



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

EP



UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/7
31 May 2001

Original: ENGLISH

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the MED POL National Coordinators

Venice, Italy, 28 - 31 May 2001

REPORT

MEETING OF THE MED POL NATIONAL COORDINATORS

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Introduction

1. The Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators was held at the Future Centre Telecom Italia Lab Conference Centre in Venice, Italy, from 28 to 31 May 2001. The meeting was partly sponsored by the association "Amici per la Vita" in cooperation with the Municipality of Venice, the province of Venice and ANCI.
2. National Coordinators or their representatives from the following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention attended the Meeting: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahirya, Malta, Monaco, 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 organisations were represented: Global Programme of Action Office (UNEP/GPA), World Health Organization (WHO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Centre for Science/United Nations Industrial Development Organization (ICS-UNIDO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), World Bank/METAP and Secrétariat de la Commission RAMOGE.
5. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Amici per la Vita, Ecomediterrania, Forum for the Lagoon of Venice, CEFIC/EUROCHLOR, Greenpeace International, International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP) and Fondo EuroMediterraneo (FEM).
6. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting

7. Mr. Enzo Favaretto, Director of the Future Centre, welcomed all participants to Venice and said that his organization was pleased to make available its facilities for their deliberations.
8. Mr. Paolo Costa, Mayor of the City of Venice and Vice-President of the Associazione Nazionale Comuni Italiani (ANCI), said that the city was glad to host such an important intergovernmental meeting and welcomed the participants. He believed that the cities of the Mediterranean, because of their political capacity to also influence the decisions taken by central governments, were the ideal place to start work together for sustainable development, and could play a key role in opening up an ongoing dialogue with national and international agencies. In that context, it was important to ensure cooperation between Mediterranean cities belonging to different economic systems and with different levels of development. Venice was willing to contribute in setting up the dialogue between cities, at the Mediterranean and international levels, aiming at setting a common agenda for sustainable development and for a better environment for all. The resources of cities were important elements in sustaining the action of international agencies such as UNEP and the Mediterranean Action Plan. And, in turn, the Mediterranean cities such as Venice would also derive benefit from the programmes of UNEP and from the outcome of the current deliberations of the MED POL Coordinators.
9. Mr Luigino Busatto, President of the Province of Venice, underlined the Province's interest in the topics to be discussed at the meeting. The Province was aware of its responsibility for the unique ecosystem of the Lagoon and, together with local authorities, the Region and the State, it was making every effort to eliminate the consequences of industrialization that had not taken sufficient account of the environment. It was hoped that

in future, by using the best possible technologies, industry would be compatible with the sensitive environment of the Lagoon. The technology required to clean up the marine environment existed and it could be utilized without constituting a handicap for development. If the delicate balance between environmental protection and development could be achieved in the Mediterranean, future generations would be able to live in harmony on its shores.

10. Mr Sergio Illuminato, President of Amici per la Vita, said that among his organization's aims was the development of an Environment Information Centre for Mediterranean and European municipalities, in collaboration with ANCI and other international and national entities, including UNEP/MAP, so that, on one hand, municipalities could be represented better in international forums and, on the other, environmental issues would become a priority at the local level. The project Amici per la Vita envisaged special awareness-raising and public information activities on environmental protection, promoting exchanges among the various cultures of the Mediterranean. The activities included support for meetings such as the present one, an Internet site, a catalogue of environmental audiovisual works produced and disseminated in Europe and the Mediterranean, and special emphasis on educating and informing young people.

11. Ms Silvia Bernardini, Associazione Nazionale Comuni Italiani (ANCI), emphasized that the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) would require, within the framework of the project "Amici per la Vita", the mobilization of all the resources available. Municipalities, in particular, would have to put into effect the recommendations addressed to them in the operational document for the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP). The Mediterranean Sea was suffering and dying as a result of the irresponsible behaviour of its coastal States. Awareness of the situation and how to remedy it could only come about if a genuine culture of environmental protection was disseminated. The objective of the programme Amici per la Vita of the Italian municipalities and UNEP for the protection of the Mediterranean marine environment and coastal areas was precisely to promote such awareness among the actors who would have to meet the challenge of bringing about real sustainable development.

12. The Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan, Mr Lucien Chabason, expressed thanks to the "Amici per la Vita" and the local and provincial authorities for their welcome and stressed that the sustainability and safeguarding of the city of Venice were major concerns of the international community. He underlined the role of non-governmental organizations in the important activities to preserve such an important heritage for future generations.

13. He underlined the important need for Contracting Parties to ratify the amendments to the Barcelona Convention and, in particular, to its Protocols on land-based sources of pollution and on dumping, to enable their entry into force. The Coordinator also explained that the development of the MAP reporting system would impact on MED POL and, in that connection, it was important to ensure the entry into force of the national reporting process for the Barcelona Convention.

14. He pointed to the importance of the contribution by the countries of the Mediterranean to the upcoming intergovernmental review of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the protection of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution, to be held later in the year.

15. Reviewing the activities under MED POL, he noted the publication of a series of reports presenting and updating the state of pollution of the Mediterranean environment. In that context, since 1999 the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) had been working closely with the European Environment Agency. In addition, MAP was updating the transboundary diagnostic analysis that formed the background to the SAP. A further updated report

concerned the listing of Mediterranean settlements of more than 10,000 inhabitants and their dispositions for wastewater treatment.

16. The biennium 2000-2001 represented a milestone for MED POL, directed towards the more effective and more efficient reduction of pollution. The implementation of the SAP had been launched in January 2001, and its first activities had been scheduled for a period of three years, with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the French GEF. MED POL was thus taking on a new, concrete dimension, while retaining its scientific character and its monitoring work.

17. After describing the efforts to coordinate the activities of MAP with the global environmental conventions, he highlighted the need for greater coordination with the relevant structures of the European Union, particularly in light of its projected future enlargement.

Agenda item 2. Election of officers

18. The Meeting unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	Ms Marie-Christine Van Klaveren (Monaco)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mr Alessandro Curatolo (European Commission) Mr Yahia Sabhi (Morocco)
Rapporteur:	Mr Najji Kodeih (Lebanon)

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

19. The Meeting adopted the proposed agenda contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/1, which appears as Annex II to this report.

20. 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.

Agenda item 4. Review of activities carried out by MED POL during the biennium 2000-2001

1. Coordination

21. Mr F.S. Civili, MED POL Coordinator, introduced the first section on coordination of the report on the review of activities carried out by MED POL during the biennium 2000-2001 (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/Inf.3). Among other issues, he drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that the number of national monitoring agreements finalized with Contracting Parties since the beginning of the biennium had been smaller than expected. He emphasized that, if agreements were not concluded within the next few months, much of the funding earmarked for that purpose would be lost. It would be very useful if national Coordinators would discuss the reasons for this delay and identify any areas in which they required assistance from MED POL.

22. The National Coordinator from Italy indicated that the first triennium of the implementation of the monitoring system in his country had been completed and the report for the triennium would be submitted to the Secretariat. Moreover, criteria and plans for the second triennium had also been developed. He emphasized the need to work further on the development of sets of indicators, which should be sufficiently simple to gain support at the political level. Finally, he recalled the future importance of the European Union in the

Mediterranean in view of the prospect that European Union membership would rise to nine or ten Mediterranean coastal States.

23. The National Coordinator from Slovenia recalled the need for MED POL to cooperate in the activities of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, particularly in the implementation of the activities of the coastal component of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).

24. The National Coordinator from Greece welcomed the great improvement in the implementation of MED POL over the years and informed the meeting that Greece had recently published a report assessing the progress made over the past five years in the national monitoring programme. The report would be circulated to the National Coordinators. She added that her country was now in the final stages of ratifying the LBS Protocol and that the new legislation would be adopted in the coming months.

25. The National Coordinator from Croatia was pleased to announce that her country had already finalized a national monitoring programme with MED POL Phase III and forwarded the results to the Secretariat. She indicated that Croatia also responded to all the requests for information from MED POL and MAP, although she had experienced some difficulties with the questionnaire sent out recently by the Global Programme of Action (UNEP/GPA) office in The Hague.

26. The National Coordinator from Monaco indicated that her country had developed a monitoring programme that incorporated all the criteria set out by MED POL. She hoped that it would be possible to improve the collaboration between RAMOGE and both MAP and MED POL in the monitoring of biological effects at the regional level.

27. Ms Vandeweerd, Global Programme of Action Office (GPA), UNEP, recalled that the GPA had been adopted in Washington D.C. in 1995, and that UNEP acted as the Secretariat to the GPA through its office in The Hague, with the support of the Netherlands Government. The Mediterranean Region had provided an example for many regional and national programmes. She drew attention to the intergovernmental review meeting on the implementation of the GPA to be held in Canada in November 2001. One of the objectives of the meeting was to take stock of the implementation of the GPA at the national and regional levels, as well as by United Nations agencies. The purpose of the questionnaire, which had been sent out to all MED POL Coordinators, through MAP, was not to carry out an in-depth analysis of the action taken at the national level, but to provide examples of good practice that could be of use to other countries. In particular, the intergovernmental meeting would be examining examples of the manner in which environmental governance could be improved at the regional level. It would also be looking into innovative mechanisms that had been developed to cover the very high financial needs of environmental action.

28. The representative of the European Commission recalled the decision by the Contracting Parties that all MAP activities should be analysed from the point of view of their cost-effectiveness precisely making ex-ante and ex-post analysis of the activities performed. He therefore insisted that activities be presented in a format that included background and expected outputs.

29. In response to the comments made by the National Coordinators, the MED POL Coordinator welcomed the information on the progress made in national monitoring activities which should, however, be transmitted to the Secretariat in the agreed format. He added that reference should have been included in the Secretariat's report to the active collaboration with MED-GOOS, whose activities complemented those of MED POL. Finally, he emphasized that all projects undertaken with partners outside MED POL were systematically covered by rigorous evaluation.

30. The MAP Coordinator recalled that the Contracting Parties had requested the Secretariat to work on the issue of programme evaluation. During the current biennium, evaluation exercises had been undertaken for Blue Plan, PAP/RAC and the 100 Historical Sites Programme. The results of those evaluations would be submitted to the meeting of MAP Focal Points in Athens in September 2001. In view of their programme development, it had not been considered appropriate to carry out such evaluation exercises for MED POL Phase III or REMPEC during the present biennium. He indicated that evaluation could cover a number of aspects: the cost-effectiveness of programmes; the proper implementation of activities, including the choice of partners, the methods used and the information generated; and the relevance of the activities to the achievement of MAP's objectives. In order to ensure that evaluation was carried out properly, it was important for the objectives of all activities to be defined with precision from the beginning. He would therefore ensure that the proposed activities submitted to the Contracting Parties for the next biennium were accompanied by more precise objectives.

2. Pollution assessment

31. The MED POL Coordinator, introducing the section of the report on pollution assessment, reviewed in detail the progress made in the preparation and finalization of monitoring agreements, as well as in the development of a database on trend, compliance and biological effects monitoring and the work carried out in the fields of data quality assurance, biomonitoring, coastal litter management, the launching of a Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) Mediterranean programme and research into emerging issues. With regard to the development of national monitoring programmes, he expressed the hope that it would also be possible for MED POL to finalize monitoring agreements with France, Italy, Monaco and Spain with a view to ensuring that the situation was comparable in all Mediterranean countries. Although a programme had been finalized with Monaco, he looked forward to closer collaboration with the other three countries.

32. The National Coordinator from Morocco emphasized the need to continue providing financial and technical assistance, and particularly training on the monitoring of biological effects, to the countries which required it. He indicated that a report on the monitoring system in his country would soon be provided to the Secretariat. Environmental indicators were also being finalized in his country, based on the guidance provided by MAP. On the issue of coastal litter management, he said that the main problems were not technical, but related to the relevant legislation. To this effect, a draft law had been elaborated and was being approved to solve the problem. With reference to the transfrontier transfer of pollutants, he referred to the recent Pan-African conference on hazardous and toxic wastes and the programme developed with the aid of donors for the formulation of national programmes to identify toxic and harmful pollutants.

33. The National Coordinator from Greece said that great emphasis was given in her country to data quality assurance, including the internal procedures for all participating institutions. She thanked the Secretariat for the financial assistance provided in the field of biomonitoring and expressed interest in the results of the PRTR pilot project.

34. The National Coordinator from Israel reported that research undertaken by the University of Tel Aviv over the past year showed the potential of biomonitoring, which would be included in the national monitoring programme. The report on the research carried out had been submitted to the Secretariat.

