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**Progress Report of the implementation of MED POL activities during
2006-2007**

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1. Policy and Coordination

Concerning **personnel** issues, Ms Colpan Beken, responsible for the monitoring activities, left the MED POL Secretariat on 13 October 2006. The post was advertised on 18 January 2007 and several internal (UNEP staff) and external candidates applied. A short list of candidates was prepared by MEDU in cooperation with UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi and a Panel was established. The short-listed candidates were interviewed on 11 June 2007. While a decision by UNEP Headquarters, on the basis of the recommendations of the Panel, is expected soon, steps were made to cover the post temporarily until the post is filled. For this purpose, MED POL recruited Mr. Gabriel P. Gabrielides, an ex- MED POL Programme Officer, to undertake the duties of the post until a new Programme Officer is recruited.

As a result of the decision of the Contracting Parties Meeting held in Portoroz in 2005, the post of MED POL Coordinator (P5) was reclassified at the D1 level. The post was advertised on 12 October 2006 and several internal (UNEP staff) and external candidates applied. A short list of candidates was prepared by MEDU in cooperation with UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi and a Panel was established. The short-listed candidates were interviewed on 6 December 2006. As a result of the recommendations of the Panel, UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi appointed Mr. Francesco Saverio Civili to the post of MED POL Coordinator, as from 1 May 2007.

In addition to the long-standing **cooperation** with WHO in relation to the activities related to the sanitary aspects of the SAP and the LBS Protocol, compliance and enforcement, work has continued to be closely carried out in cooperation with IAEA/MEL in relation to data quality assurance of chemical analyses through training, intercalibration, scientific visits, purchase of instruments and advices on monitoring issues. Work continued to be carried out in cooperation with ICS-UNIDO through their very active involvement, and contribution to, the PRTR activities.

Cooperation and exchanges of information were intensified with the Basel Convention and the London Convention/London Protocol Secretariats. A cooperation agreement was signed with the Basel Convention and joint activities were started with the Regional Centres of the Convention in Bratislava and Cairo in the field of hazardous wastes. Exchanges were also ensured regarding the respective reporting systems with a view at harmonizing and simplifying the corresponding national obligations. Data and information were exchanged with the London Convention/London Protocol Secretariat on dumping permits and practices. In addition, a joint session was organized during the 1st Meeting of the scientific group of the London Convention held in Spain, 18-22 June 2007, where MED POL sponsored the participation of five representatives from Mediterranean countries that were not Parties to the Convention.

Concerning cooperation with MAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs), MED POL strengthened cooperation with INFO/RAC for the preparation of the MED POL Information System (see below). Close contacts were ensured with CP/RAC in order to prepare complementary programmes of work in relation to the future implementation of the SAP, taking into account the specific roles and experience of the two Centres. Close contacts were also kept with the Blue Plan for the preparation of marine pollution indicators. In the framework of the work carried out by MED POL on behalf of MAP on the application of the ecosystem approach (see below), close work was carried out together with all RACs to identify the possible role of each Centre and the implications for the respective programmes of work expected to be brought by the future application of the approach.

Cooperation continued with sub-regional Agreements, and in particular with RA.MO.GE. on coastal litter management, and the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (AII) by putting at the disposal of the Adriatic and Ionian countries the experience of MED POL and the results of the activities carried out in their area (e.g. monitoring).

Cooperation with MedGOOS was marked by the successful involvement of MED POL in the IASON project. The Project was concluded and the products of IASON were linked to the MAP web site. As a follow up, MED POL became a formal member of MOON through a Cooperation Agreement that facilitates the exchange of data and information and synergy in selected projects.

The Agreement with the University of Alessandria, (Italy), to promote the use of biomarkers and to ensure good quality data related to biological effects monitoring, was successfully continued through the organization of training and intercalibration exercises. On the same subject, MED POL is following the work of the ICES Working Group on Biological Effects of Contaminants and hopes to initiate common activities with ICES (OSPAR) and HELCOM aiming at harmonization of techniques.

Close contacts were kept with the UNEP Office of the Regional Seas Programme in Nairobi and the UNEP GPA Coordination Office in The Hague for over all guidance and coordination. In particular, the GPA Office kept constant contacts with MED POL and provided support in the framework of the implementation of the SAP.

In the framework of the preparation of the **European Marine Strategy** by the European Union, MED POL has been an active contributor on behalf of MAP to the preparation of the various components of the Strategy, by promoting Mediterranean interests in harmony with EU objectives and principles. While a new related EU Directive has been proposed to EU member states, MED POL believes that its implementation in the Mediterranean region 1) rests in harmony with MAP and MED POL objectives, principles and targets (in particular the SAP and the process that has been initiated for the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities), and 2) could channel into the region technical and financial support for the achievement by the countries (also non-EU) of the common targets and objectives. In this framework, the Mediterranean EU member states may wish to propose to the EU to use MAP/MED POL as the operational tool for the implementation of the Directive in the wider Mediterranean region thus bridging EU and non-EU countries in the initiative.

MED POL closely cooperated with the EC in the formulation of the **Horizon 2020 Initiative** which was adopted by the European Ministers in Cairo in December 2006. The Initiative will take into full account the progress made by MED POL in the implementation of the SAP and the NAPs. In particular, the pollution reduction projects that will be identified by the EC and its partners will be mostly based on the priority identified by the countries in their MED POL National Diagnostic Analyses and the investments listed in their National Action Plans. A number of country visits already took place together with the European Investment Bank to review the priorities and select the bankable projects. The Horizon 2020 and the NAPs will jointly contribute to the common objective to substantially reduce land-based pollution.

In the context of the Horizon 2020 Initiative, cooperation was strengthened with the European Environment Agency (EEA) in the field of monitoring and assessment and the identification of appropriate indicators. Several meetings were held to discuss the related work of MED POL and the Agency on indicators and data availability to try to find a common approach and strategy for the future work of monitoring and assessment that the Horizon 2020 Initiative will require. In the same context, MED POL has participated at all the Meetings organized by EMMA (the European Marine Monitoring and Assessment) together with all the European Marine Conventions.

