the preparation of NAPs should start towards the end of 2003 with a view to their completion by the end of 2004. That would coincide with the extension of the GEF Project to 2004. However, he indicated that little information had been provided to the Secretariat concerning any need for help at the national level in relation to the creation of an institutional structure (which was very important for the sustainability of the SAP) or the development of the necessary legal regulations. He therefore emphasized that assistance was also available in those two fields, particularly during the remainder of the GEF Project.

38. In response to a request for clarification, Mr Civili indicated that the Palestinian Authority was not eligible for funding under the GEF Project. However, it was authorized to receive funding from the Mediterranean Trust Fund for activities related to land-based and sea-based pollution.

39. The National Coordinator from France specified that the lack of information on the action taken in his country was due to a problem of reporting. Much progress had been made in his country over recent years within various frameworks, including the implementation of European Union regulations and directives. The problem lay in identifying the action taken that was relevant to the implementation of the SAP. In that regard, depending on the year that was taken as the baseline, he was confident that his country could fulfil its commitments, such as the reduction of BOD from industrial sources by 50 per cent.

#### *Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas*

40. Mr Kamizoulis, WHO/MED POL Senior Scientist, introduced the second report on pollution hot spots in the Mediterranean UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/5 and noted that the GEF contribution to the preparation of the pre-investment studies in pollution hot spots had proved to be a very useful step towards the updating of the data on hot spots. There were now 12 pollution hot spot reports from GEF-eligible countries and seven from non-GEF eligible countries.

41. Mr Baric, GEF Project Manager, said that the GEF Project would support the preparation of at least one pre-investment study for each GEF-eligible country. So far, in addition to the seven countries that were now in the process of preparing pre-investment studies, another four would be receiving support for this purpose directly from the French GEF. Action on the preparation of pre-investment studies was at different stages in the various GEF-eligible countries, and only one country was at present not participating at all in the process.

42. The National Coordinator from Croatia said that her country, which received support from ICS/UNIDO in the framework of the GEF Project, had started the pre-investment study process and had prepared its first progress report. Croatia had about eight pollution hot spots, and was expecting to begin pre-investment studies on the others.

43. The meeting agreed that, after including the amendments made by the national coordinators during the meeting, the guidelines could be formally used by the Secretariat to launch the process of the preparation of NAPs.

#### *Municipal sewage*

44. Mr Kamizoulis introduced documents UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/6 and Inf.6, and asked all representatives to comment on the guidelines on municipal sewage and wastewater use and provide the Secretariat within two months with any comments and suggestions. He noted the point made by the representative of France that it would be more accurate to refer to primary, secondary and tertiary levels of treatment, especially as some treatment plants now combined different processes and the relevant EU standards were results- and not means-based.

#### *Solid wastes*

45. Mr Kamizoulis introduced the guidelines for the management of coastal litter for the Mediterranean region (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/7). The meeting noted the point made by the representative of France regarding the need to give thought to the rehabilitation of landfill sites, some of which were completely unauthorized and many of which, especially those containing plastic matter, were really damaging the groundwater. Mr Kamizoulis said the subject had been discussed at the meeting of Government-designated experts where it had

been decided to caution against disposal sites being located near coastal zones. He would willingly add an appeal to countries to take measures to rehabilitate landfill sites.

46. The representative of CIESM said that the public was becoming increasingly alarmed by the situation regarding coastal litter. In addressing the issue an information and monitoring system would have to be established to ensure that municipalities and local authorities not only cleaned up their beaches but also provided information on the nature and quantity of litter collected.

47. Mr Adler congratulated the Secretariat on what he described as an historic document on coastal and marine litter management. His Programme would be launching a global initiative to address the issue of marine litter, which was of major importance in various parts of the world. The Caribbean and the seas of South-East Asia suffered even more than the Mediterranean. UNEP's initiative had already received support from other agencies, and at least two governments were interested in financing it. GEF had also expressed a serious interest in engaging in an activity which would be developed globally and would use three regional seas, including the Mediterranean, in a pilot project.

48. During the discussion on coastal litter, it was emphasized that a great deal of litter was created on islands, and thought should perhaps be given to prohibiting the use there of certain plastics. It was also suggested that greater use should be made of NGOs and municipal and local authorities. Governments would welcome networks of cities being used to monitor coastal litter management problems and evaluate prevention measures. It was also agreed that, while NGO involvement was indispensable, the problem had to be addressed at source through environmental education, changing production methods to reduce the amount of waste produced and a strong commitment to the issue of management.

49. In view of the need expressed by certain national coordinators for more time to consider the legal and institutional recommendations contained in Section B.1 of the document under review, and considering that it was not a document that had to be transmitted formally to the Contracting Parties, a period of two months would be given for the submission of comments.

#### *Air pollution*

50. Mr Civili said that MED POL could not really carry out specific activities on air pollution and had to confine itself to voicing the expectation that countries would follow other international agreements and frameworks, such as the EU directives and the Kyoto Protocol, and would inform the Secretariat every two years on developments. One representative indicated that the work carried out as part of the SAP in relation to the reduction of pollution would, however, indirectly contributed to the achievement of the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol. MED POL would, as requested, keep the Contracting Parties informed of the issues and decisions regarding climate change that were relevant to the Mediterranean region.