35. The National Coordinator from Croatia indicated that her country was in the final phase of preparing an assessment of the national monitoring programme. She also welcomed the training courses organized by IAEA/MESL on data quality assurance, on

which progress was also being made in her country. With regard to the development of indicators, she wondered whether there was duplication with the activities of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSA) and EU in that area.

36. The National Coordinator from Egypt stated that a national monitoring programme had existed for several years in his country and he hoped that the monitoring agreement with MED POL could be finalized in the near future. The laboratory facilities developed recently in Alexandria could be used not only for Egypt but also for neighbouring countries.

37. The National Coordinator from Bosnia and Herzegovina emphasized the importance of cleaner production as a very cost-effective means of reducing pollution. The training provided by MAP in collaboration with CP/RAC in Barcelona should focus on in-company training with direct participation, which was the most effective way of improving capacities in the area of cleaner production.

38. The National Coordinator from Tunisia said that the national monitoring programme had been finalized on the basis of existing national programmes, and that the related agreement was about to be signed. The delay had been due to the fact that the previous programme, that involved only two laboratories and covered only a part of the coastline, was changed to include five more labs, to cover the entire coast and to be in line with the objectives of MED POL Phase III. He also thanked the MED POL Secretariat for the assistance provided to his country during the process of finalization of the programme. The Coordinator from Tunisia also added that, on the basis of the results, his country could be interested in undertaking a PRTR project. However, he warned that to be effective inventories needed to be updated on a regular basis to ensure the reliability of the information that they contained.

39. The National Coordinator from Algeria recalled that a monitoring programme in her country had been in operation for many years. However, it had experienced some problems of an institutional nature. She was therefore pleased to report that an environmental national action plan and a sustainable development strategy were being developed. The environmental measures taken in her country included the revision of the Environment Act, the elaboration of other laws (for the protection and conservation of the coast, wastes, etc.) which would contain detailed legal provisions, and the establishment of new institutions such as the National Observatory of the Environment and Sustainable Development, a Coastal Conservancy, a Centre for Cleaner Technology, a Conservancy of professions related to the environment, a Centre for biological resources development and an anti-pollution environmental Fund. A national report and a video on the status and trend of the environment in Algeria had been produced and were available to the participants.

40. The National Coordinator from France admitted that collaboration between the French national monitoring network and MED POL was not optimal. However, he recalled that the monitoring network in his country had been in operation for 25 years and hoped that contacts with MED POL would improve in the near future.

41. The National Coordinator from Slovenia thanked the Secretariat for the assistance provided in developing the national monitoring programme and finalizing the agreement with MED POL. She also welcomed the assistance provided in the area of biomonitoring and requested further information on the EEA and MAP reporting systems.

42. The National Coordinator from Lebanon indicated that, after some delay for administrative reasons, work had begun on the national monitoring programme a few weeks earlier. He thanked the Secretariat for the financial and technical assistance provided.

43. The National Coordinator from the Syrian Arab Republic thanked the Secretariat for the assistance provided in developing the national monitoring programme and laboratories and expected that the agreement with MED POL would be signed very shortly. She requested assistance in the development of a national inspection system and in the preparation of national criteria for monitoring adapted to the compliance requirements in her country. She indicated that her country was awaiting with interest the results of the PRTR pilot project in Egypt and expressed willingness to participate in the project.

44. The National Coordinator from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya said that the national environmental protection agency and environmental protection legislation had been developed recently. Once the phase of capacity-building had been completed, his country would be ready to sign a monitoring agreement with MED POL. He also requested assistance in the use of the new MED POL database.

45. Ms Vandeweerd, UNEP/GPA, informed the meeting that, with the collaboration of Sweden, the GPA office had recently developed a clearing house on coastal litter management, which was available on its website.

46. The National Coordinator from Malta indicated that the national monitoring programme had been finalized. The improvements made over the past few years would be supplemented by the introduction of biomonitoring into the national programme.

47. The National Coordinator from Italy, referring to the legislation adopted in 1990 in his country to combat pollution of the sea, emphasized the importance of developing indicators for the receiving body. It was important not only to gather information on discharges of pollutants, but also on the characteristics of the sea near the point of discharge. A set of baseline indicators should therefore be developed for each receiving body. He also emphasized the importance of reacting to emerging issues, such as the large amount of pollution that was likely to be caused in future through mariculture activities.

48. The observer for the Palestinian Authority requested information on the technical and financial assistance available to help the Palestinian Authority combat pollution.

49. The MED POL Coordinator explained that, while it was clear that all countries were undertaking monitoring activities, they were not all meeting the requirements of MED POL Phase III, which called for monitoring of both trends and compliance. Moreover, some countries were not submitting results or were not submitting them in the format required under MED POL Phase III, and that did not allow the data to be compared. It was proposed, and the meeting agreed, that within the framework of the current meeting, a small open-ended session be held to present the format for monitoring programmes to those countries that had not yet submitted reports, and to clarify for some others the monitoring requirements agreed under MED POL Phase III. It was hoped that such clarification would enable a greater number of monitoring programmes to be finalized by the end of the current year. He also pointed out that, according to the United Nations administrative rules, the Secretariat would be unable to provide any further financial assistance to a country until it had put in place a very specific and detailed working programme. As soon as such programmes were in place and results were being produced, the Secretariat was ready to provide training in the procurement and analysis of the data. The Secretariat also attached great importance to biomonitoring and was ready to assist countries in the conduct of such activities.

50. The representative of the European Environment Agency (EEA) explained that, in the near future, the new Mediterranean members of EEA would be obligated to prepare monitoring reports for EEA. Although EEA could request direct reports from member countries, a duplication of effort could be avoided by having countries submit reports based on the data provided to MED POL, which was already in a harmonized format. In that way,

indicator-based reports could be produced and, wherever requisite data were not available through MED POL, countries could be approached directly. Likewise, data would flow in both directions, and the EEA would report to MED POL on request on any supplementary information obtained from its members. A draft memorandum of understanding with MAP/MED POL had been elaborated, as well as a draft joint work programme.

51. Mr Abousamra, MED POL officer, gave a brief presentation of the pilot project initiated at Alexandria, Egypt, for the use of pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs) as a tool for reducing pollution by managing the chemical releases into the environment. In answer to a query from one National Coordinator, he explained that, under the MCSD, the set of environmental indicators agreed with countries covered only environment and development, and not marine pollution. The MCSD indicators were thus not linked to the EEA pollution indicators.

52. The representative of the European Commission, pointing to the clear link between monitoring programmes and the SAP, underlined the need for all Contracting Parties to develop a monitoring system by 2005 and to include it in the national action plans provided for under the SAP. It was necessary to undertake an inventory of needs, resources and precise objectives. Welcoming the pilot project in Egypt for PRTRs, he considered that, since they were necessary for the functioning of the SAP, such PRTRs should be made a compulsory part of the SAP by 2005 and a decision should be adopted by the Contracting Parties to that effect.

3. Pollution control

53. Mr Civili said that the process of updating the list of pollution hot spots had commenced within the framework of the GEF project. Regarding compliance and enforcement, he drew attention to the results and recommendations of the first Meeting of the Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement, which had been held in Sorrento and organized jointly with the Italian National Environmental Protection Agency (ANPA) and its counterpart in Campania.

4. Implementation of the SAP/LBS and GEF project

54. Mr Civili underscored the importance of the 2002-2003 biennium for the Mediterranean and the leading role to be played by the SAP. The expert meeting held in Catania to review the operational aspects of the implementation of the SAP had had extremely positive results and the practical suggestions emanating from that meeting would be discussed under agenda item 7.

55. The representative of the European Commission emphasized the need to pursue the work on guidelines for environmental inspections. National inspection programmes should include criteria for inspection that were aimed at the effective implementation of the SAP.

5. Implementation of the Dumping Protocol

56. Mr Civili drew the meeting's attention to the draft Guidelines for the Management of Fish Waste or Organic Materials resulting from the Processing of Fish and other Marine Organisms (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/4 and Addendum) and the draft Guidelines for the Dumping of Platforms and other Man-made Structures at Sea (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/5 and Addendum), which were being submitted to the meeting for approval prior to transmission to the Contracting Parties for adoption.

6. Other activities

57. Mr Civili recalled the work undertaken by the Secretariat to assess the problem of the disposal of brine from desalination plants. The issue concerned both the LBS and Dumping Protocols. Data gathered to date showed that such disposal could give rise to environmental problems if the discharge point was not selected carefully. He drew the attention of the meeting to a document which had been prepared (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/Inf.6) and contained draft guidelines.

Agenda item 5. Review and approval of the activities to be carried out during the biennium 2002-2003

58. Mr Civili introduced the Proposed Activities to be carried out by MED POL during the Biennium 2002-2003 (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/3). He explained that the lay-out of the document reflected the SAP because the Programme constituted the major structural framework for MED POL's activities. In addition to the implementation of the SAP, priority would continue to be given to monitoring and capacity-building activities and to strengthening cooperation with international organizations, as well as with NGOs so as to reach the wider public.

5.1 Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme

5.1.1. Municipal sewage

59. Mr Civili acknowledged that municipal wastewater was essentially a national and local issue, but it was felt that the involvement of MED POL in linking financing institutions and donors with national and local authorities could help in overcoming the problem. The preparation of pre-investment studies, foreseen as part of the GEF project, would also help to create a good basis for investment. Updating the list of wastewater treatment plants represented a method of verifying the progress being made. Municipal wastewater reuse could also be a solution provided that the proper precautions were taken and MED POL would therefore tackle the subject during the biennium.

60. The observer for the Palestinian Authority described the efforts made by the Authority to reduce discharges of waste. Unfortunately, during the recent developments, the occupation had destructed the waste water treatment facilities so untreated waste water was being discharged into the Mediterranean. The existing solid waste landfills had been closed thus leaving litter spread within urban coastal areas and ending in some cases into the Mediterranean. In addition, there had been several incidents of smuggling and illegal dumping of hazardous and chemical waste in the occupied Palestinian territories.

61. The Coordinator from Israel regretted what was said by the observer for the Palestinian Authority. He said that the events and their consequences described were, at least, not confirmed. He therefore urged all participants to limit themselves to environmental issues and leave politics out.

62. Ms. Vandeweerd, UNEP/GPA, pointing out that municipal wastewater was a major pollutant source for coastal zones on a global level, said that GPA had prepared a strategic action plan on municipal wastewater, which provided an opportunity for cooperation with MED POL. Following a request by countries, the GPA Office had also prepared very comprehensive guidelines on wastewater, which dealt with many aspects of the problem, including infrastructure, use of wastewater, and innovative approaches to treatment. The guidelines were under review by over 400 experts, the World Bank, the European Commission and a series of regional expert meetings. Based on the inputs received, the guidelines would be revised and could be made available for review by MED POL

Coordinators and MAP Focal Points. She drew attention to the fact that, in a number of cases, municipalities did not have the funds to budget for wastewater treatment infrastructures. New and innovative alternative approaches were needed, possibly based on partnerships with the private sector, to increase the options in dealing with wastewater.

63. The observer for Greenpeace International expressed the view that guidelines needed to be developed for the treatment and reuse of sewage. She also believed that an effort needed to be made to collate data on the various activities and experience with regard to research into alternative sewage treatment methods. In that context, the Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC) could play a role.

64. During the discussion, several speakers expressed support for the preparation of guidelines on wastewater and on sewage treatment. Some speakers noted that the EU activities on wastewater contained a component for possible funding of research into alternative treatment methods.

5.1.2 Solid wastes

65. Mr Civili explained that the Secretariat's report on litter management in coastal zones of the Mediterranean basin (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG. 183/Inf.4) had been prepared on the basis of a questionnaire sent out to the MED POL National Coordinators. It contained an analysis of the current situation with regard to coastal litter and proposed possible elements which could subsequently, if it were so decided, form the basis of a regional action plan for the management of coastal litter.

66. Mr Abousamra added that, in the context of the SAP, the work of the Secretariat on coastal litter was contributing to the wider issue of coastal urban solid waste management contained in the SAP.

5.1.3 Air pollution

67. Mr Civili indicated that no special activities were proposed on air pollution, which did not lie strictly within the remit of MED POL. It had merely been suggested that the Contracting Parties should be in close contact with the competent regional and international organizations and Convention Secretariats for the implementation of the programmes and measures foreseen by existing legal instruments, such as European Union Directives and the Kyoto Protocol. He reaffirmed that MED POL would continue its activities on the assessment of airborne pollution.

68. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) observed that one aspect of air pollution was the long-range transport of pollutants to coastal areas and the open sea. A number of projects had been carried out within the scope of MED POL Phases II and III to evaluate the major airborne pollutants of the sea, including sulphur and nitrogen compounds, heavy metals, mercury and, more recently, POPs. A newer aspect of the problem was urban air pollution, which was an important issue in many Mediterranean cities, especially in the South and East of the Mediterranean. WMO had developed a project covering air pollution forecasting in urban areas two years ago and had held a number of regional training workshops. A training workshop on urban air pollution forecasting would be organised for African countries in 2002, which he hoped would be also attended by some MED POL experts. He added that a project was planned to be initiated by the JRC Environment Institute of EC, in collaboration with WMO, on measuring and modelling air pollution in the Mediterranean. More detailed information on this project would be transmitted to the MED POL National Coordinators later.

5.1.4 Industrial pollution

69. Mr Civili stressed that, as the long-term aim of the SAP was the elimination of industrial pollution by the year 2025, it was a key area for the successful implementation of the SAP. The long-term goal would be attained through a succession of intermediate biennial targets, and the meeting had before it the Secretariat's proposed activities for the biennium 2002-2003. In that connection, he drew attention to the proposed recommendation to the Secretariat of MED POL approving those activities.

70. In answer to a query, he explained that the preparation of PRTRs would be only one aspect of the process of preparing country inventories of industrial pollutants. He further clarified that, once approval had been given by the Contracting Parties for the programme of biennial activities, the Secretariat would begin preparation of the supporting technical documentation to be made available to countries.

5.1.5 Physical alteration and destruction of habitats

71. Noting that the Secretariat proposed no activities on the subject for the biennium 2002-2003, the National Coordinator from Monaco said that development of coastal areas gave rise to the problem of acoustic pollution of the marine and coastal environment. In her view, environmental impact assessment should also take that into account, and activities to address the subject should be included in future in the biennial programme of MED POL. That would also offer an opportunity for cooperation with the SPA/RAC.

72. Ms Vandeweerd, UNEP/GPA, said that the GPA Coordinating Office had already started activities to address physical alteration and destruction of habitats, undertaken jointly with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), FAO and others. Guidelines were being prepared to address specific economic sectors, and a knowledge base and clearing-house were being set up. Regular meetings were planned to identify further activities and pilot projects. It was thus expected that, in the course of the coming biennium, opportunities for mutually supportive cooperation with MED POL would be identified in this area.

5.1.6 Monitoring

73. Mr Civili reiterated the importance of monitoring which, under Phase III, was required not only to assess the status of pollution, but also to verify its reduction. Noting the slow progress in the signing of national monitoring agreements, he stressed the importance of ensuring not only that monitoring was carried out, but that it was in line with the objectives of MED POL Phase III. He also called upon countries to make maximum efforts to support the national institutions that were responsible for implementing monitoring activities. He pointed to the MED POL monitoring review meeting, scheduled to be held at the end of the current year, and invited countries to submit to the Secretariat their written suggestions and views on the possible content of the meeting.

74. Concerning data management, Mr Civili drew attention to an information document prepared by the Secretariat (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/INF.5), which set out the progress made with data from MED POL Phases I and II, as well as the philosophy and plans for data management under Phase III. That document would also be supplemented by tables on biomonitoring, which were awaiting completion by an expert consultant and were expected during the current year. He drew attention to the planned distribution of a CD-rom containing all the validated Phase I and II data currently in the MED POL databank.

75. Ms Beken, MED POL officer, explained that, under MED POL Phase III, the data reporting formats would be standardized in EXCEL and distributed to the countries by the end of the year 2001.

76. In answer to a question on how countries were currently expected to implement and apply the data management tool, Mr Civili explained that only a few countries had submitted data. Thus, they became, de facto pilot projects. However, that meant that the database could be used, and could be modified as its use progressed. He emphasized that the Secretariat first wished countries to put in place a monitoring programme, in line with MED POL Phase III, to ensure that data submitted would be in line with the objectives. Only in cases where financial support was being provided to a country by the Secretariat would it be necessary for the country to sign a formal agreement with the Secretariat. One speaker considered that, for the sake of clarity, there should be a formal exchange between the Secretariat and all countries setting out the monitoring requirements and expectations under MED POL Phase III.

77. Concerning possible assistance to countries for the statistical processing of data and the analysis of trends, Mr Civili explained that the Secretariat was very willing to provide training and assistance to countries with an ongoing monitoring programme.

78. The representative of IAEA indicated that the Marine Environmental Laboratory (MESL) in Monaco had served as a source of information and advice to scientists. MESL was also glad to provide fellowships for longer-term and more specialized training than was possible during a typical training course, although appropriate funding would need to be identified to that end, possibly from national sources. Several speakers considered that data quality assurance and training were valuable.

79. Responding to a query on whether a country would be free to choose its own certified reference materials (CRMs), the representative of IAEA explained that the choice of material could not be defined centrally, but should be decided by the individual laboratory or analyst applying the "fit for purpose" principle. However, in general it was preferable to use generally available and recognized CRMs, rather than "in-house" materials. In that context, he noted that trend monitoring was a greater challenge than hot-spot monitoring or survey-type monitoring, because great accuracy and precision of the analyses were necessary in order to ascertain an improvement in the quality of the environment.

80. On the question of whether the monitoring of bathing waters was only to ensure compliance or whether any trend monitoring was anticipated, it was explained that the aim was to make countries aware of the need to establish a special monitoring programme to assess whether national legislation was being complied with or not. It was not necessary to provide raw data or details of how the sampling was carried out, but only to record which and how many stations were actually in compliance or not. Such monitoring also implied training and capacity-building for certain countries.

81. Several speakers, pointing to the fact that UNEP, EU, WHO, national authorities and others all set down different quality standards for bathing waters, considered that it was necessary to establish common Mediterranean quality standards.

82. Several speakers underlined the importance of including activities for the monitoring of eutrophication and its trends, even though such monitoring was not considered mandatory under MED POL Phase III. In light of the fact that, in the near future, an increasing number of Mediterranean countries were expected to be members of the EEA, such monitoring would in any case be carried out under the Water Framework Directive. The Secretariat was therefore requested to consider the inclusion of eutrophication parameters as mandatory parameters in the trend monitoring programme of MED POL Phase III. These parameters could be defined during the meeting to review the monitoring activities scheduled for the end of 2001.

83. In a discussion on the interpretation of the data obtained from monitoring activities, the representative of IAEA emphasized the importance of programmes such as MED POL in establishing criteria for the comparison of data at the regional level so that countries could have a better basis for identifying pollution hot spots and problems. Although standardized criteria existed in the area of public health in relation to the consumption of bioresources, the same was not yet true in fields such as sediment toxicity. Mr Civili added that, in the key area of the interpretation of monitoring results, biomonitoring exercises could place the results of chemical monitoring exercises in context by indicating the biological effects of specific levels of chemical contaminants.

84. Other speakers recalled that several approaches to the monitoring of pollution levels in water were adopted, including the biological approach and the development of ecological criteria for the assessment of toxicity. The assessment of the state of fresh and marine water often required the selection and measurement of a series of parameters, including nitrate and phosphate content, transparency and oxygen content. In some areas of the Mediterranean, and particularly the South and East, the general levels of certain pollutants, such as nitrates and phosphates, were much lower than, for example, in the North. It would also be necessary to determine more precisely the general background levels of naturally occurring substances.

85. Mr Civili welcomed proposals that MED POL should prepare a document reviewing the available criteria and standards for chemical pollution, including those prepared by WHO in relation to hazards to human health. The document should also provide comparative information on the various approaches that were being developed and used in the different regions of the world for the interpretation of monitoring data.

86. On the subject of data quality assurance, Mr Civili said that the programme managed by IAEA/MESL would continue to be an essential tool in the work carried out in the context of MED POL. The assistance provided to countries included training courses on data quality assurance issues, intercomparison exercises and quality assurance missions.

87. With regard to quality criteria and standards for bathing waters, Mr Civili recalled that it was planned to hold a consultation meeting towards the end of the biennium with a view to finalizing the interim quality criteria and standards for bathing waters. However, he recalled that the European Union was still in the process of preparing a draft Directive on the subject. In view of the need to ensure that any criteria and standards adopted by MAP were not in contradiction with those of other countries or groups of countries, the question arose as to whether the consultation meeting should be postponed until the process of finalizing the European Directive had been completed. Several speakers supported the proposal to hold the expert meeting at the end of 2001 aiming at finalizing the criteria and standards, at which the progress made by the European Union and other international organizations would be reviewed. If need be, a second meeting could then possibly be held during the course of 2002 to finalize the MED POL criteria and standards, with a view to their submission to the Contracting Parties in 2003. Funding for a second meeting should be forthcoming from various sources, including WHO.

88. Turning to the subject of river pollution and river basin management, Mr Civili recalled that it was a new subject for MED POL occasioned by the extension of the Barcelona Convention and the LBS Protocol to cover the whole of the hydrographic basin of the Mediterranean. While this would make it necessary to foresee monitoring activities for river water in future, the action planned for the biennium 2002-03 was designed to lay the basis for future monitoring activities through the development of guidelines, their examination by a meeting of experts and the gathering of information on water quality in 50 selected rivers with a view to the subsequent development of a regional register.

89. In the course of a brief discussion, a number of speakers expressed some concern at the expansion of MED POL activities. They also warned of the danger of duplicating the activities of other bodies, such as the RAMSAR Secretariat, and of the political sensitivity of issues related to rivers. However, other speakers recalled that the major progress achieved in Syracuse had been precisely the extension of the LBS Protocol to the whole of the hydrographic basin of the Mediterranean, by definition including rivers, which were one of the major sources of pollution of the sea. Within a relatively short period, if they were to implement the LBS Protocol correctly, the Contracting Parties would have to adopt the necessary legislation and take the action required by the Protocol covering river pollution and river basin management. The MAP Secretariat already cooperated closely with other international organizations and convention secretariats and could sign memoranda of understanding (e.g. SPA/RAC had already signed a memorandum of understanding with RAMSAR) with other bodies working in the field of river pollution and river basin management.

5.1.7. Capacity-building

90. Mr Civili indicated that, in view of the implementation of the SAP and the GEF project, MED POL's capacity-building activities, which had always constituted a fundamental component of the assistance provided to countries, were becoming more diversified. In addition to chemical monitoring, they would cover such areas as biomonitoring, environmental impact assessment (EIA), inspection activities and clean production. He recalled that, in addition to the support provided by GEF, another important new partner of MAP in the implementation of the SAP was METAP, especially in the field of EIA. No specific recommendations were proposed under the heading of capacity-building since the activities carried out in all the areas covered by MED POL included a substantial capacity-building component.

91. In response to a request for information, the representative of IAEA indicated that MED POL collaborated closely with the programme for the Quality Assurance of Information for Marine Environmental Monitoring in Europe (QUASIMEME). Areas of interaction included the exchange of information and the provision of advice to laboratories on intercomparison studies. MED POL also maintained close contacts with BEQUALM.

5.1.8. Public participation

92. Mr Civili recalled that the SAP contained ambitious objectives concerning public participation, which was of great importance for the long-term success of the SAP and for the achievement of MAP's objectives in general. The implementation of the GEF project provided additional opportunities for strengthening the participation of civil society, including NGOs, in MAP activities. The main feature of the activities planned for 2002-2003 was the development of a long-term strategy, in close collaboration with representatives of civil society, for public participation in MAP.

93. Several speakers emphasized the importance of public information, participation and advocacy in the achievement of MAP's objectives, as recalled at the meeting on the implementation of SAP held in Catania in April 2001. The recommendations adopted by the meeting of MED POL National Coordinators should call on both the Secretariat and the Contracting Parties to take the necessary action to promote public participation throughout MAP's activities.

94. Mr Manos (Forum for the Lagoon of Venice), also speaking on behalf of EcoMediterrania, welcomed the broad recognition, even by such bodies as the IMF, of the importance of public participation in all areas. He emphasized that civil society, and particularly NGOs, could fulfil a very useful role in MED POL's activities. MED POL was

essentially a scientific programme, but to achieve its objectives it was important for the information that it produced to be disseminated widely and in a format that would be of interest to the public. This was not happening at the present time. NGOs, which were present in every Mediterranean community, were well suited to carrying out this role by selecting general information and placing it in a local context which would be of greater interest to the broader public and could be used in educational programmes. NGOs offered a more effective public interface than sporadic and fleeting press coverage. NGOs were also initiating and participating in practical activities, from beach cleaning to the management of coastal areas and educational projects in marine and coastal ecosystems. As an example of such activities he referred to the SeaM network of marine environmental education, coordinated by the Forum with EU and Italian government financing. The practical action that could be undertaken by NGOs included taking over specific monitoring activities, under the guidance and supervision of the scientific community. Finally, the potential of NGOs in the field of advocacy flowed naturally from their information and practical activities. Advocacy could range, for example, from local pressure for the removal of point sources of pollution to national action in support of the ratification of protocols and the adequate financing of the MAP programme. It would therefore be a natural step to bring together MED POL and civil society with a view to strengthening the impact of MAP, particularly through the involvement of the end beneficiaries and young generations in MAP's work.