One of the innovative initiatives that the European Marine Strategy is proposing is the application of the **ecosystem approach** to the management of human activities. The initiative, that has been taken up by MED POL in the framework of the future MED POL Phase IV, needs to be applied by the entire MAP system. To this end, the European Commission, on the basis of their positive cooperation with MED POL in the overall framework of the preparation of the Marine Strategy, financed a project to be implemented

by MED POL on behalf of MAP to assist the gradual application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities in the region. As part of the project, two Consultation meetings of selected experts were organized by MED POL in Athens to prepare a draft road map for the gradual application of the approach by MAP (see doc UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.303/2). As a follow up to the Consultations, a Regional meeting of Government-designated Experts was held in Athens to review and approve the road map (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.306/4). The road map, as approved by the experts, will be presented to MAP Focal Points and later to Contracting Parties for adoption.

Finally, the MED POL Secretariat has intensely worked during the biennium on the preparation of a draft **Operational Document for MED POL Phase IV (2006-2013)**. A first draft was prepared by the Secretariat and was presented to the Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL Coordinators (Mytilini, 26-28 March 2007). The Meeting reviewed it and suggested a number of amendments that were incorporated into a new draft that is brought to the present Meeting for approval. The Operational Document will then be presented to the Next Meeting of MAP Focal Point and later to the Meeting of Contracting Parties for adoption (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/3).

As agreed by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz in 2005, in addition to the Operational Document for MED POL Phase IV, the Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators held in Mytilini reviewed two additional documents prepared by the Secretariat: a Review of the basic elements to be used for the preparation of the **new legally-binding text to address land-based pollution** and a draft MED POL Information System. The document related to the new SAP was thoroughly reviewed by the MED POL Coordinators who felt that a number of steps were still to be made before deciding what type of measures countries could accept as part of the new legally-binding document. As a result, the Secretariat prepared two additional documents that are presented to this meeting for review (see doc UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/4 and UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/5).

A Meeting to review the long-term implementation of National Action Plans to address pollution from land-based activities was held in Durres, Albania, on 1-3 June 2006. The main objective of the Meeting was, after the formal endorsement of the NAPs, to review and discuss a new strategy that could facilitate the achievement of the actions listed by the countries in their NAPs. The proposal of the Secretariat, based on an analysis of the content of the NAPs, was to prioritize issues according to the countries capabilities and identify and gradually apply a **differentiated approach** in the pollution reduction process. The Meeting examined, discussed and appreciated the proposal by the Secretariat but suggested the convening of an ad hoc Working Group to examine a larger number of differentiation criteria than those proposed by the Secretariat. The Meeting of the ad hoc Working Group was organized by MED POL in Barcelona on 1-2 March 2007 and agreed on a road map up to the year 2020 aiming at the identification and the implementation of an appropriate differentiation mechanism to ensure the implementation of NAPs (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 307/4).

A draft **MED POL Information System** was prepared in collaboration with INFO/RAC and was presented to the Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL Coordinators in Mytilini. The Coordinators appreciated the initiative and the technical specifications of the System but considered that there were a number of data policy issues that remained to be discussed. As a result, the Secretariat, in full cooperation with INFO/RAC prepared a document related to policy issues inherent to the System which is presented to this Meeting for review and approval (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/6).

As part of the new **GEF Strategic Partnership**, a project brief was finalized and sent to the GEF Council in May 2007. MED POL has contributed to the preparation of the brief by proposing a number of activities related to the implementation of the NAPs and the disposal of PCBs in a number of countries. The full-scale Project is expected to be approved by the end of the year to be fully implemented starting from 2008.

2. Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

National Action Plans (NAPs)

At the beginning of the 2006-2007 biennium, as a follow up to the countries' preparation and endorsement of NAPs, the Secretariat prepared two synopsis documents: a regional synopsis (ref. Doc UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.289/Inf.4) highlighting the actions which are included in the NAPs, classified by the sectors described in the SAP, and a country by country synopsis (ref. Doc UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.289/Inf.3) listing the planned national actions to be implemented to comply with the SAP commitments. The two documents, presented to a Meeting held in Durres, Albania, on 1-3 June 2006 (see ref. doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 289/4), have been widely used by MED POL to start the process to monitor the status of the implementation of the actions described in the NAPs and to prepare an assessment document to evaluate the compliance of the NAPs with SAP commitments.

The assessment of the evaluation of the compliance of NAPs to SAP commitments (ref. Doc UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.289/3) has been fundamental for preparing the process for the long-term implementation of NAPs. In fact, the assessment, while highlighting a number of non compliance cases by some countries, gave the Secretariat strong indications of the fact that NAPs could not be fully implemented without the application of a differentiated mechanism due to very heavy socio economic burdens for many countries. This was one of the conclusions presented by the Secretariat at the Durres meeting in June 2006 on the long-term implementation of NAPs. As a result, the meeting established a Working Group to review criteria and measures for the application of a differentiated approach for the implementation of NAPs. The Working Group met in Barcelona in March 2007 to review a document prepared by the Secretariat (ref. Doc UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 307/3) on several possible differentiation criteria to be considered for the development of a comprehensive Mediterranean mechanism. The Group agreed to develop during the next biennium a differentiation mechanism based on Environmental Limit Values (ELVs) and a prioritization process for the substances to be addressed. The Group finally requested the Secretariat to develop a full differentiation mechanism during the next biennium to be submitted to the Contracting Parties for possible adoption in 2009.

Sustainable financing is obviously the most critical issue of the process of implementation of the NAPs. Aware of that, the Secretariat has been actively working with GPA, with the EC in the framework of the EU 2020 initiative for the depollution of the Mediterranean and the GEF Strategic Partnership for Large ecosystem of the Mediterranean.

MED POL considers the EU 2020 Initiative a dynamic platform for the implementation of NAPs. In addition, the Secretariat succeeded in increasing the credibility of the NAPs and having them as the main source of information upon which the Initiative would be build up. In fact, the Cairo declaration of the Mediterranean Ministers that launched the Initiative emphasized the role of MAP in the development and implementation of the Initiative. As a result, The European Investment Bank (EIB) established a special investment programme (FEMIP) to finance the priority actions described in the NAPs of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Israel. Other Mediterranean countries could be supported for the implementation of their NAPs through different European financial instruments. A long list of possible projects to be financed was established by a joint team from MED POL and the EIB. The joint team is currently visiting the concerned Mediterranean countries to assess the status of implementation of the priority actions of the NAPs and set up a short list of

bankable projects. By the end of 2007 a full list of project that may be financed in the framework of EU initiative will be prepared.