#### *Industrial pollution*

51. Mr Civili said that the two major activities related to industrial pollution launched during the biennium were the finalization of the guidelines for the preparation of national diagnostic analyses and the baseline budget of releases. Among the documents before the meeting were the guidelines for the management of industrial wastewater for the Mediterranean region (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/8), prepared by WHO/MED POL, and the guidelines for the environmentally sound management of seawater desalination plants in the Mediterranean region (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/12). The latter document was of particular interest because the meeting of government-designated experts, held in Forli, Italy, from 16

to 18 May 2002, had recommended that desalination activities be considered industrial activities. If that recommendation was endorsed by governments, it would mean that desalination activities would be covered by the LBS Protocol.

52. He added that MED POL had also prepared documents on three regional plans (documents UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/9, 10 and 11). All the documents had been sent to the MED POL national coordinators for comments, but they would be revised taking into account the comments made at the present meeting.

53. Mr Kamizoulis introduced the guidelines for the management of industrial wastewater for the Mediterranean region (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/8), which had been prepared by experts and reviewed by an expert meeting held in Split (Croatia) in March 2003.

54. Ms Mar Santacana, CP/RAC, provided the meeting with a brief overview of the methodology and the approach used for the preparation of the regional plan for the 20 per cent reduction in the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations in MAP countries by 2007. The preparation of the plan had been assigned to CP/RAC in the framework of the GEF project and it was achieved in close cooperation with a consulting firm. It was reviewed by a meeting of experts held in Barcelona (8-10 April 2003), and placed on the intranet of the Centre for review and amendments by CP/RAC Focal Points and MED POL National Coordinators. Comments subsequently received from CP/RAC Focal Points had been incorporated into the plan, which would now be considered and approved by the CP/RAC Focal Points at their Meeting (Barcelona 12-13 June 2003) and transmitted to the Contracting Parties for adoption. She added that in the context of the SAP, CP/RAC had also prepared guidelines on Best Environmental Practices (BEP) for the rational use of fertilizers and the reduction of nutrient loss from agriculture, guidelines on how to apply Best Available Techniques (BAT) and BEP in industries, and guidelines on the application of BAT and BEP in industrial sources of BOD, nutrients and suspended solids.

55. Mr Abousamra introduced the guidelines for the development of ecological status and stress reduction indicators for the Mediterranean region (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/18), which had been developed by the Secretariat in cooperation with experts. The guidelines had been sent to National Focal Points in February 2003 and their comments would be taken into account in the revised version.

56. He then introduced the regional plan for the management of PCBs and nine pesticides for the Mediterranean region (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/9), which also addressed the problem of dioxins and furans. The pesticides that could reach the marine environment mainly consisted of obsolescent chemicals that had already been banned in most Mediterranean countries, whereas the presence of PCBs was generally due to inadequate management. The guidelines on the preparation of national implementation plans for POPs developed in accordance with the Stockholm Convention had provided the basis for many of the regional plan's provisions, while the remainder were based on the inventory of PCBs and pesticides in the Mediterranean region.

57. Finally, Mr Abousamra introduced the regional plan for the management of hazardous wastes, including an inventory of hazardous wastes in the Mediterranean region (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/10), pointing out that many of the data contained therein were based on data provided by countries under the reporting mechanism of the Basel Convention on the Transport of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. In many Mediterranean countries, there was inadequate waste management and a lack of disposal sites and the plan contained proposals on how they could address that issue. It was also proposed that ties with the Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs) be strengthened.

58. During the ensuing discussions, several national coordinators underscored the importance of ratifying the revised texts of the Protocols, which provided the legal basis for MAP and MED POL activities. Some coordinators also considered that more time was needed to consider such important texts.

59. A discussion was held on determining the baseline for the reductions proposed, as there seemed to be confusion as to whether the baseline should be 2003 or the year the SAP was adopted, namely 1997. It was also pointed out that achieving reductions would be difficult for countries with scarce financial resources.

60. Mr Abousamra introduced the regional plan for the reduction of BOD input by 50 per cent by the year 2005 from industrial sources in the Mediterranean region (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/11). The plan was based on the information available on hot spots covering nearly all the Mediterranean countries. He drew particular attention to Tables 5.1 and 8.4, which showed respectively the estimated quantity of the BOD released and the cost of the 50 per cent reduction for each country.

61. In the discussion of the regional plan, several speakers queried the figures provided for current BOD discharges. In response, the Secretariat emphasized that the figures in question had been provided by the countries themselves and that they referred only to BOD discharges from industrial sources as they related to hot spots, and not total BOD discharges for each country. It was agreed that the figure contained in Table 5.1 for Spain, which was currently zero, should either be properly indicated or replaced by an explanatory note. It was also agreed that the titles of the various tables should be reviewed to avoid any misunderstanding as to the meaning of the figures provided.