5.1.9 Reporting

95. Mr Civili indicated that the unified reporting system covering the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the decisions of the Contracting Parties was being finalized and would be transmitted to Contracting Parties for adoption in 2001. Because of its complexity and the diversity of the activities it encompassed, it had not appeared possible to create a similar reporting system for the SAP. The Secretariat, taking into account the reporting system being developed for the implementation of the GPA, would consider how best to formulate a reporting system for the SAP.

96. Information on levels and trends of pollution loads would continue to be provided as part of MED POL's regular reporting system.

97. He had noted the interest shown in PRTRs and, in order to put them into effect, other countries in addition to Egypt would be selected for pilot projects and a regional training course on PRTRs would be supported by ICS-UNIDO.

98. Work would continue on indicators of marine pollution, in collaboration with the EEA and taking into account the work of the MCSD working group on indicators for sustainable development.

99. The representative of the European Commission considered that a specific reporting format for the SAP should be prepared for the 2002-2003 biennium.

100. The National Coordinator from Italy stressed that it was time to move from assessment to concrete reduction measures. He hoped that funds would be made available to allow the finalization of indicators.

101. Replying to a query regarding the assistance available to countries for implementing PRTRs, Mr Civili explained that limited funds were available for initiating the Registers at the national level. A set of guidelines would also be prepared to assist more countries to become involved in the process.

5.1.10 National action plans

102. Mr Civili said that during the 2002-2003 biennium the Secretariat would work closely with countries to ensure that they had National Action Plans (NAPs), which should be fully operational by 2005. He emphasized that the Secretariat would provide assistance, but the NAPs, or equivalent sectoral plans, would have to be formulated and implemented by the countries themselves. The Plans would naturally reflect the specific problems and priorities of each country, so it was not possible to be categorical regarding their content, assuming that they would follow the overall policy of the SAP. Where countries already had national plans, they could receive assistance in strengthening them.

103. The observer for the Palestinian Authority said that the Authority already had an action plan that focused on every Palestinian's right to live in an unpolluted environment. Priorities for the first three years had been identified and implementation of the plan had already started.

104. The representative of UNEP/GPA explained that the GPA had initiated a similar process. The main obstacle to moving from the planning stage to action was the lack of financial resources so it was intended to convene a meeting to identify innovative sources of financing that would permit the implementation of plans to address pollution from land-based sources.

105. Replying to questions on the duration of NAPs and how they would be implemented, Mr Civili indicated that no precise duration had yet been fixed, but the NAPs would be reviewed every five years, as provided under the SAP. There were sufficient funds for assistance in the preparation of NAPs in the coming biennium, but financing their long-term implementation would have to be addressed. MED POL would be instrumental in bringing together donors and financial institutions and countries; in addition, one activity of the Mediterranean GEF project would be to identify possible financial instruments to ensure the long-term sustainability of the SAP, country-by-country.

5.1.11 Other activities related to the LBS Protocol

Seawater desalination plants

106. Mr Civili said that, in response to a request made by some Contracting Parties, the Secretariat had prepared an assessment of environmental impacts and proposed guidelines for the management of brine from desalination plants (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/Inf.6). It was proposed that a meeting of experts be convened to finalize the guidelines, focusing on the proper siting of plants.

107. The observer for the Palestinian Authority suggested that brackish water which also contained small amounts of brine be included.

108. The National Coordinator from Israel welcomed the document and pointed out that desalination represented a solution for countries in his region. He hoped that the expert meeting would be convened as soon as possible. He also confirmed that Israel was building a plant with an output of 140.000 m³/day and intended to build another of the same size.

109. The National Coordinators from Malta and Egypt noted that the document prepared by the Secretariat covered the siting of new plants, but guidelines were also needed on the proper management of discharge from existing plants.

110. Mr Abousamra replied that technology appeared to offer the best solution for existing plants; brine discharges could in fact be spread out so as to minimize their impact. There

was a general lack of information on the impact of brine in the Mediterranean region, but international literature indicated that it could have negative effects. For the moment, the document only proposed elements for guidelines, focusing on the siting of new plants and the environmental impact assessment that had to be carried out before setting up a plant. Brackish water had not been studied in depth because the volume involved was much lower than that of brine.

111. Mr Civili added that a study of available technology including best available technology (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEF) could be made to see what assistance could be provided to countries where plants already existed. One element lacking in the document was the relationship to the ecological and socio-economic aspects of desalination plants as a response to growing demand for water. The MCS D had already discussed the subject and Blue Plan had carried out work in the sphere. He suggested that a linkage to water demand issues could be included in the introduction to the document.

Transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA)

112. Mr Civili explained that, as the TDA was considered to be an important document, its updating and finalization, already started in 2001, would be completed during the biennium 2002-2003, in consultation with the MED POL Coordinators and using funds available under the Mediterranean GEF project. The activities to be carried out by the Secretariat, as described in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/3, called for no specific discussion or approval at the current meeting and were for information purposes only.

Pollution hot spots and sensitive areas

113. Highlighting the important role that the list of pollution hot spots and sensitive areas played in providing a basis for assessment in specific areas of the Mediterranean countries, Mr Civili explained that the current list dated from 1996-1997 and needed to be updated to reflect new, perhaps also positive, developments in countries. In the short term, the Mediterranean GEF Project was providing funds to review the hot spots criteria, to prepare an updating of the list and to carry out pre-investment studies in a number of hot spots. In the longer term, the Secretariat proposed that the list be reviewed on a regular basis and updated every four years. He drew attention to the Secretariat activities proposed for the biennium 2002-2003, as set out in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/3, and to the relevant section of the draft recommendation to that effect.

Inspection systems

114. Mr Civili recalled that the first meeting of the Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement (Sorrento, 15-17 March 2001) had recommended, inter alia, that similar meetings should be held regularly, the exchange of information should be intensified, the capacity-building component should be reinforced, and guidelines for environmental inspection systems should be prepared. During the biennium 2002-2003, the Secretariat proposed to work in line with the recommendations of that first meeting, and also to carry out the additional activities described in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/3. Partial funding for the activities was available under the Mediterranean GEF Project.

115. The representative of the European Commission pointed out that, in approving the operational document for the SAP, the countries would also be approving the activities proposed by the Secretariat pertaining to inspection systems. In order to commit countries to set up the basis for environmental inspection, he considered that the Contracting Parties should be requested to recommend that countries have an operational environmental inspection system which would meet minimum requirements in place by the year 2005. In that connection, it was agreed that the proposed activities for 2002-2003 would include a

reference to assistance in establishing and reinforcing an inspection system, with a view to its completion in 2005.

Assessment of the state of environmental health in Mediterranean countries

116. Mr Civili stressed the value of the proposed assessment, to be prepared and directly funded by WHO, and expressed the Secretariat's strong support for the undertaking. The representative of WHO clarified that the assessment would encompass indicators or data on environmental degradation linked with the deterioration of human health. It would be based on existing available information and would also entail the task of identifying and locating data that were held by institutions, in order to obtain a precise picture of the situation.

5.2. Activities related to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol

5.2.1 Assessment of 1995-2001 dumping activities

117. Mr Civili said that, despite the obligation for countries to report regularly to the Secretariat on dumping permits they had issued, only a few reports had been received since the 1976 Protocol had entered into force. The Secretariat wished to obtain information for the period 1995-2001 to enable it to prepare in 2002 a final assessment of dumping in the Mediterranean for the period prior to the entry into force of the revised Protocol. The Secretariat was thus requesting the National Coordinators to approve the preparation of the final assessment and to urge their relevant authorities to submit to the Secretariat the information requested in the letter sent to them on 1 February 2001, as described in section 3 of document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/3.

118. In responding to a question by the observer for Greenpeace, who recalled the important quantities of wastes dumped by military authorities in the Mediterranean, Mr Civili clarified that, under the Dumping Protocol currently in force, there was an implicit exemption for countries as regards reports on military dumping. Such was not the case with the 1995 revised Protocol.

119. A number of coordinators, pointing to the difficulties faced in accurately reporting on dumping to the Secretariat, highlighted the problem of illegal dumping, particularly through scuttling of ships.

120. In answer to a question raised by some speakers, Mr Civili explained that the guidelines related to Art. 4 and 6 of the revised Dumping Protocol would, legally speaking, enter into force at the same time as the entry into force of the Protocol. Even though procedures required that those guidelines be adopted by the Contracting Parties, they were not a legally binding instrument, and thus did not need to go through national procedures for legal adoption.

121. Mr Civili drew attention to the suggestion that MAP request observer status with the London Dumping Convention.

5.2.2 Review of guidelines for the management of fish wastes

122. Introducing the guidelines for the management of fish waste or organic materials resulting from the processing of fish and other marine organisms (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/4), Mr Abousamra, indicated that they had been developed in accordance with the Dumping Protocol and with reference to the IMO guidelines on the same subject. The first section of the guidelines covered the assessment and management of fish waste before any decision was taken to dump it at sea. The second section concerned monitoring following dumping operations. The guidelines had been sent out to the Contracting Parties for

comments and had been amended accordingly, as set out in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/4 Add.

123. The National Coordinator from Croatia indicated that the guidelines would be of great value, particularly for countries which were considering abandoning the traditional practice of throwing all the waste from the processing of fish into the sea.

124. The meeting recommended the transmission of the guidelines for the management of fish waste and organic materials to the Contracting Parties for adoption.

5.2.3 Review of guidelines for the management of platforms

125. Introducing the guidelines for the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures at sea (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/5), Mr Abousamra enumerated the international instruments that had been consulted for the development of the proposed MAP guidelines. These included the OSPAR Convention, the London Convention and the 1996 Protocol thereto. The critical issue in the development of the guidelines had been the protection of the marine environment. Once again, the guidelines were divided into two sections covering the action to be taken prior to any decision concerning dumping operations at sea, and the monitoring operations to be carried out after any decision was taken to dispose at sea offshore platforms and other man-made structures. The comments received from the Contracting Parties following the circulation of the draft guidelines were contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/5 Add.

126. The representative of the European Commission indicated that he also had corrections to propose to the draft guidelines, particularly with a view to the inclusion of a mechanism for consultation among the parties when dumping operations concerned several countries. He pointed out that the OSPAR Convention contained a separate annex on that subject.

127. The observer for the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP) noted that, since the development of the guidelines by MAP, the guidelines developed under the London Convention had been finalized and should also be taken into account by MAP. Evidently, the MAP guidelines were of considerable interest to the oil industry and operators of platforms and were helpful insofar as they provided an indication of the procedures to be followed before dumping operations. However, he pointed to a high level of redundancy in the drafting of the guidelines, leading to a level of confusion that would not be helpful for their implementation. The guidelines also covered subjects such as chemical analysis and biological testing that were not relevant to the dumping at sea of steel and concrete structures. It was widely recognized that steel and concrete were not inherently polluting substances, particularly when proper clean-up operations had been carried out prior to dumping. The contents of the guidelines on the selection of disposal sites would also need to be reviewed. He added that the consultation provisions contained in the OSPAR Convention were peculiar to that Convention. Although all dumping operations raised transboundary issues, the problems related to the dumping of platforms were much less significant than, for example, dredged materials or fish waste. He offered his assistance in resolving the lack of clarity in the draft guidelines.

128. The observer for Greenpeace International recalled that the adoption of the revised Dumping Protocol had changed the philosophy for dumping operations from a situation of general authorization with exceptions, to one of general prohibition with exceptions. The draft guidelines were once again providing a framework for the authorization of dumping operations. The guidelines lacked much rigour and needed to be much more detailed. Moreover, even though the OSPAR Convention had been cited as a source of reference for the preparation of the guidelines, two of the important features of the OSPAR Convention

were missing, namely the consultation procedure between countries and the principle that operators needed to submit other alternatives supported by as much detail as that contained in their proposals for the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures at sea. Moreover, if the prohibition on the dumping of platforms were subject to stricter conditions in the Atlantic and the North Sea, there would be a very real danger of operators using the Mediterranean as an easier dumping ground.

129. The National Coordinator from France agreed that the draft guidelines would require substantive revision and that great care should be taken to ensure that they were not in any way weaker than the provisions applicable in neighbouring seas. In particular, the guidelines adopted under the London Convention should be taken into account, bearing in mind that it would be logical for regional guidelines to be stricter than the global instrument.