Furthermore, MED POL concentrated its effort in the development of the Strategic Partnership (SP) between MAP, GEF and the World Bank. The SP has two components: a component related to regional policy reform, capacity building in the field of sectoral industrial management, PCBs management and disposal, ICZM, coastal water resource management, the creation of a regional finance mechanism/platform and finally an information and replication strategy .The proposal was submitted to the GEF Secretariat in May 2007 and the GEF Council will review it for possible adoption in June 2007. The component is worth around 30.000.000 \$ including the GEF and MAP/MED POL contributions and co-financing from the Parties, the Fond Français pour l' Environnement Mondial (FFEM) and the Spanish and Italian Government Governments. The second component is the creation of an Investment Fund, managed by the World Bank, for the implementation of priority actions described in NAPs. The Partnership is expected to be fully operational by January 2008.

The work on setting the basis for a mechanism of transfer of technology and know how to facilitate the implementation of NAPs continued during the biennium 2006-2007, as it is considered one of the pillars of the long-term implementation of the NAPs. Integrated pollution control with emphasis on cleaner production and its tools was successfully integrated in the framework of Strategic Partnership project activities as part of the replication strategy and as an important element for the implementation of LBS Protocol. In this context, a close working cooperation with CP/RAC is envisaged.

Municipal sewage

Concerning municipal pollution, a number of activities were carried out during the biennium 2006-2007 to provide assistance and guidance to countries for the implementation of the related activities of their NAPs.

Following the preparation of the Guidelines on sewage treatment, disposal and use along with those on sludge treatment, disposal and use, the discharge of the treated wastewater in the cases that no further use can be obtained was addressed in a more efficient manner, taking also into consideration the results of the survey of the wastewater treatment plants in the coastal Mediterranean cities carried out in 2000 and 2004. In the above studies a considerable number of coastal cities appear as not discharging their effluents appropriately and consequently the quality of the receiving waters is not compatible with uses such as bathing and shellfish growing areas. Therefore, a document was prepared on appropriate sewage discharge including coastal outfalls (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/Inf. 4, in a cd-rom).

Since the operation of the wastewater treatment plants is usually within the responsibilities of the local authorities that do not frequently possess the needed scientific and technical skills, a document on the construction, management and operation of treatment plants was prepared to be used by the local administrations. The document is concise, indicative, simple, scientifically based and able to provide solutions for decision-making purposes. Along with this document, and in order to ensure the effective use of the documents so far prepared and assist in the implementation of the sectoral studies, particularly those of municipal wastewater, a guide was drafted on the efficient application and use of the sewage-related documents (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/ Inf. 4, in a cd-rom).

The preparation of the updated survey of the wastewater treatment plants in Mediterranean coastal cities in 2004, revealed the fact that only a part of the estimated coastal population is concentrated in cities with more than 10,000 inhabitants. Therefore, in order to better assess not only the needs but also the discharge of untreated wastewater in the Mediterranean, it

was considered important to proceed with a survey related to human agglomerates with more than 2,000 inhabitants and less than 10,000. Thus, a regional study was initiated on the assessment of coastal human agglomerates with more than 2,000 inhabitants and less than 10,000 and their ability to efficiently treat and dispose their effluents. Data and information were so far received from Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Montenegro, Morocco, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. As the data and information from other countries are still missing, the study is expected to be completed by the end of 2007.

A number of countries expressed their interest in organizing national training courses on the safe use of wastewater. It is expected that until October 2007 three countries, namely, Turkey, Malta and Greece, will organize national training courses with support consisting on lecturing training material and financial assistance. Due to the increased demand, priority was given to the countries where no national courses were ever held before, like Malta and Greece, or where only one national course was held, like Turkey. As for the remaining countries, national training courses will be organized in 2008.

The last assessment of the quality of bathing and shellfish growing waters was carried out in 1996. It was considered that, ten years after, it was appropriate to assess again the state of the bathing and shellfish growing waters in the Mediterranean countries by conducting a regional survey and assess the quality of such waters. Therefore, an assessment on the state of microbiological contamination of the Mediterranean sea was prepared, based on the available data provided by the countries in the compliance reports (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/Inf. 5). The document includes a comparison with the 1996 assessment report, so as to provide also the trend in bathing and shellfish growing waters compliance monitoring and to give a clear picture of the microbiological contamination in the Mediterranean.

In addition, and following the pilot studies on beach profiles, a document on the methodology for developing beach profiles, was prepared to assist countries with the implementation of the proposed legislation (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/Inf. 6).

A consultation meeting of country designated experts on bathing waters was also held in Athens on 11-12 June 2007, where the proposed methodology for beach profiles was reviewed and draft guidelines for criteria and standards were presented and discussed.

As a follow up to the regional training course on municipal wastewater treatment plants operation and management, held in the past, one national training course on the same subject in Arabic language, took place in Beirut, Lebanon from 28-30 September 2005. The course was co-organized by WHO/MED POL and the Lebanese Ministry of Environment and was attended by thirty-four participants from various treatment plants and ministerial officers. The course also included a part on sludge management, following a request from the Lebanese authorities.

Coastal Solid Wastes and litter

During the biennium 2006-2007 MED POL concentrated its activities in two fields:

- Concrete application of the MED POL Guidelines on coastal solid waste management in the Mediterranean region, through the implementation of a model Pilot Project for coastal litter management in Lebanon in the metropolitan area of Tripoli in cooperation with RA.MO.GE. The objectives of the pilot project included the following activities:
 - a) the improvement of the institutional set up dealing with coastal solid wastes management of the municipality of Al Mina (MED POL in cooperation with the Municipality of Al Mina, the municipality committee and the Union of Northern Association for Development (UNADEP) of Lebanon);

- b) the improvement of the coordination between stakeholders (MED POL and RA.MO.GE. with the national and local authorities);
- c) the provision by MED POL of technological advices concerning the different elements of the management of solid waste in coastal areas;
- d) the identification of sources and distribution of solid wastes in the marine environment close to the Palm islands (RA.MO.GE. in cooperation with University students through the use of specialized GIS system);
- e) the promotion of local public participation and awareness in the solid waste management process (RA.MO.GE and MED POL through an expert provided by RA.MO.GE).