62. Several national coordinators provided information on the action that was being taken in their countries to reduce the levels of BOD discharges from industrial sources and the prospects of achieving a 50 per cent reduction. Nevertheless, it was felt that the target set out in the SAP of achieving this reduction by 2005 was in most cases over-ambitious. Even when the relevant national studies and plans had been completed, it would be necessary to allow sufficient time for the adoption of the required practical, and where appropriate, legal measures. It was therefore agreed that an implementation target of 2010 should be set out in the regional plan and that the figure of a 50 per cent reduction would be initially based on the available figures for the hot spots and later calculated in relation to the baseline budgets of releases to be finalized later in 2003.

63. With regard to the methods to be used for the achievement of the above reduction, several national coordinators recalled the importance of focusing on prevention to reduce the volumes of pollutants produced at source by industrial processes, rather than just relying on remedial measures, such as the treatment of releases at the end of the pipe. CP/RAC was producing a number of guides which could be of great value in orienting industry towards less polluting and cleaner production technologies. These guides should be promoted and disseminated as much as possible.

### *Monitoring*

64. Mr Civili recalled that monitoring had traditionally been the focus of MED POL activities since its establishment in the 1970s. Now, as MED POL Phase III was nearing completion, monitoring in the region was conceptually very well advanced and produced significant and reliable data, thereby providing the perspective required to support the development and implementation of the SAP. With reference to the quality of the data, important support was provided by the IAEA Marine Environment Laboratory in Monaco. However, the overall implementation of monitoring activities at the national level was not fully satisfactory and the geographical coverage of the monitoring programme was still limited. It

was therefore important to try and understand why some of the larger Euro-Mediterranean countries, and particularly Italy, France and Spain, were experiencing difficulties in harmonizing the fulfillment of their related obligations in this field under both MED POL and European Union regulations. He offered the assistance of the Secretariat to overcome any related problems and indicated that productive contacts had been held with the European Environment Agency, which had proposed that the Mediterranean Member States of the European Union should report directly to MED POL, which would then transmit the data to the Agency. If this proposal could be put into effect, it would amount to a breakthrough. He added that a number of Mediterranean countries not members of the European Union also continued to experience problems in complying with their requirements.

65. Ms Çolpan Beken, MED POL Programme Officer, reviewed the new dimensions that were being added to the MED POL monitoring programme. The first of these consisted of the development of a eutrophication monitoring strategy, as described in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/14. A number of technical meetings had been held on this subject and contacts maintained with experts, so that MED POL was now ready to launch its eutrophication monitoring programme. A second new activity consisted of the development of a new MED POL database in MS ACCESS. The available data from MED POL Phase III (1999-2002) had been loaded into the database by using data validation procedures. The web version of the database had also been prepared and was now accessible to provide general information as well as the inventory of MED POL Phase III data. She called upon the national coordinators to provide guidance on the access policy to be used for the database, i.e. whether data could be made available freely over the Internet or if its access should be limited. She finally informed the Coordinators that a CD-ROM containing all MED POL validated data of Phases I and II (1975-1992) had been prepared for wide distribution. The CD-ROM was distributed at the Meeting.

66. On the issue of the monitoring of bathing waters, Mr Kamizoulis recalled that a meeting had been planned to finalize the interim bathing water criteria for the Mediterranean but that, with a view to ensuring harmonization, it had been decided that it would be more appropriate to wait until the European Union had finalized its own criteria before completing this activity at the Mediterranean level. It was expected that the European Union criteria would be finalized before the end of the year and a MED POL meeting could therefore be held on the subject late in 2003.

67. Mr Civili recalled that guidelines for the monitoring of pollution in rivers had been prepared (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/15). This was an important extension of MED POL's fields of interest in accordance with the new LBS Protocol, the scope of which extended to the whole of the hydrologic basin of the Mediterranean. He called upon those countries that had not yet done so to send in their comments on the proposed guidelines and indicated that a technical expert meeting was planned on the subject.

68. During the discussion of the involvement of the MED POL programme in river monitoring, it was emphasized that the monitoring of rivers and estuaries was essential, as they delivered most of the land-based pollution that reached the Mediterranean Sea. The national coordinators and representatives of the countries concerned agreed that it was necessary to make greater efforts to harmonize the requirements of the European Union and of MED POL in this field. For this purpose, further contacts should be made with the European Environmental Agency, which covered not only the Member States of the European Union, but also the accession and other countries. Care should also be taken to promote synergy with other initiatives in the same field, such as the SEMIDE information network. It was also pointed out that attention should be paid in the presentation of the guidelines on river pollution monitoring to make it clear that this initiative was aimed at measuring pollution inputs into the sea on the basis of the legal requirements set out in the LBS Protocol, and that MAP was therefore under the legal obligation to undertake this

activity. Finally, it was recalled that most rivers flowed through a number of different countries and that collaboration was therefore required with a view to the harmonization of the respective monitoring activities.