130. As a result of the discussions, it was agreed to convene a small meeting of interested coordinators to review in detail the content of the guidelines. After listening to the conclusions of the small meeting, the meeting agreed that the draft guidelines would still need some revision. National Coordinators were therefore requested to submit very specific amendments to the Secretariat, to enable it to prepare a new version of the guidelines. While only the Contracting Parties were eligible to propose amendments, observers from interested non-governmental organizations could contact the Secretariat to explain their position and proposals, which could then be brought to the attention of the Parties. The Secretariat proposed that the submission of the guidelines to the Contracting Parties be deferred until 2003.

5.2.4 Preparation of guidelines for the management of inert uncontaminated geological materials

131. With regard to work to prepare guidelines for the management of inert uncontaminated geological materials, which were expected to be submitted to the Contracting Parties for approval in 2005, Mr Civili explained that, in order to establish a starting point, the Secretariat needed guidance on a definition of "inert uncontaminated geological materials". In that connection, the Secretariat would be requesting comments from the National Coordinators on the technical and legal meaning of the term in question.

5.3 Activities related to the implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol

132. Mr Civili observed that, as was the case for other such protocols which had not yet entered into force, the Secretariat considered it appropriate to initiate preparatory work in readiness for their entry into force. The proposed assessment on the status of hazardous waste management in Mediterranean countries, taking into account the obligations of the Basel Convention and other related conventions, would enable the Secretariat to avoid duplication of work and identify gaps and needs in view of the activities to be carried out in the implementation of the SAP.

133. The National Coordinator from the Syrian Arab Republic considered that the assessment should include the issue of illegal trafficking and disposal in order to stop this bad behaviour. An observer considered that the non-compliance procedures of other international legally-binding environmental instruments should be reviewed to see what options were available. Although, under the Barcelona Convention adopted by the Contracting Parties, no sanctions were foreseen for non-compliance, the LBS Protocol did call for a national system to sanction cases of non-compliance.

134. The National Coordinator from the Syrian Arab Republic drew attention to the need for the Secretariat's assessment to also take into account POPs-related issues. The representative of WMO noted that the importance of the POPs issue had been stressed by

an intergovernmental conference in Stockholm, Sweden on 22-23 May 2001 which adopted a global convention on POPs. With regard to the SAP target to reduce by 50% the inputs of some POPs into the Mediterranean Sea by 2005 he noted that there were some estimates for atmospheric loads of POPs to the Mediterranean but the data on POPs inputs through rivers and direct discharges were practically unavailable. Data and estimates available for the North and Baltic Seas showed that the atmospheric inputs of POPs constituted up to 95-98% of the total load. To develop effective measures for reducing pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by POPs, more precise estimates and data were urgently needed for POP inputs from major sources and for various input pathways (direct discharges, rivers, atmosphere).

5.4 Activities related to the identification and follow up of environmental and pollution emerging issues

135. Mr Civili recalled the Contracting Parties' decision to use research funds for the identification of emerging issues and emphasized that the small consultation meeting on the subject (Rome, 31 May – 1 June 2000), had proposed limited research projects on airborne pollutants and on marine antifoulants. The Secretariat proposed that the work be undertaken on those subjects in the biennium 2002-2003. In addition, in light of the emerging significance of climate change for the Mediterranean countries, the Secretariat proposed to follow developments in the international forums and collate and prepare information for Parties on the subject. He also drew attention to the special session on environmental and pollution emerging issues, jointly organized by CIESM and MAP, to be held within the framework of the CIESM General Assembly in Monaco, in September 2001.

136. In connection with climate change, the National Coordinator from Morocco recalled that, in November/December 2001, his country would host the Seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and invited all Parties to participate.

137. The National Coordinator from Italy, pointing to the crucial need for MED POL to consider the issue of climate change, said that in that activity the Secretariat needed to cooperate with ICRAM, which was currently studying the impacts of climate change on the environment in selected areas of the Mediterranean.

138. A number of speakers highlighted the growing significance of marine aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the evidence of its increasing environmental impact. It was considered that the Secretariat should start a formal examination of such environmental impacts, taking into account the new technologies for fish farming, and ways to minimize the impacts on the environment, with a view to preparing a paper on the subject. Attention was drawn to the need for coordination and cooperation with the ongoing work of SPA/RAC on the subject.

139. The draft recommendations arising out of the discussion under agenda item 5 are attached to the present report as annex III. A description of the activities to be carried out during the biennium is attached as annex IV.

Agenda item 6. Budgetary considerations in relation to the 2002-2003 MAP and MED POL work plan

140. Mr Civili introduced the preliminary budget for 2002-2003 MED POL activities, contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/Inf.7, noting that the proposal could only be considered as indicative, as the total budget for all MAP activities would eventually influence the availability of funds for MED POL. He explained that, taking the average of the two years, the proposed budget was about 12 per cent higher than the previous biennial

budget. He emphasized that the Secretariat would take note of the Coordinators' comments on the document, but that no formal amendments could be made at the current time.

141. Many speakers congratulated the Secretariat on the preparation of what they considered to be a clear, transparent and comprehensive budget and supported the thrust and the content of the document.

142. The National Coordinator from Italy, supported by the representative of the European Commission, considered that the current and future budget documents should be prepared in Euros, based on a fixed exchange rate. That practice, which was also the subject of discussion in other international organizations and forums, would, inter alia, allow for better comparability with the previous budget. In reply, Mr Civili said that the Secretariat would take note of the comment and would refer the matter to the UNEP administration.

143. The National Coordinator from Morocco, supported by the National Coordinator from the Syrian Arab Republic, expressed concern that the amount budgeted for the preparation of an assessment of management of hazardous wastes in the Mediterranean area for the year 2002 was greatly underestimated, and would prove inadequate for such an undertaking. In explanation, Mr Civili said that, while the budgetary resources for the assessment were limited, the Secretariat believed that, if countries cooperated in providing and helping to locate the requisite information, the funding would prove adequate.

144. In reply to the National Coordinator from Croatia concerning the reduction in the amount budgeted for assistance to countries in the formulation and implementation of national monitoring programmes for the year 2003, Mr Civili explained that the adjustment had been made to create a balance in the budget increase that was due to the GEF Project activities.

145. Answering a query from the representative of METAP on the 2002 external funding for preparation of pre-investment studies in relation to the GEF Project, Mr Civili clarified that the additional funding of US \$110,000 provided from GEF and US \$110,000 from METAP would be included in the table.

146. Several speakers sought clarification on the proposal to hold in 2002 a meeting of government-designated experts for the integration and best use of the GEF activities into the SAP implementation. Mr Civili explained that the MED POL Coordinators could sometime face difficulty in appreciating the complex mechanism of integration among MED POL, the SAP and the activities under the Mediterranean GEF Project. In the first two years of the GEF Project, many of its activities were connected with the implementation of the SAP. Thus, a meeting of government experts was needed to streamline the activities of the GEF Project and the SAP, to see how they served one another, and to assess how to proceed in the longer term.

Agenda item 7. Review and approval of the revised Operational Document for the implementation of the SAP

147. Mr Civili, introducing the operational document for the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to address pollution of the Mediterranean Sea from land-based sources (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG. 183/6), recalled that it contained a description of principles, activities and methodology for the implementation of the SAP until the year 2025. It was therefore probably the most important document before the meeting and had provided the basis for the activities of MED POL in 2002-03, which had just been approved by the meeting. The operational document had been submitted to a meeting of experts in Catania in April 2001, where it had been reviewed, and it had subsequently been amended by the Secretariat to take into account the comments made. He emphasized that the arrangements

outlined in the document concerning institutional measures to be taken at the national level were to be considered as relevant proposals for increasing the prospects for the successful implementation of the SAP. The proposals should however be considered as flexible and adaptable to local situations. Existing structures which involved all the relevant actors could in fact be used for the purposes of implementing the SAP, provided that their mandates were adapted, as appropriate, to include the functions required by the SAP. In that context, interministerial coordination was of particular importance in order to implement the far-reaching measures required for the success of the SAP.

148. The SAP is expected to be implemented over a long-term period, i.e. up to 2025. While the ultimate date of 2025 should be strictly maintained and considered the main policy decision behind the SAP, the other intermediate dates contained in the text should be considered as concrete objectives but could at the same time be regularly verified and possibly adjusted taking into account the technical, scientific and policy developments occurring in the region. To this end, the Secretariat would present at each Contracting Party Meeting a detailed work plan for the implementation of the SAP for each two-year period examined by the Contracting Parties.

149. In a review of the Operational Document, the National Coordinators expressed broad support for the proposed strategy for the implementation of the SAP and suggested various amendments to the different sections of the document. In particular, they emphasized that the tasks of the interministerial committees set up for the purposes of the coordination of the SAP could be undertaken by equivalent bodies, as appropriate. They also agreed that national reports on progress in the implementation of the SAP should be made on an annual basis, rather than every six months, as originally proposed in the Operational Document. In addition, it was recalled that the objective set out in the SAP was the elimination of pollutants such as heavy metals, and not merely the reduction of their emissions. Finally, it was agreed that a system of authorization, based on environmental impact assessments carried out by the competent national authorities, should be developed, not just for new investment projects that were liable to result in environmental damage, but also for any modification to existing projects.

150. With the amendments proposed, the meeting approved the Operational Document and recommended its transmission to Contracting Parties for adoption.

151. Mr Civili welcomed the approval of the Operational Document as a milestone in the activities of MAP and in action to combat pollution of the sea in the Mediterranean region. The document recognized that 2025 was the ultimate date for the elimination of pollution and established a mechanism to verify the progress made in achieving the objectives of the LBS Protocol and the SAP. It provided a framework for the planning of SAP activities every biennium up to 2025. The process of achieving these objectives included the setting of a baseline budget for emissions by 2003 and the commitment to start taking action as from 2004 for the achievement of the targets.

Agenda item 8. Other business

152. Mr. Joan Albaiges, regional coordinator of the project on the assessment of persistent toxic substances, presented, on behalf of UNEP/Chemicals, an overview of the activities of the project.

153. The general objectives of the two-year project were to assess damage and threats by persistent toxic substances (PTS), to determine differences in priorities among regions, and to apply GEF and UNEP rationale in assigning priorities for future action on chemical issues.

154. The areas of interest included the identification of sources of PTS in the region, the assessment of their impact on human health and the environment, the assessment of transboundary transport of PTS and of the root causes of PTS problems, the capacity to manage them at the regional level, and the identification of regional and global priority PTS issues.

155. The expected outputs were the establishment of a network of PTS experts and of a management and coordination structure, as well as 12 comprehensive regional reports and one global report. For the purposes of the assessment, the world had been divided into 12 geographic units, one of which was the Mediterranean.

156. MED POL coordinators could assist the regional team in the regional implementation of the project by identifying specialists in the region and encouraging them to participate, as well as by contributing technical information and taking part in the workshops. He also hoped that the specialists would review the draft of the regional report. Limited funds could be made available to national experts for their contribution to the project.

157. Several speakers expressed an interest in participating in the activity and assisting the project.

Agenda item 9. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

158. The English and French versions of the report were unanimously adopted by the participants.

Agenda item 10. Closure of the Meeting

159. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 13:00 hours on 31 May 2001.

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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 of Activities carried out by MED POL during the biennium 2000-2001**
- Agenda item 5. Review and approval of the activities to be carried out during the biennium 2002-2003**
- 5.1 Implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme
 - 5.1.1 Municipal Sewage
 - 5.1.2 Solid Wastes
 - 5.1.3 Air Pollution
 - 5.1.4 Industrial Pollution
 - 5.1.5 Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats
 - 5.1.6 Monitoring
 - 5.1.7 Capacity Building
 - 5.1.8 Public Participation
 - 5.1.9 Reporting
 - 5.1.10 National Action Plans
 - 5.1.11 Other activities related to the LBS Protocol
 - 5.2 Activities related to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol
 - 5.2.1 Assessment of 1995-2001 dumping activities
 - 5.2.2 Review of Guidelines for the management of fish wastes
 - 5.2.3 Review of Guidelines for the management of platforms
 - 5.2.4 Preparation of Guidelines for the management of inert uncontaminated geological materials
 - 5.3 Activities related to the implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol
 - 5.4 Activities related to the identification and follow up of environment and pollution emerging issues
- Agenda item 6. Budgetary considerations in relation to the 2002-2003 MAP and MED POL Work plan**
- Agenda item 7. Review and approval of the revised Operational Document for the implementation of the SAP**
- Agenda item 8. Other Business**
- Agenda item 9. Adoption of the report of the Meeting**
- Agenda item 10. Closure of the Meeting**

ANNEX III**PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS**

General policy and coordination

Proposed Recommendations

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To confirm the course undertaken by the MED POL Programme and to give emphasis to the implementation of action-oriented pollution control activities; to this end, to give priority to the full implementation of the activities of the SAP, including those included in the Mediterranean GEF Project;
- b) To continue to formulate, implement and follow up activities related to pollution assessment that are to be considered essential tools to verify the state of pollution of the region and the progress made by countries in the control of pollution and valid means for achieving appropriate coastal zone management;
- c) To continue and strengthen cooperation with the competent UN cooperating agencies supporting MED POL, the Regional Activities Centres, intergovernmental, international, regional and sub-regional organizations, institutions, agreements and programmes and NGOs for the implementation of the SAP and the other approved MED POL activities.