The project was implemented by UNADEP under the supervision of the Lebanese Ministry of Environment and the MED POL National Coordinator.

As the result of the successful implementation of all the activities of the project, UNADEP in cooperation of Ministry of Environment in Lebanon, MED POL and RAMOGE, organized a national workshop to ensure the replication of the pilot project in other coastal municipalities in Lebanon. Mayors of coastal cities and representatives from relevant public administrations, industry, NGOs and civil society participated to the workshop. In addition, MED POL disseminated through its MAP web site all deliveries such as documents, brochures, leaflets which were produced in the framework of the pilot project to be used for the development and implementation of similar project throughout the region.

- Large awareness campaigns on the issue of coastal litter in the Mediterranean. MEDPOL, with the financial assistance of UNEP/RS, signed three MoUs with three regional NGOs, namely, HELMEPA, Clean Up Greece and MIO-ECSEDE 1) to undertake awareness campaigns on the coastal litter issue in the Mediterranean and 2) develop a medium term public awareness and education strategy on management of marine litter in the Mediterranean (see Doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/Inf. 7).

Brochures and leaflets in French, English, Arabic, Greek, Albanian, Croatian and Turkish were disseminated to the public, fishermen, industrials, tourists, hotels and other stakeholders during several national awareness campaigns organized during 2006 and 2007.

In addition, the three NGOs jointly prepared guidelines entitled "Medium term public awareness and education on management of marine litter" which propose a regional approach on how to raise awareness, appropriately inform on marine litter and implement appropriate policy at national and local levels. The guidelines address all stakeholders and in particular the general public, the maritime industry, the tourism sector, the agricultural sector, regional and national authorities, NGOs and the media.

In addition, with the assistance of a regional expert, MED POL prepared a draft strategic action plan, including targets and time frame for implementation (see Doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/Inf. 8) for the management of coastal litter in the Mediterranean. The plan, which could be considered as the basis for the preparation of a medium-term work programme by the Secretariat and the national authorities for the development of a multilevel watch dog system of the state of management of coastal litter in the region, a capacity building programme, a regulatory framework and a proposal for the financial improvement of the management of coastal solid waste management system, was formulated on the basis of the current situation related to the major sources of litter in the marine environment and the national institutional and legal set ups. The Secretariat consider that the action plan combined with the "Medium term public awareness and education on management of marine litter" would constitute a solid regional action plan/strategy for the reduction of inputs of litter and solid waste into the marine environment from different sources.

Air Pollution

In relation to the estimation of emissions of pollutants into the air, the data and information submitted by the countries through the preparation of the Baseline Budgets of emissions and releases showed that most of air releases, in addition to mobile sources, are generated by the energy sector and energy production plants associated to industrial processes. As a result, the Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Portoroz in 2005 recommended MED POL to develop and plan the implementation of initiatives in the energy efficiency and renewable energy fields that could play a major role in pollution reduction and control in the framework of the SAP. As a follow up to the recommendation, MED POL prepared an assessment of the current related practices in Mediterranean countries and a plan for the implementation of specific activities to be carried out implemented during 2008-2009 as well as in the long-term as a support to the implementation of the SAP. In this connection, MED POL will propose specific actions for the coming biennium and will seek cooperation and partnerships with competent Institutions and interested stakeholders.

Industrial Pollution

Concerning industrial pollution, during 2006-2007 MED POL finalized the data base (DB) with the data and information from the **National Baseline Budgets of emissions and releases** which were provided by the countries in the framework of the preparation of the NAPs. The DB is structured in a way the data and information are classified by administrative region, sector, sub-sector and process. The DB also includes data and information on wastewater treatment plants. MEDPOL, in his attempt to ensure high quality data on sources of pollution, actively contacted the national coordinators and the national experts to clarify issues related to a number of anomalies which were detected during the QA/QC process of the data included in the data base. This activity was finalized in April 2007 and the Secretariat now believes that the data and information provided by the countries could be considered as a solid base for the development of compliance programmes and future policies related to pollution reduction.

In addition to the above, MED POL in cooperation with CP/RAC prepared a guide for non-European Mediterranean countries for the implementation of a system of control of pollution based on BAT and BEP (see Doc UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/Inf. 9). The guide proposes to each country a procedure with the following phases:

- How to determine the scope: industrial sectors (vertical areas), auxiliary activities (horizontal areas), size of industries, new vs. existing installations, extensions of industries, etc.; how to determine the structure for the definition and consensus in the country regarding BAT and BEP for each industrial sector;
- How to establish a procedure for the determination of BAT and BEP and for their periodic review;
- How to analyze the environmental legislation and powers of the public Administrations, so that environmental permits contain emission limit values (ELVs) based on the BAT and BEP;
- How to analyze in detail the technical, environmental, legal and economic consequences of the implementation of the system. Before venturing to implement a system of this importance, the country itself must conduct a study, in much greater depth than would be carried out for this guide, of the consequences of the implementation of the system;

- How to put into operation the implementation of the system and monitor such implementation. Once the country has decided to put the system into operation, the guide recommends on this point how to carry it out and by what parameters to monitor it in order to ensure the success of the implementation.

During the biennium 2004-2005, the document “**Assessment, including Guidelines, for the development of national Regulations for releases of pollutants from industrial installations**” (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.264/Inf.12) was prepared. The objectives of the document were:

- to provide the countries with basic information on the diverse environmental standards for the industry in force in different Mediterranean countries
- to identify the means by which standards have been established in EU and non-EU countries
- to identify different ways of establishing up-to-date environmental standards
- to outline a methodology that industrials should use to track pollution reduction.