69. Mr Hervé Thebault, International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea (CIESM), gave a presentation of the activities of the CIESM in the scientific monitoring of baseline pollution levels and trends in the Mediterranean, particularly through the Mussel Watch Project. Mussels had been selected as a bio-indicator in view of their presence almost throughout the Mediterranean and their efficiency in indicating the trace levels of contaminants. A network of research institutions had been built up in 18 countries, which therefore covered a large part of the Mediterranean basin, and efforts were being made to expand the network to other Mediterranean and Black Sea countries. After first focusing on radio nuclides in the Mediterranean, the project would then be extended to other trace contaminants. He therefore called for increased contacts with other Mediterranean programmes with a view to improving collaboration and avoiding duplication and expressed the belief that the scientific monitoring carried out by CEISM would be valuable in supplementing the work of MED POL. He added that more details, including the project document, could be found on the Website [www.ciesm.org](http://www.ciesm.org).

#### *Capacity building*

70. Mr Kamizoulis reported on national training courses that had been held and which it was planned to hold on municipal wastewater treatment and environmental inspection systems, details of which were given in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/3. He pointed out that the training materials had been translated into the languages of the countries in which the courses had been held, thereby facilitating the participation of a greater number of national experts. Training courses on these subjects had been held in Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Spain, and were scheduled to be held later in the year in Algeria and Syrian Arab Republic. He added that it was planned to continue holding national training courses in 2004.

71. Mr Civili indicated that training activities on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) had been organized by METAP in the context of the implementation of the SAP and as part of the GEF Project.

72. The representative of the IAEA presented an overview of the activities of the Marine Environment Laboratory in support of the MED POL Programme and Mediterranean countries. A training course had been held in Monaco in June 2002 for the analysis of organic contaminants in the marine environment. A training course for metal analysis had been held in Monaco in October 2002, and similar courses would be held in June and October 2003. He reminded the national coordinators that the selection of candidates was a competitive process, so it was important to support nominations with appropriate information and to respect deadlines. He also requested guidance as to whether courses on advanced and analytical techniques should be held in the next biennium. He commented on the continued success of the intercomparison exercises, but noted that some countries had failed to provide results. The IAEA had supported a technical cooperation project involving all five North African countries and had collaborated with CIESM in launching the Mediterranean Mussel Watch Project.

73. Several speakers expressed their appreciation of the national and regional training courses organized or co-organized by WHO/MED POL, and one said that scientists from her country participated regularly in the IAEA/MEL courses in Monaco and found them to be very useful. The National Coordinator from Croatia indicated that her country would publish the documents on wastewater treatment plant operation and management that had been

translated into Croatian and which had been presented during the sub-regional training course.

*Public participation*

74. Mr Kamal, MAP Information Officer, introducing the relevant paragraphs of document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/3, said that public participation involved ensuring the active, responsible involvement of all stakeholders, as the ultimate beneficiaries, in the whole process of the inception, planning, development and implementation of any particular project or activity. He emphasized that such involvement should not be considered as an additional task to be taken into account solely at the implementation stage. He recalled that the stakeholders included local authorities, the private sector, public industries, NGOs and any other party concerned. He added that MAP was currently in the process of preparing a common methodology in the field of public participation to be integrated into the NAPs.

75. During the discussion of this subject, it was agreed that a recommendation would be prepared for the meeting of the Focal Points, with a view to its submission to the Contracting Parties, at the ministerial level, for them to give special attention and provide strong impetus to the key role of information and public participation in all activities related to environment and sustainable development in the region and for the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships. The Secretariat was requested to prepare an information paper for the National Focal Points and subsequently the Contracting Parties setting out the key elements and main structure of a regional strategy on these issues, as a basis for its further development. It was recalled that the strategy should take into account the principles contained in the relevant instruments on this subject.

76. The representative of Amici per la Vita Onlus said that his organization had been cooperating with MAP for more than twelve years, during which it had supported MED POL by financing and organizing campaigns aimed at raising public awareness regarding culture and the environment. In cooperation with the Italian Ministry of the Environment and the Sicilian local authorities, it had started activities regarding the Observatory on Communication for Environmental Protection and Healthy Nutrition (OCSASA). After describing OCSASA's initial activities, he requested the opportunity to report on results achieved to the forthcoming meetings of MAP Focal Points and Contracting Parties. The Secretariat was requested to provide support, as appropriate, to this initiative.

*Other activities related to the LBS Protocol and the SAP*

77. Mr Civili said that MED POL had received funds from the GEF Project to update the 1997 version of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA). The Secretariat had recruited a team of experts, produced a first draft and hoped to have a final version by the end of 2003.

78. Mr Kamizoulis said that draft guidelines for environmental inspection systems had been prepared on the basis of the recommendations of the Meeting of the Informal Network on Environmental Inspections, held in Sorrento in 2001. However, it had been felt that additional information was needed to facilitate implementation of the guidelines, so a reference handbook had been developed to assist countries. MED POL had also assisted countries which had requested help in strengthening and enhancing their environmental inspection systems; there had been a number of activities in Syrian Arab Republic and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, although in the latter case implementation had been slow because of shortcomings in communication which, it was hoped, would improve.

*Coordination and implementation of the GEF Project*

79. Mr Civili introduced the chapter by explaining that all the activities of the GEF Project had been incorporated under the various components of MED POL, and the only elements not already presented and described were the coordination mechanism and the GEF Project management activities to follow up project implementation.