To the Secretariat (MED POL):

- a) To give priority to activities aimed at assisting countries implement the SAP and to cooperate fully with those organizations involved in the implementation of the Mediterranean GEF Project.

Implementation of the SAP

Proposed recommendation:

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To adopt the "Operational Document for the implementation of the SAP" aimed at achieving the gradual reduction and, by the year 2025, the elimination of pollution, which describes the activities to be carried out at the national and regional levels.

Municipal wastewater

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To make the reduction of municipal pollution a priority objective and accordingly to implement policy action, such as promoting and updating the related national regulations.

To the Secretariat (MED POL):

- a) To regularly update the list of wastewater treatment plants and prepare a new updated list by 2003;
- b) To provide assistance to countries for the updating of national regulations on sewage discharges.
- c) To prepare guidelines on sewage treatment and disposal and on wastewater re-use;
- d) To prepare an assessment of municipal wastewater re-use practices in the Mediterranean region;
- e) To promote research on alternative and innovative sewage treatment techniques adapted to specific Mediterranean conditions, taking into account ongoing programmes at the regional and international levels.

Solid wastes

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Secretariat (MED POL):

- a) To prepare guidelines on the management of coastal and marine litter as well as an action plan aimed at assisting countries to improve the institutional and technical aspects of coastal litter management.

Industrial pollution

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To establish by the year 2003 the national baseline budget of emissions for each pollutant targeted in the SAP based on common or comparable methodologies for establishing the budget and tracking the pollution reductions achieved.

To the Secretariat (MED POL):

- a) To assist countries to establish by the year 2003 the national baseline budget of emissions for each of the pollutants identified in the SAP and to prepare the necessary supporting technical documents and methodologies.

Monitoring

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To make every effort to formulate and implement national monitoring programmes including trend, compliance and biological effects monitoring in accordance with the agreed MED POL Phase III objectives and methods, as a tool for marine pollution

assessment and control; to this effect, to provide national institutions participating in the monitoring activities with the necessary basic institutional and financial support.

To the Secretariat (MED POL):

- a) To continue to assist countries in the formulation, finalization and implementation of their national monitoring programmes with the aim of the inclusion of trend, compliance and biological effects monitoring;
- b) To continue to work on the finalization of the new MED POL Phase III database for the proper management of monitoring data and to assist countries to establish compatible national databases;
- c) To give priority to the implementation of Data Quality Assurance Programmes for chemical and biological effects monitoring in order to ensure the high quality and reliability to the data;
- d) To initiate work on the issue of river pollution and river basin management by preparing basic technical and information documents, making use of funds from the Mediterranean GEF Project and taking into account the work done by other relevant organizations;
- e) To consider the inclusion of eutrophication parameters among the mandatory parameters of the MED POL Phase III trend monitoring programme;
- f) To prepare a review of existing criteria and standards for the classification of polluted areas;
- g) To finalize the Interim Quality Criteria and Standards for Bathing Waters and to convene, if necessary, a meeting during the biennium.

Public participation

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Secretariat:

- a) To request the Secretariat (MEDU) to formulate, in cooperation MAP accredited NGOs, an Action Plan to promote the participation of all concerned components of civil society in the implementation of the SAP, taking into account relevant international programmes and conventions such as the Aarhus Convention.

Reporting

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To consider the development of pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs) as an essential tool for the assessment and control of industrial pollution and to make every effort to provide the necessary data and information for their implementation in the region.

To the Secretariat (MED POL):

- a) To continue working on the implementation of PRTRs by providing the necessary assistance to countries;
- b) To review and develop a set of marine pollution indicators in cooperation with Blue Plan, EEA, ICS/UNIDO and other competent bodies and organizations;
- c) To elaborate a reporting system on the implementation of the SAP, taking into account the development of similar systems that are being tested by the GPA Secretariat.

National Action Plans

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To ensure that they have adopted National Action Plans to address pollution from land-based activities as part of the implementation of the SAP; the Plans should be completed by the year 2003 and be operational by the year 2005.

To the Secretariat (MED POL):

- a) To assist countries to formulate and/or strengthen National Action Plans to address pollution from land-based activities.

Other activities related to the LBS Protocol

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To provide the Secretariat with all the necessary data and information for the regular review of the list of pollution hot spots every four years, with the first revised list to be prepared during the 2002-2003 biennium;
- b) To establish and/or strengthen pollution inspection systems with the aim of making them fully operational by the year 2005.

To the Secretariat (MED POL):

- a) To further elaborate the guidelines for the management of brine;
- b) To prepare a revised list of pollution hot spots based on official data and information provided by countries;
- c) To provide assistance to countries to establish/enhance pollution inspection systems.

Activities related to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To provide the Secretariat all the necessary data and information so that it can prepare an assessment of dumping activities during the period 1995-2001;
- b) To adopt the guidelines for the management of fish wastes or organic materials resulting from the processing of fish and other marine organisms which were prepared by the Secretariat in close cooperation with national authorities; the guidelines will come into force with the entry into force of the 1995 Dumping Protocol.

To the Secretariat (MED POL):

- a) To complete the assessment of dumping activities for the period 1995-2001 based on information provided by the Contracting Parties;
- b) To prepare guidelines for the management of inert uncontaminated geological materials in close cooperation with national authorities;
- c) To further elaborate the guidelines for the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures at sea in close cooperation with national authorities

Activities related to the implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol

Proposed Recommendations

To the Contracting Parties:

- a) To make every effort to ratify the Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal adopted in 1996.

To the Secretariat (MED POL):

- a) To prepare an assessment of the status of hazardous waste management in Mediterranean countries, including a review of effective approaches to combating illegal transboundary movements of hazardous wastes.

Activities related to the identification and follow up of emerging environmental and pollution issues

Proposed Recommendations:

To the Secretariat (MED POL):

- a) To continue to follow up ongoing research and study developments on the issue of climatic changes and their environmental implications in the Mediterranean region and to inform the Contracting Parties accordingly;
- b) To continue to work on the identification of emerging environmental and pollution issues (including marine antifoulants, airborne pollution and the impact of fish farming activities) in consultation with MED POL National Coordinators and, accordingly, to fund limited research projects and prepare assessments in cooperation with competent intergovernmental organizations and UN cooperating agencies.

ANNEX IV

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR THE BIENNIUM 2002-2003

This document lists and describes the activities that are proposed to be implemented as part of MED POL during the biennium 2002-2003. It is divided into five sections covering the main subject areas and responsibilities of MED POL and contains a number of draft recommendations to Contracting Parties and the Secretariat. It is presented to MED POL National Coordinators for analysis and approval in view of its submission to MAP Focal Points and Contracting Parties for adoption.

1. General policy and coordination

During the 2000-2001 biennium, the MED POL Programme focused its activities on more concrete action for the control of pollution, as requested by the Contracting Parties. The launching of the process of updating the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and the preparation of an Operational Document, the launching of the Mediterranean GEF Project activities which largely count on the contribution of MED POL, the specific activities related to compliance and enforcement, the identification of hot spots and the formulation and implementation of more objective-related monitoring programmes are examples of the efforts made by MED POL to become a concrete tool for the Mediterranean countries for finally moving towards a phase of actual control of pollution. During the 2002-2003 biennium, it is proposed to pursue the approach followed and in particular to move towards effective implementation of the SAP.

As a result, during the 2002-2003 biennium, MED POL will focus on those activities that will provide assistance to countries in achieving the SAP targets, as specified in the "Operational Document for the implementation of the SAP", presented to this Meeting for discussion and approval (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG 183/6). To this end, the full implementation of the activities of the Mediterranean GEF Project will be especially important.

The MED POL Programme will continue to carry out activities related to assessment of pollution that are considered to be essential tools for verifying the state of pollution of the region and the progress made by countries in the control of pollution, and valid means for achieving appropriate coastal zone management.

Throughout the activities, MED POL will give priority to the implementation of capacity-building programmes. In this context, in addition to those activities "historically" carried out by MED POL (such as training and assistance in the implementation of monitoring programmes including data quality assurance), MED POL, with the financial assistance of GEF, will also include in its work plan capacity-building for pollution inspectors, solid waste management, river pollution, management of wastewater treatment plants, and other areas all related to the implementation of the SAP.

Within this framework, MED POL will enhance cooperation with those competent intergovernmental, international, regional and sub-regional Institutions, Organizations and Agreements as well as potential donors, which could contribute to the implementation of the activities. In particular, it is proposed to strengthen cooperation with GEF, in view of its present and possible future contribution to the implementation of the SAP and with the UNEP/GPA Secretariat for guidance on the long-term implementation of the SAP; also with FFEM, METAP, ICS/UNIDO and the other SAP-supporting Organizations for their specific financial and intellectual contribution. Also, there will be close cooperation with CP/RAC and PAP/RAC in view of the important role they will have in the coordination of certain activities of the SAP. Cooperation will be continued with WHO, in charge of the technical coordination of many activities related to SAP and other aspects of compliance and control, and with

IAEA/MESL, responsible for the data quality assurance activities of MED POL. WMO and IOC will also continue to provide an important contribution to specific aspects of the monitoring activities of MED POL. The EuroMediterranean partnership is also expected to play an important role in assisting the implementation of MED POL activities and close contacts should therefore be maintained with the European Commission. In this context, the MAP/ Donors Steering Committee which it is proposed to establish as part of the coordination activities of SAP, will greatly assist countries in creating and maintaining contacts with other potential donors interested in the financing of specific projects related to the implementation of the SAP. Close contacts should also be kept with those sub-regional Agreements such as RAMOGE and the Adriatic Initiative which could contribute to specific activities but could also represent a valid platform for the implementation of the objectives of MED POL and MAP. Finally, there will be cooperation with NGOs, and in particular with the association "Amici per la vita", for the specific support they could provide at the national and international levels for the sensibilization, information and participation of the public at large in relation, in particular, to the implementation of the SAP.

It should be noted that during the new biennium the Secretariat will also stress the activities related to the future implementation of the Dumping and the Hazardous Wastes Protocols. In particular, concerning the Dumping Protocol, which is expected to enter into force soon, the Secretariat is proposing to complete the preparation of all Guidelines called for by Articles 4 and 6 of the Protocol and hence to facilitate the expected implementation of its provisions by the Contracting Parties.

2. Workplan for the implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategic Action Programme

Municipal Wastewater

When preparing the SAP, special emphasis was given to the need to tackle properly the issue of sewage pollution at the national level, considered one of the most important regional problems. In this context, the Mediterranean GEF Project is expected to contribute substantially to the creation of a technical, institutional and financial basis for the long-term solution of sewage pollution in the region. The preparation of pre-investment studies foreseen by the Project starting in 2001, which will also include hot spots due to municipal pollution, will in fact represent the first step for long-term investment, along with the preparation of National Action Plans, which should also necessarily include the issue of urban pollution. The implementation of the national activities related to the elimination of municipal pollution implies the mobilization of large amounts of funds which, in the medium and long-terms, should mostly be found from national budgets. However, the involvement of financial institutions and donors in the formulation process, as well as the future implementation of the Mediterranean GEF Project, will provide the countries with additional future opportunities and perspectives. Countries should however consider as an immediate priority the implementation of a number of policy actions (e.g. promoting and updating related legislation), which will show their concrete intention to meet the targeted objectives.

During past years, the National MED POL Coordinators were requested to gather the most recent information available from official sources on municipal wastewater treatment plants and to submit the information received to the Coordinating Unit as a follow-up to one of the main issues included in the 1985 Genoa Declaration. Official data and information resulting from previous activities related to the implementation of the LBS Protocol and the identification of pollution hot spots were used to form the basis on which information was exchanged. A draft document presenting the status of sewage treatment plants was presented to the Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators, held in Reggio Calabria from 20 to 23 June 1999. A final document was published in 2000 reflecting the comments and additional information received during and subsequent to the above meeting (MAP Technical

Report Series n. 128). The majority of the data contained in the above document covers the period up to the year 1999. In view of the importance of the subject, included as one of the key issues in the SAP, it is proposed to regularly **update the list of the wastewater treatment plants** so as to verify the progress made by countries in controlling municipal pollution. The first revision of the document will be prepared by the year 2003 under the technical supervision of WHO/MED POL.