On the basis of the above document, the Ministère de l'aménagement des territoires, de l'eau et de l'environnement of Morocco, with the financial and technical assistance of MEDPOL, launched a pilot project for the development of national standards for the quality of releases from the metals industry sectors. The project was based on a bottom up approach starting from an exhaustive analysis of the state of the art of the sector in Morocco, an assessment of the depollution technology available in relation to the environmental receptors, the national socio-economic and technical capacities to manage the related pollution issues and finally a proposal for a set up of ELVs for water and air releases. The proposal was based on a wide national consultation process. It is expected that the Ministry would adopt the proposed ELVs according to national rules and regulations (see Doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/Inf. 10). The Secretariat considers the approach and methodology followed by the Moroccan authorities for the establishment of national ELVs in different industrial sectors as appropriate and as a model for other countries. To this purpose, the document was placed in the MAP web site.

The Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Portoroz in 2005, agreed to include in the MED POL programme of activities for the biennium 2006-2007 the preparation of five regional plans as follows:

- the reduction of inputs of nutrients from industrial installations
- the reduction of inputs of Mercury
- the management and disposal in environmentally manner of stockpiles of PCB, obsolete chemicals
- the management of lubricating oil
- the reduction of generation of used batteries

The plans were to be based on the up-to-date data and information included in the recently prepared NDAs, NBBs and NAPs. When initiating the process of preparation of the plans, two parallel and closely linked processes started, i.e. the negotiations for the identification of a differentiation mechanism for pollution reduction and the negotiation for the identification of the approach to be used for the formulation of programmes and measures which would be included in the future legally binding text called for by art 15 of the LBS Protocol, once in force. As a result, and taking into account that the above negotiations were still currently ongoing in close cooperation with the MED POL National Coordinators, the Secretariat felt that the preparation of the above mentioned regional plans was to be deferred until decisions were made on the over all future regional pollution reduction process policy. In this context, the Secretariat considered that the updating of the adopted Regional Plan for

the reduction by 2010 of 50% of BOD from industrial sources, requested by the 14th meeting of the Parties meeting in 2005, on the basis of the proposed differentiation criteria would provide countries with a concrete example of the possible commitments which could be included in the future pollution reduction policy process. As a result, MED POL prepared an updated version of the regional plan for the reduction of BOD taking into consideration the conclusions of the Working Group meeting on the differentiation approach held in Barcelona in March 2006 for consideration by the MED POL Coordinators (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/5).

Destruction of habitats

As a follow up to the work carried out by the Secretariat during the previous bienniums on the management of **sea water desalination** that led to the preparation of an assessment, Guidelines and the decision by the Contracting Parties to consider such activities as industrial activities falling under the provisions of the LBS Protocol, MED POL has attempted to diffuse as much as possible the information available on the environmental risks associated to desalination and on good management practices. As a result, the documents prepared by MED POL were widely distributed and a MED POL staff participated at the international symposium on sea water desalination organized by the European Association for Desalination (EDS) held in Montpellier 2006 and Greece 2007. Key-note papers were presented related to desalination activities in the Mediterranean and their impacts on the Mediterranean marine environment.

Reporting

In the framework of the testing trial of the **MAP reporting system** covering the Convention and all the Protocols for the biennium 2002-2003 and the outputs of the several MAP meetings on reporting, MED POL has been actively involved in the process of preparation of an updated format for the reporting on the implementation of LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Waste Protocols. In addition, MED POL proposed its vision for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. It is a DPSIR indicator-based evaluation that makes use of data and information generated by the Parties.

Considering the importance of the establishment of national **Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR)** systems, MED POL continued to provide technical and financial assistance to the countries to facilitate the implementation of pilot projects. In this context, and as result of the successful implementation of the Phase I of the pilot project carried out in Egypt, MED POL in cooperation with ICS-UNIDO finalized the programme for the implementation of the Phase II of the project to cover all the Mediterranean regional branches of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and industrial partners located in that area. It consists of an online reporting system that ensures the remote linkage between the EEAA branches and industrial partners. The system is supported by a Data Base to handle all the data and information on the releases and transfer of selected pollutants for the industrial sites.

In addition, MED POL with the assistance of ICS-UNIDO, launched in June 2006 a PRTR pilot project in Izmir, Turkey. The project consists on the establishment of an online reporting system between the industrial partners and the Izmir Environmental Directorate, the set up a data base for the data and information and training in the ICS-UNIDO premises in Trieste, Italy, of two experts on the management and customisation of the overall system. A wrap-up meeting is planned for July 2006 to review the first achievements of the project and agree on a road map to extend the application of PRTR to cover a wider coastal area.

During the biennium, MED POL continued the implementation of the road map adopted by the Contracting Parties included in the concept paper for **Marine Pollution Indicators (MPIs)** to be used as tools for national reporting on the effectiveness of the implementation of Dumping, Hazardous waste and LBS Protocols and the SAP document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/17). In this connection, with the assistance of regional experts, MED POL undertook a region wide assessment of the capacities and capabilities of the countries to assess the core set of indicators adopted in the framework of the concept paper. The results of the assessment are shown in Doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.316/Inf. 11.

In summary, from the testing of the application of the MED POL Marine Pollution Indicators at a national level, made by 14 countries, it appeared that most problems, issues of concern and constraints were common among the countries and consequently most of their suggestions for improvement of MPIs at a national level could be universally applied. Some of the suggestions were general, applying to the whole spectrum of MPIs while others were specific. The suggestions were made on:

- ✓ Data acquisition
- ✓ Data storage / Data base organization
- ✓ Increasing funding and human/laboratory capacities (thus also covering the need for intercalibration, QA/QC programmes)
- ✓ Harmonization with EU initiatives/International collaboration
- ✓ National Strategy
- ✓ Adoption of reference values/stations (in particular for biological/biomarkers)
- ✓ Reducing the number of proposed MPIs
- ✓ Adding new specific MPIs

In addition, while only a few countries monitor all stipulated parameters, others monitor supplementary parameters that they regard as more important (based on scientific as well as local criteria) e.g. phytoplankton. EU countries appear to undertake more detailed monitoring programmes.

Chemical indicators are more advanced in terms of general scoring, followed by the ecological indicators, while biomarkers score last in the scale. Data on ecosystem MPIs to generate national assessment reports do exist as well as capability to complement the data in areas that are not currently covered.

With regard to chemical MPIs and biomarkers, methodologies appear to be uniform and standardized, following established analytical MEDPOL procedures under national and international QA/QC protocols and intercalibration exercises. In contrast, more work is needed for the harmonization of ecological indicators (defining limits of ecological classes, establishing reference stations, developing data bases).