80. Mr Baric reminded the meeting that the Project had begun in 2001 as a three-year project but, because of delays caused by the late appointment of the Project Manager and late responses from some countries, a proposal had been made to extend it by one year to the end of 2004. It was expected that that proposal would receive the approval of the UNEP GEF Unit. The GEF Project was very complex, consisting of more than 50 specific activities, most of which had been incorporated in the MED POL Programme. The other activities were the preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity (SAP BIO) for the Mediterranean and activities related to the long-term sustainability of SAP through the development of economic instruments. In addition, there were three committees for the coordination and management of the various project activities: the Inter-Agency Steering Committee, the Coordination Committee and the *Ad-hoc* Technical Committee. At the national level, it was expected that inter-ministerial committees would be established to coordinate all activities related to the preparation of NAPs with the support of GEF Project funds. It was planned to hold a donors' meeting, postponed from September 2001, in November 2003, along with meetings of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee and the Coordination Committee, and any proposals for hosting them would be welcome.

81. The representative of Spain praised the effectiveness of the coordination between the GEF Project management and the Project's partners, and proposed that the model structure developed could be used in later phases, especially those related to implementation, and could serve as the basis for MED POL to share its experience with the MCSD regarding inter-agency coordination.

82. Mr Adler also congratulated the MED POL and GEF Secretariats on what he described as a model of good cooperation. There were a number of GEF projects in other regional seas, but this was the only one where the implementing body was a Regional Seas Programme Secretariat. GEF's contribution to MAP had been enormous, and without it much of MAP's work would have taken many more years to complete, but the GEF Project had a limited life expectancy, despite the likelihood of an extension, and MAP should take steps to ensure that its activities continued beyond the point where GEF Project funding stopped. Other representatives joined Mr. Adler in commending the Secretariats on their good cooperation.

*Reporting*

83. Mr. Civili introduced the guidelines on evaluation of the effectiveness of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean region (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/16), the strategy for the development of Mediterranean marine pollution indicators (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/17), the guidelines for the use of pollutant release and transfer register (PRTR) formats (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/Inf.10), the documents on the Mediterranean PRTR pilot project: development of database and web site (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/Inf.11), and PRTR process simulation (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/Inf.12). He emphasized that reporting was a major component of the Barcelona Convention system and said that a reporting mechanism had been developed and was being tested in a number of countries. It had originally been intended that reporting on the effectiveness of the implementation of the SAP should form part of the regular reporting mechanism, but it had finally been considered that for the moment it was too complex to be incorporated into a single system and should be tested separately with a view to its simplification, and subsequently incorporated into the

regular reporting system. The guidelines for SAP reporting were set out in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/16.

84. A new approach to reporting was embodied in the activity related to the preparation of PRTR guidelines and specific PRTR formats were being tested in a pilot project in Alexandria (Egypt). On 30 June and 1 July 2003, a meeting would be held in Alexandria to review the results of the pilot project, to test the methodology and to decide on future steps to be recommended.

85. After underscoring the importance of indicators for the purpose of determining trends, he said that the first results of the work on developing indicators were promising.

86. Mr. Abousamra added that, if the guidelines on evaluating the effectiveness of the SAP were approved by the Contracting Parties, it was proposed to provide training on implementing the reporting system in 2004 or 2005.

87. During the ensuing discussion, some speakers expressed the view that the system was too complex, while others considered that it had to be comprehensive in order to obtain a clear picture and that it could be simplified and refined later if necessary. The importance of taking account of reporting systems in other institutions such as the European Commission was underlined.

88. In response, Mr. Civili said that simplifying the system would mean omitting a lot of information. He pointed out that the SAP reporting system would eventually be integrated into MAP's regular reporting system after it had been tested.

89. Mr. Abousamra said that SAP reporting had been harmonized with the MAP system and the information it would provide was needed to complete the tables relating to the LBS Protocol. The first step would be to start implementing the NAPs, following which SAP reporting would come into effect. In the meantime, pilot projects could be developed to test the system, which would be revised according to their results.

90. Mr. Adler emphasized that the efforts made to comply with a complex reporting system were sometimes too great in comparison with the results. Reporting placed a heavy burden on smaller countries and UNEP's Division of Environmental Conventions was trying to harmonize reporting under various Conventions so as to facilitate their task.

91. The meeting heard a report from the representative of Egypt on the PRTR pilot project in Alexandria. She explained that the project had four phases: selection of industries in different sectors; a three-month training course in Italy for the staff involved; implementation of the project; and follow-up consisting of reporting and dissemination of information. The results had been most encouraging and would be discussed at the forthcoming meeting in Alexandria.

92. Mr. Civili expressed appreciation of the support for the project received from the local authorities in Alexandria.

93. Mr. Abousamra drew attention to document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/17, which had been prepared pursuant to a decision by the 12<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties. The indicators were policy-oriented and had been developed by a meeting of MED POL experts and representatives from the European Environment Agency, the Blue Plan and MCSD members. The document contained proposals for action in the short term (2004-2006) and the long term (2006-2010).