Another issue relevant to SAP and also connected to the issue of municipal sewage is **municipal wastewater reuse**. Due to the increased shortage of water in most of the Mediterranean countries and the need to decrease pollution loads that enter the Mediterranean Sea, reuse of municipal wastewater could greatly alleviate this situation. However, because effluents from treatment plants often contain pollutants, usually microbiological, there is a need to develop this critical issue further. The first step to be proposed is the preparation of an assessment of the situation prevailing in the Mediterranean, possibly in combination with the updating of the "wastewater treatment plants in the Mediterranean", in order to identify the extent of the current practice of reuse in the Mediterranean. Guidelines will also be prepared describing practical measures for promoting the practice in a safe and efficient manner. The activities will be coordinated by WHO/MED POL.

As part of the GEF Project in support of SAP, a set of **guidelines related to sewage treatment and disposal** will be developed using the GEF funds allocated. The mechanism to be used for the preparation of such guidelines will consist of the preparation of a draft outline. This will then be sent to the National MED POL Coordinators for comments. As soon as the outline is finalized, detailed guidelines will be formulated by an expert (with the assistance of a group of specialists and under the supervision of MED POL). These guidelines will then be sent to the National Coordinators for further comments. The final guidelines will be presented for review to a meeting of government-designated experts, and subsequently for approval to the MED POL Coordinators. WHO/MED POL will be technically responsible for the preparation of the Guidelines.

Limited **research projects on the specific area of alternative and innovative sewage treatment** for Mediterranean conditions, as well as reuse of sewage treated, could be launched, as foreseen in the SAP. However, in view of the limited financial resources available, external support from ongoing research in these areas will be sought.

In view of the expected entry into force of the LBS Protocol during the biennium 2002-2003, **national regulations on sewages discharges** into the sea and rivers are expected to be updated, taking into account the provisions of the Protocol and the existing common measures. As a result, during the 2002-2003 biennium, in parallel with the preparation of the guidelines on sewage treatment and disposal, MED POL could provide assistance to countries in need for the preparation or updating of national legislation.

Solid wastes

During the biennium 2000-2001, the Secretariat worked extensively on the subject of **coastal litter** and, in particular on the preparation of an assessment of the coastal litter management in the Mediterranean countries and on the identification of the institutional and technical gaps at the national level. As a result, a document was prepared and is submitted to the present meeting for review and comments (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG 183/Inf.4). The Secretariat is proposing to continue work on the subject with the aim of formulating an action plan that should help the countries to manage the issue better and meet the SAP objectives. To this end, an expert meeting will be organized during the 2002-2003 biennium to review the progress made and discuss the content of the action plan, which will contain elements for strengthening the institutional aspects of coastal litter management in the Mediterranean

region, as well as the criteria for the use of solid waste treatment and disposal technology in coastal areas.

In parallel with the above activities, MED POL will participate in the related MCSD activities and contribute to the work of the thematic group on solid waste management.

Guidelines on coastal urban solid wastes will also be developed during the biennium 2002-2003 as part of the GEF Project to support the SAP. The mechanism to be used for the preparation of these guidelines will be the same as that proposed above for sewage treatment and disposal. Emphasis will be placed on urban solid wastes as they relate to coastal zones and will take into consideration the ongoing work and the results of the assessment of coastal litter. The guidelines will be part of the action plan on the management of solid litter mentioned above.

Air pollution

No special activities are proposed under this subject identified by the SAP. In trying to meet the agreed targets, the countries should be in close contact with the regional and international competent Organizations and Convention Secretariats for the implementation of programmes and measures foreseen by the existing legal instruments such as the EU Directives and the Kyoto Protocol. Concerning the related issue of climate change, the Secretariat will continue to follow the development at the scientific and policy levels and will regularly report to the Contracting Parties on Mediterranean-related issues.

Industrial pollution

One of the key elements of the SAP is the **reduction and elimination of industrial pollution**. In view of the related targets set by the SAP, which need to be elaborated in detail, the Secretariat has laid heavy emphasis on the issue during the past biennium, in particular when updating the SAP by taking into account developments in the scientific, technical and legal fields. As a result, a draft Operational Document for the Implementation of the SAP was prepared and presented to an expert meeting held in Catania from 28 to 30 March 2001. Concerning industrial pollution, the Operational Document proposed a specific approach to establish a method for achieving and tracking the pollution reductions foreseen in the SAP. On the basis of the comments and suggestions made at the meeting, a new draft Operational Document was prepared and is submitted to the present meeting for analysis and approval (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG 183/6). With reference to the technical aspects included in the Operational Document and in view of the expected adoption of the "national baseline budget" approach for achieving industrial pollution reductions, during the 2002-2003 biennium the Secretariat will prepare a number of supporting documents covering:

- the procedure for establishing the inventory of sources that would enable national authorities to estimate the baseline budget for each targeted pollutant;
- the relevant and substantial point and diffuse sources of the targeted pollutants taking into account production levels, pollutant loads, etc.;
- the methodology for the estimation of the baseline budget for each targeted pollutant.

It is proposed to convene a meeting of government-designated experts during the biennium 2002-2003 to review and approve the supporting documents prepared by the Secretariat.

According to the SAP, the updating of the national regulations for point source discharges of pollutants from industrial sources should start in 2002 with the assistance of the Secretariat.

In this context, a number of guidelines on industrial pollution will be developed during the 2002-2003 biennium as part of the GEF Project to support the SAP.

In the context of industrial pollution, under the umbrella of the MCSD's thematic group on industry, MED POL will contribute to the preparation of an inventory of relevant new and innovative technologies using the more advanced information technologies such as Internet.

Concerning **POPs**, as part of the activities of the Mediterranean GEF Project in support of the implementation of the SAP, a document will be prepared providing technical information on the nine pesticides and PCB substitutes and on the environmentally-sound disposal and progressive elimination of the nine pesticides and PCBs. In preparing the document, the Secretariat will cooperate with the relevant international bodies and organizations, including UNEP/GIWA, taking into consideration the expected adoption of the POPs Convention.

Physical alteration and destruction of habitats

No specific activities are proposed for the biennium 2002-2003.

Monitoring

Monitoring activities have been the backbone of the MED POL Programme since its launching and continue to be the major tool for assessing the quality and quantity of marine pollution. With the implementation of the SAP, monitoring is also becoming an effective tool for verifying the reduction of pollution expected to be achieved by the countries. During the past biennium, monitoring has therefore become more objective-oriented and, as a result, efforts are being made to assist countries to launch specific trend, compliance and biological effects **national monitoring programmes**.

In view of the more specific and challenging objectives of the MED POL Phase III monitoring programme, sometimes implying different methodologies and different competencies, the Secretariat expected slower progress in finalizing national programmes despite the provision, of training and direct assistance within the budget limitations

As a result, six national monitoring programmes were successfully finalized and data were provided by five countries. Details on the ongoing programmes and the action taken to establish new ones, including the assistance provided to countries during the previous biennium, are presented in document UNEP(DEC)MED WG 183/Inf.3.

It therefore appears essential to identify the problems (technical and/or institutional) that are delaying the finalization of monitoring programmes and to aim at the involvement of the largest possible number of countries in the monitoring activities. At the end of the year 2001, a meeting will be held to discuss with participating scientists the implementation of the trend, compliance and biological effects monitoring activities and it is proposed to hold another meeting during the biennium 2002-2003.

The major goal for the coming biennium is therefore the full establishment of the monitoring programmes on the regional scale with the contribution of all the countries. In view of the importance of eutrophication phenomena in the region, eutrophication parameters will be added to the mandatory parameters of the trend monitoring programme. Assistance will continue to be provided to countries, within the financial possibilities of MED POL, to facilitate the implementation of the monitoring activities and also for the purchase of small pieces of equipment, chemicals and material, and for individual and group training.

Concerning **data management**, the work initiated during the biennium 2000-2001 to adapt the standard reporting formats of MED POL Phase II to the new needs of MED POL Phase

III will continue during the 2002-2003 biennium. At present, formats are available in EXCEL worksheets to ensure easy transmission of the monitoring data. As a second step, the data received by MED POL will be integrated into a database that will allow full assessment and management of data. For this purpose, the MED POL database will be restructured into a new one where in the validated data of the past monitoring activities and those of MED POL Phase III will be combined. As a pilot exercise, compatible national databases in selected countries will be established aiming at achieving easy and error-free transmission of national data into the MED POL database and good management both at the regional and national levels. An information document on the progress being made on MED POL data management is presented as UNEP(DEC)/MED WG 183/Inf.5.

The **Data Quality Assurance** Programme managed by IAEA/MESL will continue to be the essential tool for achieving reliable data and the successful implementation of the monitoring programmes. External quality control of data will be achieved through the ongoing DQA services (intercomparison exercises, training courses, quality assurance missions etc.), whereas the implementation of internal quality control procedures will be solicited from the participating laboratories by MED POL during the time span of implementation of the monitoring programmes. Intercalibration exercises will also be organized for biological effects monitoring as well as training courses in cooperation with the University of Genoa and RAMOGE.

In order to ensure full managerial use of the data and results of the monitoring activities, a review will be made of existing criteria and standards for the classification of polluted areas.

Following the approved MED POL programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001, a consultation meeting to finalize the **Interim Quality Criteria and Standards for Bathing Waters** will be convened in 2001. A draft document has been prepared by WHO/MED POL taking into account the situation existing in sub-regional treaties and the new guidelines of the World Health Organization. However, the Secretariat is of the opinion that the quality criteria and standards that may finally be adopted by the Contracting Parties should avoid contradiction with others adopted by other countries or groups of countries, keeping in mind however the special situation of the Mediterranean region. As a result, in view of the negotiations still going on at the level of other international fora covering a number of Mediterranean countries, it is proposed, if need be, to convene an additional meeting during the 2002-2003 biennium to ensure that the quality criteria and standards eventually adopted in the region would be appropriate for the needs of the region and would be easily and fully applied by all Contracting Parties.

The 1996 LBS Protocol extends its coverage to include the hydrographic basin of the region. The SAP also includes a number of related regional and national actions in its work plan. As a result, and in view of the limited past experience of MAP and MED POL in the field of **river pollution and river basin management**, it is proposed to gradually initiate implementing specific and basic activities and programmes to be able to assist in the near future countries to fulfil their obligations towards the new LBS Protocol. The activities will be carried out taking into account work already ongoing at the regional and international levels.

In view of this new need of the region within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, when formulating the Mediterranean GEF Project, MED POL included a number of basic related activities that could create the basis for the implementation of future larger national and regional actions. With funds made available through the GEF Project, Guidelines for river pollution monitoring will therefore be prepared and finalized during the 2002-2003 biennium with the assistance of experts. An expert consultation is also scheduled to review the draft, which is expected to be adopted by Contracting Parties in 2003.

In this context, and in line with the activities foreseen in the SAP, during the 2002-2003 biennium information on the quality and quantity of 50 selected rivers will be gathered by MED POL from national authorities and regional and international sources to form a basic regional register. The register will be submitted to National Coordinators for review and approval.

Capacity-building

As specified above under "Monitoring", the capacity-building activities related to the implementation of **monitoring programmes** will continue during the 2002-2003 biennium under the technical supervision of IAEA/MESL. They will include:

- running four Intercomparison Exercises comprising Organic Contaminants (OCs) in a sediment sample and a biological matrix and Trace metals and methylmercury (TMs) in a sediment sample and a biological matrix;
- advising MED POL-designated laboratories, as requested, with respect to marine analytical chemistry and marine pollution monitoring and assessment activities;
- conducting split sampling analyses and providing assistance to MED POL-designated laboratories as requested;
- providing MED POL-designated laboratories with Reference Materials and Standards as available;
- undertaking Quality Assurance missions to member States as required;
- providing MED POL Secretariat with advice on relevant scientific information as required (monitoring and assessment, laboratory networking, database management activities, emerging pollution issues);
- hosting four training courses at IAEA/MESL in Monaco (one per year for each of Ocs and TMs analyses);

It is expected that, through the GEF-financed activities to support SAP, the capacity-building activities will be enhanced. There will be training programmes on the topics related to **pollution monitoring and inspection** and also on **wastewater treatment plants**. Initially, a regional training course will be organized at which the participants will be trained in the technical, legal and administrative aspects of the subjects, as required. At least one participant from each country will attend the training course, which will aim at preparing trainers. The next step will be the organization of a number of national training courses on each of the above topics, which will be organized basically by the staff trained during the regional course. In addition, issues related to specific country conditions will also be included in the national training courses and efforts will be made to produce training material in the language of the country where the national courses are to be held. At the end of the training programmes, the respective manuals will be widely distributed throughout the region.