Nevertheless it is obvious that the capacity and the will exist to extend the monitoring programmes in compliance to the MED POL MPI strategy, particularly if more resources (financial, manpower and expertise) become available.

MPIs in environmental research should be utilized as an integrated, multidisciplinary and holistic manner. They also should be geared towards the establishment of an integrated data base that could be incorporated into ecosystem models.

The Secretariat will use the above finding for the future development of the MPIs in close connection with the monitoring programmes.

Other activities related to the LBS Protocol and the SAP

Regarding **Environmental Inspections** and in particular systems of inspection in the Mediterranean countries, as a follow up to the meeting of the Network on Compliance and Enforcement of legislation held from 4-6 October 2005 in Athens, another meeting of the above Network is scheduled to take place on 24-25 October 2007 in Athens.

In line with the regional training course to "train the trainers" on environmental inspection systems, held during the last biennium, several national training courses were organized by WHO/MED POL and took place during 2006-2007. In this connection, a national training course on environmental inspectors was conducted on 4-6 October 2006 in Nova Gorizia, Slovenia, and was co-organized by WHO/MED POL and the Inspectorate for Environmental and Spatial Planning of the Ministry of Environment in Slovenia. Thirty senior national experts participated from all over the country.

Moreover, another national training was held in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 19-20 April 2007, on pollution monitoring and environmental inspections, using the training material prepared for this purpose. The course was co-organized by WHO/MEDPOL and the Hydrometeorological Institute of Montenegro. Sixteen inspectors from the environmental services of the Ministry attended the course.

Upon request by the Syrian authorities, assistance was provided for the launching of inspections in Syria, through arrangements and technical and financial support by WHO/MED POL. With a view to increase technical collaboration in the region, a team of Egyptian inspectors traveled to Syria and assisted the Syrian authorities in June 2006.

During the implementation of the capacity building programme related to environmental inspections, it was indicated by some participants as well as national organizers of the training courses that additional issues should also be tackled in the years to come. In particular, it was stressed that the development of inspection technical checklists with reference to each one of the industries operating in the country would have been a useful tool. Therefore, appropriate training material was prepared, consisting of guidelines and instructions on how to perform technical inspections to industries along with inspection check lists referred to each individual industry of relevance in the Mediterranean countries and will be presented for discussion and comments to the meeting of the network on compliance and enforcement to be held in October 2007.

Due to the increasing importance of indicators in all the aspects of the environmental compliance monitoring programme and their proposed use, a set of indicators for environmental inspections was prepared and it is under testing in three countries (Tunisia, Slovenia, Israel). Further implementation will be discussed during the meeting of the Network on Compliance and Enforcement scheduled for October 2007.

The implementation of NAPs will require a complex mechanism in order to assess the reduction of pollutants at source. This assessment mechanism is based on three pillars; the authorization of discharge systems or Permit system is the starting point to regulate the reduction of pollutants; the inspection system is the system to control the compliance and the enforcement of the regulations related to the Permit set targets; and compliance monitoring is directly related to the inspection system as the most important tool to verify the proposed measures for pollution reduction. In order to address the important issue of compliance and enforcement in the region, a proposal was made for inclusion of such an activity in the new GEF Strategic Partnership. As part of the preparation of the Project Brief, an assessment was prepared to provide a thorough picture of the institutional framework of the Regulation and Inspection systems as well as the Compliance monitoring policy. The assessment identified overlaps or gaps and proposed ways and means for every country to strengthen the systems and to effectively enhance the capacity building as part of the full scale Project that is expected to commence in 2008. In particular, the following were carried out in 2006 with the financial support of GEF:

- Assessment of needs in countries with the assistance of national experts; and
- Preparation of a programme of action concerning the strengthening of the permit, inspection and compliance systems in the countries.

The new MED POL Phase IV includes the **health risks in tourist establishments** as a very important issue to examine in the Mediterranean, while tourism is indicated by the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development as being of utmost importance for development. Considering the existing link of the human health aspects of tourism with the provisions of the LBS Protocol, the need was felt to prepare an assessment of health risks associated with tourist establishments in the Mediterranean region that would provide scientific evidence of the major risks. A meeting of experts was organized from 24-26 April in Athens, in order to identify possible activities to be implemented in the framework of MED POL (see ref. doc. EUR/07/5069441/5). The outcome of the Meeting provided clear indications of the activities to be implemented during 2008-2009.

3. Assessment of pollution

National monitoring agreements were signed with the following countries: Albania (data submitted since 2001), Croatia (data submitted since 2000), Cyprus (data submitted since 1999), Greece (data submitted for 1999 and 2004), Israel (data submitted since 1999), Slovenia (data submitted since 2000), Tunisia (data submitted since 2001) and Turkey (data submitted since 1999).

Agreements for national monitoring programmes have also been signed with Morocco, Algeria and Syria but efforts are still needed to extend the coverage temporally and geographically and to ensure good quality data. Three of the monitoring programmes (Cyprus, Tunisia and Turkey) were revised to extend their coverage and to include pilot eutrophication studies. Eutrophication pilot studies were also implemented in Croatia, Morocco and Slovenia. Egypt signed an agreement in April 2006 for the implementation of a pilot programme on trend monitoring of contaminants.

Based on the recommendations of the 14th Contracting Parties Meeting and the conclusions of the Third Review Meeting of the Monitoring Activities (December, 2005), the countries that had no agreements with MED POL or had gaps in the provision of data were contacted with a request to provide the data and results of their monitoring activities according to MED POL specifications. As a consequence, Italy provided contaminant data for coastal waters, sediments and biota as well as eutrophication data for the period of 2001-2005. France had already provided contaminant data on biota for the 1996-2003 periods but confirmed that data submission would continue. Monaco provided compliance monitoring reports for bathing waters for the period 1996-2005 and also an inventory of biological effects studies done for the period 2000-2005. Spain submitted data for the period 2004-2005.

