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Meeting of Experts on the Technical Implementation  
of the Protocol for the Protection of the  
Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from  
Land-based Sources

Athens, 9-13 December 1985

PROGRAMMES AND MEASURES FOR THE ELIMINATION  
OF POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES, IN TERMS OF ARTICLE 5,  
BY SUBSTANCES LISTED IN ANNEX I TO THE PROTOCOL

In collaboration with:



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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

## INTRODUCTION

1. Under the terms of Article 5 of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources, the Contracting Parties have undertaken to eliminate pollution of the protocol area by substances listed in Annex I to the protocol. To this end, the Parties agreed to elaborate and implement, jointly or individually as appropriate, the necessary programmes and measures, which shall include, in particular, common emission standards and standards for use.

2. The standards and time tables for the implementation of such programmes and measures shall be fixed by the Parties and periodically reviewed if necessary, every two years for each of the substances listed in Annex I, in accordance with the provisions of Article 15 of the Protocol.

3. The substances, families and groups of substances listed (not in order of priority) in Annex I (A) and selected mainly on the basis of their toxicity, persistence and bioaccumulation are the following:

- a. Organohalogen compounds and substances which may form such compounds in the marine environment.<sup>1/</sup>
- b. Organophosphorus compounds and substances which may form such compounds in the marine environment.<sup>1/</sup>
- c. Organotin compounds and substances which may form such compounds in the marine environment.<sup>1/</sup>
- d. Mercury and mercury compounds.
- e. Cadmium and cadmium compounds.
- f. Used lubricating oils.
- g. Persistent synthetic materials which may float, sink or remain in suspension and which may interfere with any legitimate use of the sea.
- h. Substances having proven carcinogenic, teratogenic or mutagenic properties in or through the marine environment.
- i. Radioactive substances, including their wastes, when their discharges do not comply with the principles of radiation protection as defined by the competent international organizations, taking into account the protection of the marine environment.

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<sup>1/</sup> With the exception of those which are biologically harmless or which are rapidly converted into biologically harmless substances.

4. Section B of Annex I to the Protocol specifies that this annex does not apply to discharges which contain listed substances that are below the limits defined jointly by the Parties. Such discharges would therefore, for practical purposes, come under the same terms and conditions as those applying to Annex II to the Protocol, i.e. their discharge would be subject to the issue of an authorization by the competent national authorities.

5. The provisions of Article 5 and Annex I are intimately related to those of Article 7 of the Protocol, whereby the Parties have undertaken to progressively formulate and adopt, in co-operation with the competent international organizations, common guidelines and, as appropriate, standards and criteria, dealing in particular with:

- The length, depth and position of pipelines for coastal outfalls, taking into account, in particular, the methods used for pretreatment of effluents;
- Special requirements for effluents necessitating separate treatment;
- The quality of sea water used for specific purposes that is necessary for the protection of human health, living resources and ecosystems;
- The control and progressive replacement of products, installations and industrial and other processes causing significant pollution of the marine environment;
- Specific requirements concerning the quantities of the substances listed in annexes I and II discharged, their concentration in effluents and methods of discharging them.

6. With regard to the above, Article 7 also specifies that:

Without prejudice to the provisions of article 5 of this Protocol such common guidelines, standards or criteria shall take into account local ecological, geographical and physical characteristics, the economic capacity of the Parties and their need for development, the level of existing pollution and the real absorptive capacity of the marine environment.

The programmes and measures referred to in articles 5 and 6 shall be adopted by taking into account, for their progressive implementation, the capacity to adapt and reconvert existing installations, the economic capacity of the Parties and their need for development.

#### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

7. In order to formulate programmes and measures for the implementation of Article 5 of the Protocol the following general principles will be applied:

- (a) The formulation of common emission standards and standards for use will be done on the step-by-step basis.
- (b) A glossary of terms appearing in Annexes I, II and III to the Protocol will be prepared in order to prevent possible misinterpretations.