Agenda item 4.2      Implementation of the Dumping Protocol

94. Mr Civili introduced the three documents contained under the agenda item: the Summary Report on Dumping Activities in the Mediterranean Region 1995–2001 (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/20), the Guidelines on Dumping of Platforms and other Man-made Structures at Sea (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/21) and the Guidelines on Dumping of Inert, Uncontaminated Geological Materials (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/22). He said that the first document was in summary form because the final report was not ready, but with the imminent entry into force of the new Dumping Protocol it was considered that it would be useful to provide an assessment of dumping activities in the period concerned on the basis of replies by countries to a questionnaire and other data collected from other forums such as the London Convention. The second document had been the result of lengthy negotiations with countries and was ready for adoption by the meeting. The third, while covering much of the same ground as the London Convention, was also presented to the meeting for adoption.

95. Mr Abousamra said that the summary report on dumping activities had been based on information received from 15 countries – six countries had not replied – and showed clearly that some still regarded the sea as a way of disposing of wastes. He said that ratification of the amended Dumping Protocol should be urged in order to reduce the number of dumping activities in the Mediterranean, and that it was important for Mediterranean countries also to give serious attention to the provisions of the IMO Dumping Protocol. The guidelines on dumping of platforms and other man-made structures at sea, which were in line with the guidelines that were being prepared in the context of OSPAR and the London Convention, incorporated a consultative procedure requested by the EU whereby countries were required to consult their neighbours on future dumping activities. The guidelines on dumping of inert, uncontaminated geological materials incorporated the same consultative procedure and had been prepared on the basis of relevant London Convention guidelines, but with a new concept for specifying and identifying whether inert material was contaminated (Part B, paragraph 1.4).

96. The representative of Spain, calling – in his capacity as a vice-chairperson of the London Convention – on national coordinators to encourage their governments to ratify the 1996 amended Dumping Protocol, praised the two sets of guidelines before the meeting. He did not, however, consider that the guidelines on dumping of inert, uncontaminated geological materials should be adopted as a fixed guideline for the application of the Dumping Protocol until a clear definition of “inert material” had emerged from the London Convention, probably in October 2003. He also called upon the Secretariat to prepare additional guidelines on dumping for other purposes (for example, artificial reefs).

97. The representative of IAEA/MEL said that the expression for the enrichment factor contained on page 5 of the guidelines on dumping of inert, uncontaminated geological materials was somewhat vague in that the reference element, N, and the natural metal: normalizer ratio were not specified. Appropriate definition of that natural ratio, perhaps based on the geochemistry of the proposed dumping site, would clarify whether or not some “natural” materials, such as mine wastes, could be dumped.

98. The meeting adopted the texts of the two sets of guidelines, as amended, and requested the Secretariat to present them to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in September 2003 and to the Meeting of Contracting Parties in November 2003 for adoption on the understanding that the final version of the guidelines on dumping of inert, uncontaminated geological materials would take account of any decisions that might emerge from the London Convention.

Agenda item 4.3      Implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol

99. Following statements by a number of speakers, the meeting recommended that the Secretariat send a letter to MAP Focal Points calling for the urgent ratification of all the new and amended Protocols to the Barcelona Convention. The meeting also authorized the Secretariat to make the political point regarding ratification to the Meeting of Contracting Parties in November 2003.

100. Mr. Guerrieri, representative of MAREVIVO, after congratulating MED POL and GEF, expressed concern at the large number of issues covered by the LBS Protocol and the SAP, and particularly the complexity of reporting. He emphasized that donors' contributions should only benefit countries which had already ratified the amended Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Finally, he called for closer collaboration with Black Sea countries.

**Agenda item 5.      Proposed activities for the biennium 2004-2005 and**  
**Agenda item 6.      Budgetary consideration in relation to the 2004-2005 Work**  
**Programme**

101. Mr Civili, introducing the Proposed activities to be carried out by MED POL during the biennium 2004-2005 (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/23) and the Proposed activities and tentative budget for MED POL for the 2004-2005 biennium (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/L.1), emphasized that the budgetary figures provided were merely indicative of the relative proportions for the proposed allocation of the resources available. However, there was as yet no indication of the actual level that the overall MAP budget might take, and the annual amount of US\$ 750,000 had therefore been taken (based on the amount allocated in 2003) as a solely indicative figure.

102. He reaffirmed that the next biennium would constitute a crucial period for MED POL, as its Phase III would expire at the end of 2005. The renewal of the MED POL programme needed to be considered against the background of a number of important events, chief among them being the decisions taken at the WSSD and the enlargement of the European Union, which directly affected several Mediterranean countries. This context offered the opportunity for the strengthening and renewal of MED POL. Great efforts should therefore be made to refocus the programme on the decisions taken at the WSSD and to develop very positive synergies with the action to be taken at the level of the European Union. He added that it was intended to ensure that the process of developing a new phase of MED POL would be very participatory with the involvement of all the national coordinators, through both official meetings and more informal contacts. It was suggested that the proposed new phase of MED POL should cover the period 2006 to 2013, which would be sufficiently long to cover the completion of many of the activities carried out, yet short enough to be able to foresee national and regional needs with a reasonable degree of certainty.