The Third Review Meeting of MED POL III Monitoring Activities held on 12-15 December 2005 in Palermo, Italy, had reviewed the overall activities of MED POL Phase III including a detailed analysis of the monitoring data and of the Data Quality Assurance activities. The implementation and the results of each MED POL monitoring component was reviewed and proposals were made for the development of MED POL Phase IV activities. As a result, the MED POL Phase IV operational document discussed by the National Coordinators at their Mytilini meeting (26-28 March 2007) agreed that monitoring would continue retaining all the basic characteristics of Phase III.

As a follow up to the approval by the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the MED POL Phase IV programme, work started on the organization of **sub-regional surveys**

for the better understanding of the contamination levels of Mediterranean coastal waters. As an initiative was already in progress, it was decided to join hands with the ongoing activities and assist other Mediterranean laboratories to participate. The project MYTILOS, basically funded through INTERREG, covered the western Mediterranean. Cages with mussels are placed in selected stations and the mussels are later analysed for all chemical contaminants (heavy metals and organics). MED POL assisted the participation of Tunisia and Morocco.

MED POL participated as a partner in the kick-off meeting (October, 2006) of a new project (MYTIMED) that is basically a continuation of MYTILOS and will cover the North-Eastern Mediterranean. MED POL is assisting the participation of Lebanon and Syria in the 2007 cruise.

The Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory of IAEA-MEL continued to cooperate with the MED POL programme in the implementation of a comprehensive **Data Quality Assurance** programme for chemical contaminants in the framework of the national monitoring programmes.

As outlined below and described in more detail, the work of IAEA/MEL during 2006-2007 period focused on training courses in marine analytical chemistry of pollutants, inter-laboratory studies and the provision of expert technical advice through country missions and attendance at meetings.

Two training courses in Monaco were implemented during the later part of 2006, and complete reports of the individual courses have been submitted to MED POL. A training course for the measurement of chlorinated pesticides and PCBs in marine samples was organized from November 6 to 21, with the participation of 5 trainees from 5 countries. Similarly, a training course for the analysis of heavy metals in marine samples was organized from November 27 to December 8, with the participation of 5 trainees from 5 countries.

A report was completed for the inter-laboratory study of sample IAEA-435 (Tuna homogenate) in which 31 laboratories from 14 Member States participated. (*World-wide and regional intercomparison for the determination of organochlorine compounds and petroleum hydrocarbons in tuna homogenate IAEA-435*, Report IAEA/MEL/78, February 2006).

A report was completed for the interlaboratory study of sample IAEA-436 (Tuna homogenate) in which 31 laboratories from 13 Member States participated. (*World-wide Intercomparison Exercise for the determination of trace elements and methylmercury in tuna fish flesh homogenate IAEA-436*, Report IAEA/MEL/77, February 2006).

Two samples of coastal sediments were prepared for interlaboratory study of organic contaminants (IAEA-159) and metals (IAEA-158). IAEA-159 was distributed in July 2006 and 31 laboratories from 13 Member States participated. The deadline for reporting results was extended to the end of March 2007. IAEA-158 was distributed in May 2006 and 30 laboratories from 14 Member States participated. The deadline for reporting results was set for the end of November 2006. The submitted data will be interpreted and two reports will be prepared in the 3rd quarter of 2007.

The expertise of MESL has also been called upon to assist MED POL laboratories in a number of ways during the current biennium. Quality assurance missions were organised for two laboratories in Turkey (Izmir and Erdemli) and sediment and mussel samples were analysed in MESL to support capacity building of the laboratory in Izmir.

Work has also continued on **biomonitoring** with the assistance of DISAV (University of Alessandria, Italy) A MED POL workshop entitled "Workshop on the MED POL Biological Effects Programme: Achievements and Future Orientations" was organized on 20 and 21 December 2006, at the University of Alessandria, Italy. It was attended by 22 Mediterranean scientists, participants of the MED POL biological effects programme, as well as by two outside experts. The workshop:

- a. Reviewed the work undertaken during Phase III. Under this item the participants had the opportunity to present the work accomplished during the last decade within national monitoring programmes and other comparable programmes;
- b. Adopted a proposal for the utilization of a 2-tier approach with caged molluscs to rank the level of pollutant-induced stress syndrome in sentinel organisms sampled along the Mediterranean coast; the first tier would include a single biomarker, namely, lysosomal membrane stability, and mortality. The second tier would include a whole set of biomarkers including lipofuscin accumulation, neutral lipid accumulation, micronuclei frequencies, oxidative stress, metallothionein content, acetyl cholinesterase activity, peroxisome proliferation, lysosome to cytoplasm ratio, and stress on stress;
- c. Recognized the need for harmonization of the assessment criteria with those of the northern European organizations and Conventions. Harmonisation should include biomarker selection, standard operating protocols and data management as well as common inter-calibration exercises, training courses and databases

MED POL accepted the invitation to participate in the ICES Working Group on Biological Effects of Contaminants, which met in March 2007 in Alessandria, Italy. During the meeting the need for harmonization was brought up and the possibility of organizing common activities between ICES (OSPAR), MED POL and HELCOM was discussed. It was agreed to propose, in relation to the North Sea ICES/OSPAR ICON workshop, the organization of a parallel activity in the Mediterranean in 2008/2009 using the 2-tiered approach. This workshop could serve as a European platform for harmonization and intercalibration exercises of biological effect techniques that are used in all three Convention areas and which will largely fall under the EU Framework Water Directive.

The sampling and analysis techniques for the eutrophication monitoring of MED POL was published as MAP Technical Series No. 163 and widely distributed.

As a follow up to the agreed MED POL work programme, work started on the preparation of a new updated Eutrophication Assessment Report. Small expert meetings were organised and later the preparation of the report was undertaken by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research. The report is also based on information provided by country experts and National Coordinators through questionnaires circulated by the Secretariat. In February 2007 a workshop was organised which reviewed the first draft of the report. The final draft will be prepared by the end of June 2007, on the basis of the comments provided by the workshop. The workshop also had the opportunity to examine the document on the Eutrophication Monitoring Strategy, which was first presented to the Third Review meeting of monitoring activities, and to make proposals for its improvement.