- (c) Lists of substances falling within each of the group in Annex I to the Protocol will be prepared.
- (d) A survey on land-based sources and amounts of pollutants reaching the Mediterranean Sea will be prepared as an updating of the MED POL X exercise.
- (e) For each of the group of substances listed in Annex I to the Protocol, an assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea ~~with proposed measures~~ will be prepared. Such documents will include, inter alia:
- Sources of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea *of industrial level*
  - Level of pollution;
  - Effects of pollution;
  - Present legal, administrative and technical measures;
  - ~~Proposed measures (common emission standards and standards of use;~~
- (f) Such assessments will include all available relevant information from other components of MAP, in particular MED POL, as well as from other sources (i.e. Paris/Oslo Commission, Baltic Convention, etc.).
- (g) *On the basis of such assessments,*  
The ~~proposed~~ measures will take into account the provisions of Article 7 of the Protocol, *will be proposed*
- (h) For the preparation of assessments, *and measures* the following basic facts will be considered.
- a number of Mediterranean countries already have national criteria and/or standards in force which cover the provisions of the Protocol in general, and Annex I thereto in particular, to varying extents. Such criteria and/or standards have either been developed at national level to meet local requirements, or are in conformity with directives and/or recommendations of international bodies the geographic terms of reference of which partially covers the Mediterranean region.
  - a number of criteria and standards of a general global nature (some of which are applicable to the Mediterranean to varying extents) have been developed by a number of international organizations.
  - a considerable amount of technical work which, when coupled with a knowledge of local Mediterranean conditions, could be used as a baseline for the development of common standards and criteria for the Mediterranean region, has already been performed, or is in progress, in other countries outside the region.
  - through article 8 of the Protocol, the Contracting Parties have committed themselves to systematically assess the levels of pollution along their coasts, in particular with regard to substances or sources listed in Annex I and to inform one another through the secretariat of data resulting from such monitoring.

- (i) Therefore, preparatory work should take already-existing material fully into account. This would avoid (a) overlap and duplication of work, which would be uneconomic and time-consuming, and (b) the production of sets of standards and criteria which could be at a variance with already-existing norms and, as a result, place a number of countries in a difficult position regarding compliance. Eventually, a certain degree of variance with already-existing criteria might very well turn out to be necessary, but this would have to be fully justified.

#### ACTIONS PROPOSED

8. On the basis of the requirements of Article 5 of the Protocol, and general principles presented in para.7 above, a proposed workplan and timetable is attached as an Annex to this document. The actions proposed will be undertaken in close collaboration with relevant national authorities and with the co-operation of the relevant UN Agencies.
9. Documents prepared as a result of actions listed in the Annex to this document will be presented (target date) to Meetings of Experts on the Technical Implementation of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources, with a view to their submission to the Contracting Parties for adoption of the measures proposed.

A N N E X

WORKPLAN AND TIME-TABLE FOR THE FORMULATION OF PROGRAMMES AND  
MEASURES IN TERMS OF ARTICLE 5 OF THE PROTOCOL

ACTIONS	RESP. AGENCY	TARGET DATE
1. Assessment of the present state of pollution by mercury in the Mediterranean Sea and proposed measures for mercury in sea food	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Sept. 1985
2. Glossary of terms appearing in Annexes I, II and III to the Protocol	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1985
3. Completion and Revision of the Glossary	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1986
4. List of substances falling within each of the Group in Annex I to the Protocol	UNEP/MEDU, IRPTC	Dec. 1986
5. Survey of Land-based sources and amounts of pollutants reaching the Mediterranean Sea	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1986
6. Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by used lubricating oils and proposed measures	UNEP/MEDU, UNIDO	Dec. 1986
7. Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by cadmium and proposed measures	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1987
8. Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by organohalogen compounds and proposed measures	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1987
9. Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by persistent synthetic materials which may float, sink or remain in suspension and proposed measures	UNEP/MEDU,	Dec. 1987

	ACTIONS	RESP. AGENCY	TARGET DATE
10.	Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by mercury and mercury compounds and proposed measures	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1988
11.	Completion and revision of the List of substances	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1988
12.	Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by organotin compounds and proposed measures	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1988
13.	Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by organophosphorous compounds and proposed measures	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1988
14.	Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by radioactive substances and proposed measures	UNEP/MEDU, IAEA	Dec. 1989
15.	Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by substances proven carcinogenic, teratogenic or mutagenic and proposed measures	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1989