103. Turning to the activities for the biennium 2004-2005, he said that emphasis would continue to be given to the implementation of the SAP and the provision of assistance to countries for the preparation of NAPs which, if effective, could prove to be a turning point in the effective reduction of pollution in the region. Work would also be continued and expanded on monitoring and capacity-building, while reporting systems would be tested. Close relations would be maintained with the relevant United Nations agencies, and particularly with WHO and IAEA/MEL, with UNEP/GPA and with the other Regional Seas Programmes. Collaboration would also be strengthened with the regional activity centres, and especially PAP/RAC on the sustainability of the SAP and CP/RAC on the prevention of industrial pollution. Closer relations would be pursued with the European Commission and the European Environment Agency. He referred in particular to the possibility of collaborating with the Agency for the updating of the report on the state of the environment in

the Mediterranean, first published in 1999, and which could be expanded to take into account the data available from the baseline budget exercises and the updated reports on hot spots. In view of the growing trend to focus action at the sub-regional and local levels, closer cooperation would be fostered with such sub-regional agreements as RAMOGE and the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative. Finally, one of the most significant issues concerned the possible extension of the GEF Project to cover the implementation phase of the SAP. Based on the successful execution of the current GEF Project, preliminary contacts had elicited a favourable reaction from GEF for the development of further regional and/or sub-regional projects.

104. In the discussion on this point, several national coordinators indicated their general agreement with the proposed activities and the indicative budgetary allocations. They also commended MED POL on the successful implementation of the GEF Project. However, a number of general orientations were provided for the future activities of the programme. These included the need to take into account the Plan of Implementation adopted by the WSSD and to refocus MED POL towards sustainable development and activities for the prevention of pollution. It was agreed that MED POL should energetically follow up the GEF Project, which had given rise to many expectations in the region. Many of the national coordinators emphasized the need to collaborate closely with the European Union and to ensure that the requirements placed upon Contracting Parties were harmonized with their obligations at the European level.

105. It was also proposed that, in order to ensure partnership and participation and to lighten the burden on the Secretariat, countries or NGOs could be asked to take the lead in preparing technical papers in line with MED POL objectives. Such documents could then be discussed by expert groups and transmitted to the MED POL national coordinators.

106. With regard to the level of funding available to MED POL, as the most important programme within the MAP, several national coordinators expressed the opinion that the amounts available for the various activities were very low. This was particularly serious in view of the indications given that there might be no rise in the programme's overall budget for the biennium 2004-2005. It was also emphasized that great care should be taken to ensure that the allocation of the funds provided was as transparent as possible, with a clear indication under each item of the manner in which the proposed activities would contribute to MAP objectives and of the specific activities that would be undertaken. A number of specific changes were proposed to the recommendations contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/23. The recommendations, as amended in the light of the discussion, are contained in Annex III to the present report.

#### **Agenda item 7. Future Orientations and Strategies of MED POL: towards MED POL Phase IV**

107. Mr Civili introduced the discussion paper on future strategies and orientation of MED POL (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/24), which was intended to give matter for reflection on the next phase of MED POL. Regarding the future of MED POL, the paper outlined and explained two possible management options, namely, the river basin management approach and the ecosystem approach. The meeting noted the document.

108. It was subsequently suggested that there was also a third management option to take into account – the pollution prevention approach for the industrial sector.

**Agenda item 8. Other Business**

*13<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, 11-14 November 2003, Catania, Italy*

109. Ms Marina Noe, Deputy Governor of the Sicilian Region, underlined the importance of the work carried out by the MAP for her region. The aim of all those responsible for public policy should be to protect the environment and ensure a better quality of life for future generations. The Sicilian Region was greatly interested in the work of the MAP, which facilitated the adoption of local regulations to protect the environment and the promotion of public awareness. In this context, the role and the functions of the Regional Activity Centre located in Palermo (ERS/RAC) would soon be reviewed and proposed to the Contracting Parties.

110. Mr Umberto Scapagnini, Mayor of Catania, said that the meeting of the Contracting Parties would be an important event not only for the environment but also for sustainable development in all Mediterranean countries. It would see the launching of the Observatory on Communication for Environmental Protection and Healthy Nutrition (OCSASA), which should prove a valuable tool for promoting protection of the environment. He assured the meeting that the authorities of the city of Catania would do their utmost to ensure the success of the meeting and the achievement of peace in the Mediterranean.

111. Mr Civili, speaking on behalf of the MAP Secretariat, expressed appreciation for the support given by the Sicilian Region to the Barcelona Convention and its institutions, as well as its practical commitment to protection of the Mediterranean environment.

112. Mr Adler, speaking on behalf of UNEP/Nairobi and UNEP/GPA, drew attention to the important role played by Sicily in MAP's history. The Sicilian authorities were making strenuous efforts to ensure the success of the meeting of Contracting Parties and deserved congratulation.

113. Ms Muchai indicated that UNEP/GPA was considering providing financial support to MED POL for its activities relating to the GPA. The National Coordinator from Italy added that his country was considering providing similar support to MED POL.