A draft method of sediment sampling and analysis that had been discussed at the meeting of experts on sediment studies (April, 2005), was also presented and widely commented at the Palermo review meeting. The document is now being improved and once finalized, will provide an important contribution to the revision of the trend monitoring programme

A Meeting was held in Cyprus on 30 September-1 October with MOON and MED GOOS to further establish cooperation with MAP and MED POL for the use of the existing products related to operational oceanography. The available products and data are expected to be utilized by all MAP components.

4. Information System

During the biennium MED POL launched the development of an information system. A draft MED POL Information System was prepared in collaboration with INFO/RAC and was presented to the Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL Coordinators held in Mytilini on 26-28 March 2007. At present, the MED POL Information System includes the following modules:

- Intranet which would facilitate the contacts and dissemination of documents and information between the secretariat and the national coordinators
- On line reporting currently includes reporting on the trends and compliance monitoring programme and would be developed to cover all reporting activities for LBS, Dumping and Hazardous waste.
- Data acquisition and drawing
- GIS

The development of the first two modules is almost finalized, an Alpha test for MEDPOL staff was achieved in 2006 and the Beta test which covers national coordinators and stakeholders is expected to initiate towards the end of 2007. MED POL is actively working with INFO/RAC to ensure the switching into on line reporting system by January 2007.

At the Extraordinary Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators held in Mytilini in March 2007, the Coordinators appreciated the initiative, the technical specifications and the implementation plan of the System but considered that there were still a number of data policy issues that remained to be discussed. As a result, the Secretariat, in full cooperation with INFO/RAC prepared a document related to policy issues inherent to the management of the System which is presented to this Meeting for review and approval (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/6).

5. Activities related to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol

Under the provisions of Article 5 of the 1976 Dumping Protocol, national authorities are requested to keep records of the dumping activities by issuing permits and informing the Secretariat accordingly. However, as it was reported on several occasions, since the entry into force of the Protocol, only few countries have regularly reported to the Secretariat on the permits issued.

In this context, considering the relevance that dumping activities have for planning pollution monitoring and control activities, and that the 1995 revised Dumping Protocol is expected to enter into force soon, the Secretariat, on the basis of the assessment of dumping activities for the period of 1995-2001 prepared in 2005 and the outcomes of the regional Workshop held in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 15-16 February 2005, organized national stakeholders meetings to review the state of the art of dumping in Egypt, Morocco, Malta, Syria and Libya and planned a meeting in Turkey for the end of 2007. Particularly relevant and useful were the information brought by the Nicosia Meeting which reviewed the dumping activities in the Mediterranean countries, including the implementation of the Dumping Guidelines, identified national needs and shared informed on the state of the art of the management of different types of materials mentioned in Art 4 of the Dumping Protocol.

The national meetings showed that there is a need to deploy more efforts to increase the preparedness of the countries to the implementation of the commitments of the Dumping Protocol of 1995 and more specifically of the adopted Guidelines.

In this connection, MED POL agreed with the Secretariat of the London Convention-London Protocol (LC-LP) to organize a joint session during the 30th meeting of the scientific group

under the London Convention and the 1st meeting of the scientific group under the London Protocol. The 1st Meeting of the scientific group was held in Spain, 18-22 June 2007, and MED POL sponsored the participation of five representatives from Mediterranean countries (Albania, Algeria, Israel, Syria and Turkey) which are not Parties to LC-LP. This initiative intends to facilitate the exchange of information between representatives on means and manners to overcome difficulties and barriers in the implementation of Dumping Protocol and strengthen the coordination between the two Secretariats.

In addition, the Secretariat collected the necessary information related to the development of Threshold Limit Values (TLV) for dredging materials to be used for the preparation of guidelines for the development of TLVs by national authorities. The Secretariat, in order to be cost effective in the implementation of such activity, is coordinating its efforts with LC-LP and will make use of its guidelines for Inland waste management.

The Secretariat has also prepared a more complete report on the dumping sites of ammunitions in the region (see doc. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 316/Inf. 12). The report and the attached map are intended to be used by maritime authorities, fisherman's associations, etc., and will be further updated with the assistance of National Coordinators.

MED POL was actively involved in the preparation of the reporting system for the Dumping Protocol as part of the MAP reporting System.

6. Activities related to the implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol

As part of its cooperation strategy with the Basel Convention Secretariat, MED POL finalized the Phase I of the pilot project to set up national inventories of lubricating oils and assess their impacts in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The project, jointly coordinated with the Basel Convention regional Office in Bratislava, Slovakia, and the national authorities of Bosnia-Herzegovina would be a model to be considered in future by other Mediterranean countries. The project deliverables were widely disseminated throughout the region and posted on the MAP web site. In addition, in March 2007 MED POL launched the phase II of the project which consists in the development of a management plan for lubricating oils in Bosnia-Herzegovina, based on the results of Phase I.

In parallel to the above mentioned project, MED POL is currently negotiating with the Basel Convention Regional Center (BCRC) for the Arabic countries based in Cairo, Egypt, the launch of a project during 2007 to develop a regional strategy and action plan for combating illegal traffic and disposal of hazardous wastes in the Arab region. In the framework of the project, MED POL will provide financial and technical assistance to the Mediterranean Arabic countries. The project rationale is based on the information from civil society and NGOs that illegal traffic and disposal are occurring in the region and that a strategy and an action plan to fight against them are largely missing.

The basic steps towards achieving the strategy and action plan will include:

- a) Collecting information and investigating on similar strategies and watch system plans from other regions
- b) Preparing a strategy and action plan to be presented to a regional workshop
- c) Propose a financial mechanism and coordination unit for the strategy and action plan
- d) Convene a Technical level meeting to discuss the budget and financial issues, the collaboration mechanisms and the elements of the strategy and action plan.

- e) Convene a high level regional workshop to present and agree on the strategy and action plan, agree on implementation mechanisms and review financial mechanisms
- f) Publicize the strategy and action plan
- g) Present the strategy and the plan to the Ministers of Environments in the Arab countries at their annual meeting with the League of the Arab States.

It is expected that many organizations and institutes, e.g. the Basel Convention, Greenpeace, port authorities, customs, environment sectors, coast guards, Interpol and many other will be key players and beneficiaries.

MED POL was actively involved in the preparation of reporting system for the Hazardous waste Protocol as part of the MAP reporting System. Special attention was given to harmonization with the reporting system of the Basel Convention.