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Meeting of Experts on the Protocol  
for the Prevention of Pollution of the  
Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships  
and Aircraft

Geneva, 2-6 July 1979

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting will be opened at 10:00 hours on Monday, 2 July 1979, at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

Item 1(a). Rules of procedure

2. Since the meeting is being convened by the Executive Director at the recommendation of the Contracting Parties<sup>1/</sup> "to study problems which, because of their specialized nature could not fruitfully be discussed<sup>2/</sup> during the normal sittings of the Contracting Parties"<sup>2/</sup>, the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related protocols shall apply mutatis mutandis as provided for in Rule 49.

Item 1(b). Election of officers for the two meetings

3. A Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur should be elected for the meeting.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

4. The provisional agenda suggested by the secretariat has been circulated under symbol UNEP/WG.28/1.

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<sup>1/</sup> UNEP/IG.14/9, Annex V, Recommendation 31

<sup>2/</sup> UNEP/IG.14/9, Annex VII, Rule 49 of the rules of procedure of the Contracting Parties

Item 3. Organization of the work of the meeting

5. It is proposed that the work of the meeting be carried out in plenary and by such ad hoc working groups as may prove desirable.

Item 4. Consideration of procedures to be followed and definitions required for the implementation of the protocol

6. In reviewing the protocol for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft, several technical issues remain to be resolved before the Parties may effectively and uniformly implement the provisions of the Convention.
7. The first such issue is to specify the procedure to be followed when notifying the Organization of permits issued in accordance with articles 5 and 6 as provided for in article 7. The experts are requested to agree to the form to be used when reporting to the Organization. The experts are also requested to consider whether it is advisable to suggest that all Parties also submit annual reports on dumpings actually carried out.
8. Article 9 of the protocol refers to the actions a Party should undertake in a "critical situation of an exceptional nature". The experts are requested to discuss and to elaborate upon the appropriate procedures to be followed if a critical situation of an exceptional nature were to arise.
9. In annex I of the protocol reference is made to the exclusion from the prohibition against dumping of organohalogen and organosilicon compounds that "are rapidly converted in the sea into substances which are biologically harmless".<sup>3/</sup>
10. Section B of annex I sets forth another qualification to the application of the prohibition against dumping when referring to "wastes and other materials ..... containing the substances referred to in paragraphs 1-6 of annex I as trace contaminants".
11. The experts are called upon to define more clearly the terms "harmless" and "trace contaminants" to assist the effective application of the protocol.
12. For all these issues the work that has been carried out under the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter (London, 1972) and the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Oslo, 1972), and in particular, by the scientific working groups established for each Convention, may provide some useful precedents. In document UNEP/IG.14/5 the experts will find reproduced decisions adopted by the Parties of the London and Oslo Convention concerning the matters noted above.

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<sup>3/</sup> Paragraphs A.1 and A.2 of annex I

13. Annexes I and II of the protocol both refer to radioactive wastes or other radioactive matter. Paragraph A.7 of annex I prohibits the dumping of "high- and medium- and low-level radioactive wastes or other .... radioactive matter to be defined by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)". Paragraph 5 of annex II covers "radioactive waste or other radioactive matter which will not be included in annex I".
14. When the secretariat sought the IAEA's advice on this matter, the IAEA suggested that the revised definition and recommendations concerning radioactive waste unsuitable for dumping at sea, which it had prepared for the purposes of the London Dumping Convention, might also be suitable for the purpose of paragraph A.7 of annex I and paragraph 5 of annex II of the Mediterranean protocol. The revised definition and recommendations have been circulated to the experts as document UNEP/WG.28/INF.3.
15. The experts are invited to review the IAEA document and to decide upon any future action they may wish to recommend to the Parties be undertaken in this respect.

Item 5. Consideration of incineration at sea  
in relation to the Protocol

16. Document UNEP/IG.14/6 describes the activities that have been undertaken within the context of the London and Oslo Conventions concerning incineration of wastes and other matter at sea.
17. After reviewing the document, the experts are invited to discuss whether incineration at sea is a problem in the Mediterranean Sea area. If so, then the experts are invited to consider the technical and legal regulatory mechanisms that may need to be developed to control incineration in the Mediterranean area and what form these mechanisms should adopt. The experts should recommend to the Parties how these control measures may best be developed.

Item 6. Other business

18. The meeting is invited to discuss any related matter that has not been considered under other items.

Item 7. Adoption of the report

19. The meeting should approve its final report.

Item 8. Closure of the meeting

20. The meeting is expected to close no later than 18:00 hours on 6 July 1979.