114. Mr. Guerrieri informed the meeting of the recommendations made to the MAP Focal Points by a workshop at the conclusion of the two-year campaign entitled "Mediterraneo DOC-Rights, Obligations, Control for a Sea of Quality". The recommendations aimed to contribute to the efforts of the Mediterranean countries and MAP in improving the quality of the Mediterranean sea and were related to governance, maritime safety and solid litter. MAREVIVO intended to transmit such recommendations to the Contracting Parties at their forthcoming Meeting in Catania.

**Agenda item 9. Adoption of the report of the meeting**

115. The present report was adopted by the meeting on the basis of the draft report contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/L.2.

**Agenda item 10. Closure of the Meeting**

116. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 1.30 p.m. on Friday, 30 May 2003.

## ANNEX I

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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**ANNEX II****AGENDA**

- 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 and approval of activities carried out during 2002-2003  
under the MED POL Programme**

## 4.1 Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme and LBS Protocol

- a) National Action Plans
- b) Municipal Sewage
- c) Solid Wastes
- d) Air Pollution
- e) Industrial Pollution
- f) Physical Alterations and Destruction of Habitats
- g) Monitoring
- h) Capacity Building
- i) Public Participation
- j) Reporting
- k) Other Activities related to the LBS Protocol

## 4.2 Implementation of the Dumping Protocol

- 4.2.1 Report on Dumping Activities 1995-2001
- 4.2.2 Guidelines for the Dumping of Platforms and other man-made structures at sea
- 4.2.3 Guidelines for the Dumping of Inert geological uncontaminated Material

## 4.3 Implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol

**Agenda item 5.      Proposed activities for the biennium 2004-2005**

## 5.1. Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme and LBS Protocol

- a) National Action Plans
- b) Municipal Sewage
- c) Solid Wastes
- d) Air Pollution
- e) Industrial Pollution
- f) Physical Alterations and Destruction of Habitats
- g) Monitoring
- h) Capacity Building
- i) Public Participation
- j) Reporting
- k) Other Activities related to the LBS Protocol

## 5.2. Implementation of the Dumping Protocol

## 5.3. Implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol

- Agenda item 6.            Budgetary consideration in relation to the 2004-2005 Work Programme**
- Agenda item 7.            Future Orientations and Strategies of MED POL: towards MED POL Phase IV**
- Agenda item 8.            Other Business**
- Agenda item 9.            Adoption of the report of the Meeting**
- Agenda item 10.          Closure of the Meeting**

## ANNEX III

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### To the Secretariat

- To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to work on the formulation of a new phase of MED POL (2006-2013) that should respond to the needs of the Mediterranean countries in terms of marine and coastal pollution assessment, prevention and control, including river impacts. The programme should represent an effective tool for achieving sustainable development through the adoption of the ecosystem approach as a management framework for MED POL, taking into consideration the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the EU Marine Strategy and legislation;
- To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to consider, throughout the implementation of the SAP, the Johannesburg plan of implementation and in particular the issues related to: energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energy, water and sanitation, and new financial arrangements.
- To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to take appropriate action to ensure that MAP policy goals are presented to the EU, in order to be duly acknowledged and taken into account in the preparation of the European Marine Strategy.
- To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to launch pilot projects to test the feasibility of the reporting system related to the evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation of the SAP.
- To request the Secretariat (MED POL) to explore ways to ensure increased participation and ownership of Contracting Parties and other stakeholders in all MED POL activities, through their involvement in:
  - o the identification of activities and issues to be addressed by MED POL;
  - o the preparation of draft technical and policy documents to be submitted for consideration to the MED POL coordinators. This could be achieved by the identification of leader country(ies) or observer(s) responsible for completing the task(s)

#### To the Contracting Parties:

- To prepare National Action Plans to address pollution of marine and coastal zones from land-based activities as part of the implementation of the SAP; the Plans should be operational by 2005, should focus at least on the identified pollution hot spots and should take into account the objectives and targets of the SAP, as well as the guidelines and regional plans developed by MED POL;
- To adopt the approach proposed by the Secretariat in the Regional Plan for a 50 per cent reduction in BOD from industrial sources considering the target date of 2010 and to ask the Secretariat to update the data and information included in the Plan on the basis of the national baseline budgets of pollutant releases and the cleaner production concept respectively;
- To consider monitoring as an essential tool to assess and control pollution and to assess the effectiveness of measures taken within the framework of sustainable development, and therefore to formulate, implement and operate permanent

monitoring programmes including the newly adopted eutrophication programme in accordance with the agreed MED POL objectives and methods, including the assessment of the resulting status of the transitional, coastal and marine waters;

- To adopt the concept of the reporting system related to the evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation of SAP, as proposed by the Secretariat;
- To adopt the Guidelines for the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures proposed by the Secretariat, which had been prepared in close consultation with national authorities;
- To adopt the Guidelines for the dumping of inert, uncontaminated geological materials proposed by the Secretariat, which had been prepared in close consultation with national authorities.