During the biennium, making use of funds available under the Mediterranean GEF Project, CP/RAC, in close cooperation with MED POL, will prepare a number of **guidelines** and organize **training courses** in the field of cleaner production and technology, as a direct contribution to the implementation of the SAP. The GEF Project in fact foresees the following:

- regional guidelines for the application of BAT, BEP for industries;

- regional guidelines for the application of BAT, BEP for industrial sources of BOD nutrients and suspended solids;
- regional guidelines for the application of BEP for fertilizers in agriculture;
- regional action plan for the reduction of hazardous wastes from industries;
- regional training course on cleaner production techniques;
- national training course on cleaner production techniques.

Additional activities related to the promotion and use of cleaner technology will be implemented during the biennium 2002-2003 by CP/RAC and training courses on EIA by METAP within the framework of the Mediterranean GEF Project.

Public participation

The activities to enhance public participation in the process of implementation of the SAP will be a joint effort by MAP and all its components, based on the MAP's Strategy on Information and Public Awareness approved by the Contracting Parties. For its part, MED POL will continue to involve NGOs in its activities and will try to diffuse information to the public on the SAP content and its objectives as much as possible.

Concerning more specifically the related activities included in the SAP, during the 2002-2003 biennium, making use of funds from the Mediterranean GEF Project, guidelines will be prepared to facilitate the involvement of all concerned components of civil society in the implementation of the SAP. A workshop will also be convened by MAP to discuss and agree on the content of a regional programme for public participation in the implementation of the SAP. The programme will take into account relevant programmes and Conventions such as the Aarhus Convention.

Reporting

A unified **reporting system** covering the Convention and the Protocols is being prepared by MAP and will be finalized this year. In view of the complexity of the SAP and the evident difference in nature of the action contained therein (e.g. policy action, pollution reductions, implementation of action plans, etc.), it was not considered feasible at this stage to include in the MAP reporting system specific formats related to reporting on the implementation of the SAP by the countries. However, the Secretariat is following the work of the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office and will make use of the experience in reporting on the implementation of the GPA, which will be discussed at the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the GPA to be held in November 2001 in Canada. On the basis of the results achieved by the GPA Secretariat in this field, specific reporting formats will be prepared during the 2002-2003 biennium.

As indicated in the SAP, **information on levels and trends of loads of pollution** will be collected by MED POL as a result of the national monitoring programmes and published regularly in the MAP Technical Report Series or other specific volumes.

As a result of the successful launching of the **Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)** pilot project in Alexandria, Egypt, one additional country will be selected for implementing PRTR. A set of guidelines will be prepared to enable and facilitate a larger involvement of countries in the process and a regional trainer training course will be organized in 2002.

Concerning the review and development of **indicators** being carried out as part of the activities of the MCSD, the Secretariat will cooperate closely with BP/RAC, EEA and experts from the countries to elaborate a set of marine pollution indicators that could be applied in the unified MAP reporting system mentioned above.

National Action Plans (NAPs)

According to the SAP workplan as well as the activities of the Mediterranean GEF Project, Mediterranean countries should formulate their NAPs, or equivalent sectoral plans as appropriate, by the year 2003, and they should be fully operational by 2005. As a result, during the 2002-2003 biennium, the Secretariat, making use of the Mediterranean GEF Project funds, will closely work with the countries to initiate the process. As a first step, the Secretariat will formulate a draft methodology for the preparation of national diagnostic analyses that will be discussed and reviewed at a meeting with SAP national coordinators and experts. The national diagnostic analyses are in fact the basis for the formulation of the NAPs. Through the GEF Project, countries will soon be contacted for the finalization of Memorandums of Understanding that will describe the process of preparation of the NAPs and will include details on the activities to be carried out, the financial assistance and the specific tasks of the national actors involved.

Other activities related to the LBS Protocol

As a result of the interest shown by Mediterranean countries in responding to their growing water demands through the creation of new **seawater desalination plants** and as a follow-up to the request made by some Contracting Parties to the Secretariat, MED POL has prepared an assessment of the situation in the region which combines: (1) information on the status of and trends in desalination plants in the region; (2) information on the possible environmental effects of the discharge of brine; (3) the possible implications of such practices for the provisions of the Dumping and LBS Protocols; and (4) elements for the preparation of guidelines. The document is presented to this Meeting as UNEP(DEC)MED WG 183/Inf.6 for information and discussion. The Secretariat is proposing to organize an expert meeting in 2002 to elaborate further the guidelines for the management of brine produced by desalination plants and finalize the assessment, which will be brought to the attention of National Coordinators for possible submission to Contracting Parties. The guidelines would mostly focus on the proper siting of the desalination plants so as to reduce the impact on the marine environment and on possible remedial measures for existing plants.

The **Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)** is considered a very important document because of the quantity and quality of information that it contains and a very useful background for all the MED POL activities. Its updating and finalization, already preliminarily started in 2001, will be completed during the 2002-2003 biennium in consultation with MED POL National Coordinators, making use of the Mediterranean GEF Project funds. The Secretariat will ensure the updating through the following:

- review of the previous TDA report to identify the chapters that would need to be updated and the possible addition of new chapters following new developments in the relevant environmental Conventions, as well as the availability of new scientific information;
- selection of a team of regional experts;
- convening of a consultation meeting to review the updated TDA report;
- submission of the new TDA report to National Coordinators for approval.

The issue of **pollution hot spots and sensitive areas** has been and will be developed within the framework of the GEF Project. The list of hot spots adopted in 1997, although it represents a very important step forward as it constitutes a first attempt to produce a precise assessment of the pollution sources of the region, may need to be reviewed because the data, collected in 1996-1997, could require updating to reflect new developments that may have occurred in the countries. In planning the activities, it should be recalled that, in the short term, i.e. during the period 2001-2003, the Mediterranean GEF Project is providing funds for review of the pollution hot spots criteria, preparation of an updated list and the conduct of pre-investment studies on a number of selected hot spots. The same approach is being followed for sensitive areas. In the long term, the Secretariat is of the opinion that, in order to reflect the progress made by the countries, the list of hot spots should be reviewed on a regular basis and it is proposing every four years. Taking into account the activities started in 2001, the following action will be implemented during the biennium 2002-2003:

- (a) selection of hot spots where pre-investment studies will be carried out, in consultation with the GEF-eligible countries; and
- (b) conduct of the selected pre-investment studies.

During the meeting of the Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement, held in Sorrento, from 15 to 17 March 2001, it was agreed, inter alia that similar meetings should be held regularly, the exchange of information should be intensified, the capacity-building component should be reinforced in order to strengthen the **inspection systems**, and guidelines for environmental inspection systems should be prepared. During the 2002-2003 biennium the Secretariat will work in line with the above recommendations. More particularly, the Secretariat, in addition to the abovementioned guidelines, will prepare technical manuals, visit and assist individual countries in need to develop inspection systems further, prepare a web site with specific information and success stories, and prepare training courses. The activities will be partly financed by the Mediterranean GEF Project.

During the last meeting of the MCSD held in Tunis, it was suggested that WHO prepare an **assessment of the state of environmental health in Mediterranean countries** that would enable them to apply better management for pollution reduction. The assessment would also help countries to incorporate health concerns into environmental management, thus reducing the risks to human health. Work related to the health effects of polluted seawater, which was carried out in the past as part of MED POL, now needs to be completed to include coastal areas (including the catchment basins) as they are now covered by the Barcelona Convention and the LBS Protocol and imply pollution and risks to public health. As a result, it is proposed to undertake a study to identify the state of environmental health in the Mediterranean during the 2002-2003 biennium with funds coming directly from WHO.

3. 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 dumping activities by issuing permits and informing the Secretariat accordingly. However, since the entry into force of the Protocol, only a few countries have regularly reported to the Secretariat on the permits issued.

In this context, considering the relevance that dumping activities may have for planning pollution monitoring and control activities and the expected entry into force of the 1995 revised Dumping Protocol, the Secretariat is attempting to use the information already available, to integrate it with new information and prepare an **assessment of dumping activities for the period 1995-2001**. A letter was sent to the National Coordinators on 1 February to identify national authorities and experts who could assist the Secretariat in the

preparation of the assessment. In view of the few responses received (only eight countries have replied to the Secretariat's request), the Secretariat is soliciting the requested information from all countries and is proposing to finalize the assessment during 2002.

Under the provisions of the 1995 Dumping Protocol and in accordance with the 2000-2001 MED POL programme of activities, during the year 2000 the Secretariat prepared draft "**Guidelines for the management of fish waste or organic materials resulting from the processing of fish and other marine organisms**". The Guidelines were sent to the MED POL National Coordinators on 30 January 2001 for comments and amendments. A revised draft (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/4) was then prepared and presented to the Meeting of the MED POL National Coordinators for consideration and approval. The Meeting recommended its transmission to Contracting Parties for adoption.

Under the provisions of the 1995 Dumping Protocol and in accordance with the 2000-2001 MED POL programme of activities, during the year 2000 the Secretariat prepared draft "**Guidelines for the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures at sea**". The Guidelines were sent to the MED POL National Coordinators on 30 January 2001 for comments and amendments. A revised draft (document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.183/5) was then prepared and will be further elaborated on the basis of specific comments to be sent by the National Coordinators. A final draft will be prepared during the 2002-2003 biennium.

Under the provisions of the 1995 Dumping Protocol and in order to fulfil the requirements of Articles 3 and 6 thereof, the Secretariat is proposing to work during the biennium 2002-2003 on the preparation of **Guidelines for the management of inert uncontaminated geological materials**, which will complete the list of guidelines to be prepared. The Secretariat will seek the assistance of experts from the region to prepare draft guidelines before their submission to MED POL National Coordinators for approval and to Contracting Parties for adoption. As a first step, the Secretariat considers that a proper and unanimous definition of the term: "inert uncontaminated geological materials" is essential in order to be able to start the work; National Coordinators will soon be contacted on the subject.

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

Regarding the Hazardous Wastes Protocol, it should be noted that a number of activities aiming at preparing the ground for the future implementation of the Protocol are included in the SAP activities and will be implemented during the 2002-2003 biennium, mostly as part of the Mediterranean GEF project work plan (see the chapter on Industrial Pollution above).

In addition, the Secretariat is proposing to prepare an **assessment of the status of hazardous wastes management in Mediterranean countries** that would take into account the obligations of the Basel and other related Conventions. The assessment would enable the Secretariat to avoid duplication of work and identify gaps and needs in view of the related activities to be carried out as part of the implementation of the SAP.

5. Activities related to the identification and follow-up of environmental and pollution emerging issues

During the last meeting of the MCSD in Tunis, the Contracting Parties requested MED POL to follow up and inform the Contracting Parties of the development of the **climate change** issues in the Mediterranean region. On the basis of, and as a complement to, the above request, the Secretariat is proposing to collate information based on IPCC reports within the framework of the Climate Change Convention and other sources of information related to the Mediterranean countries and to prepare a background and up-to-date information document. Regarding the launching of new studies on the impact of climate change in Mediterranean

coastal zones, MED POL will undertake this, as appropriate, in the context of ongoing or new Coastal Areas Management Programmes (CAMPs) launched as part of MAP.

Following a small consultation meeting on environmental and pollution emerging issues held in Rome from 31 May to 1 June 2000, in addition to the **research** areas identified as part of the work on the implementation of the SAP, the Secretariat is proposing to launch limited research projects on **airborne pollution** and on **marine antifoulants** as subjects of special Mediterranean relevance. Concerning airborne pollution, it was felt that, in parallel with the monitoring activities carried out as part of MED POL, a number of areas still needed investigation such as the pollutants' routes and the mechanisms of wet and dry depositions in the region. Concerning antifoulants, in view of the global ban on TBTs being negotiated by IMO, it was considered necessary to study the toxic effects of the alternative biocides that are going to be used in the region. In view of the growing expansion of **mariculture** activities in the region, it is also recommended to prepare an assessment of the impacts and the environmental implications of such activities.

A special session on environmental and pollution emerging issues will be organized jointly with the **CIESM** on the occasion of the CIESM General Assembly to be held in Monaco in September 2001. A number of grants will be provided to Mediterranean scientists to facilitate their participation.