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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Informal Consultation Meeting on
MED POL-Phase III (1996-2005)

Athens, 13-15 December 1995

REPORT

**OF THE INFORMAL CONSULTATION MEETING
ON MED POL-PHASE III (1996-2005)**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Pages
REPORT	1 - 3
Annex I : Agenda	
Annex II : List of Participants	

Agenda item 1 Opening of the Meeting

1. Mr L. Chabason, MAP Coordinator, welcomed the participants and opened the Meeting.
2. He briefly recalled the recent events which had led to the adoption of MAP-Phase II, the revision of the Barcelona Convention and the Dumping Protocol and the ongoing work of revision of the LBS Protocol. It was in this new context in fact that the secretariat was working on the finalization of the MED POL-Phase III Programme which was going to be presented to the MED POL National Coordinators Meeting (Athens, 18-22 March 1996) to be then adopted by the Contracting Parties' Meeting (Montpellier, June 1996). He therefore considered the conclusions and the recommendations of the Consultation especially important. Mr Chabason regretted the absence of Mr Fawzi, Mr Joanny and Mr Zaouche who could not attend the Consultation.

Agenda item 2 Background and Scope

3. Mr L. Jeftic, MAP Deputy Coordinator, briefly presented the history of the MED POL Programme and the evolution of its goals and objectives from its adoption in 1975 as MED POL-Phase I, to the adoption of MED POL-Phase II in 1981 and finally to the formulation of MED POL-Phase III in the context of Agenda 21 and MAP II and the related revised legal texts. Mr Jeftic also briefed the participants on the different evaluations which had been made of the achievements of the Programme. In particular, the evaluations carried out in 1989 of the pollution data gathered by MED POL on sources of pollution, micro-organisms in coastal areas, heavy metals in coastal and reference areas and organohalogen and petroleum hydrocarbons in coastal and reference areas; the evaluations made in 1990 of respectively, monitoring and research strategies; and the evaluation made in 1993 by four independent experts of the achievements of MED POL.

Agenda item 3 Organization of the work

4. The Meeting unanimously elected Mr A. Lascaratos Chairman and Mr Y. Cohen Rapporteur of the Consultation.

Agenda item 4 MED POL-Phase III - Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Region (1996-2005)

5. Under this Agenda item all the participants briefly presented their views on the goals, objectives and activities of the proposed MED POL-Phase III keeping in mind the weaknesses and the achievements of the preceding phases of the Programme. Comments and suggestions were also made on how to possibly improve the document.
6. Generally it was felt that a key element for the success of the Phase III would be the increased awareness at national level of the importance of the MED POL Programme as a tool for coastal management and sustainable development. In this context the Consultation stressed that the fundamental role of the MED POL National Coordinators should be strengthened in the Phase III. The participants also considered the terms of reference of the National Coordinators as described in annex II of the MED POL-Phase III document as

adequate and also stressed the importance of establishing MED POL National Committees for a better coordination at national level.

7. The Consultation reiterated the primary importance of the implementation of the LBS Protocol and the essential contribution that the MED POL Programme would provide to it. Essential was also considered the interaction between the MED POL Programme and the other MAP components not directly related to pollution since it could provide the necessary exchange and complementarity of data and experience, in particular regarding the relation between pollution and coastal development.

8. The participants generally considered that the elaboration of raw data in the MED Unit should focus on coastal zone trend monitoring while every effort should continue to be made to assist countries to formulate and implement national monitoring programmes, improve data processing capabilities, analyze the results and make use of them for coastal management.

9. The opportunity to support in the framework of Phase III sub-regional initiatives involving various countries was also discussed and the participants agreed that they should be limited to very specific phenomena (such as eutrophication) and parameters (such as nutrients) or very specific areas (such as the Adriatic, RAMOGE, EROS, etc.).

10 With regards to specific suggestions on how to improve the document, which was generally considered of high quality, the participants agreed that it was necessary to re-write the chapter on the objectives, considered not detailed enough, and to add a new chapter where the principles of implementation of the various activities would be described. The writing up of a detailed operational document would be made after the adoption of the Programme.

Agenda item 5 Conclusions and recommendations

11. The participants reiterated their full appreciation for the proposed MED POL - Phase III Programme and considered it in harmony with the principles and objectives of MAP II and the related revised legal texts.

12. Furthermore, the Meeting, after reviewing the document and the proposed activities, recognized the more important and wider role that MED POL would have in the framework of MAP II and considered it an essential tool for achieving sustainable development. As a result, the Meeting felt that the MED POL Programme should receive adequate funds to reflect such an enhanced function within MAP II. In addition, the interactions between MED POL and the other components of MAP should be strengthened to achieve a better integration of the activities for the benefit of the entire MAP Programme.

13. In view of the presentation of the document to the MED POL National Coordinators' Meeting in 1996, the Meeting recommended the following:

- a) to re-word the text in order to put it in line with the new adopted texts of MAP II, the Barcelona Convention, the Dumping Protocol as well as the LBS Protocol being revised,
- b) to ask the Meeting of the MED POL National Coordinators to consider the establishment of an "Advisory Group of Experts for MED POL" in accordance with the institutional arrangements of MAP II approved by the Contracting Parties. The

Group's main task would be to advise the secretariat and the Meeting of National Coordinators on the scientific and technical aspects of the design, development and implementation of the MED POL Programme and the review of its accomplishments. The Advisory Group would consist of a core group of 4 to 6 Mediterranean experts to be nominated for a four-year term by the Meeting of National Coordinators on the basis of the suggestions of the secretariat. The group could be assisted, for specific subjects, by additional experts. Specific terms of reference of the Advisory Group should be prepared by the secretariat and submitted to the next Meeting of National Coordinators for approval.

- c) Considering the wide range of activities of the MED POL - Phase III Programme and the limited financial resources expected, in its initial stage of implementation emphasis should be placed on the following priority activities:
- i) Formulation and implementation of a programme of coastal zone trend monitoring on a regional basis;
 - ii) Formulation, including the setting of priorities, and implementation of regional and national action plans for the control of LB pollution;
 - iii) Identification of sources and assessment of loads of pollution, including hot spots;
 - iv) Assistance to countries for the development and implementation of national monitoring programmes;
 - v) Assistance to countries for the implementation and enforcement of adopted pollution control measures, including capacity building;
 - vi) In dealing with targeted research, eutrophication and biological effects should be considered as priority subjects.

Agenda item 6 Closure of the Meeting

14. The Chairman, in his closing remarks, congratulated the secretariat for the excellent work done for the preparation of the proposed MED POL-Phase III programme which, in his opinion, was bringing the MED POL programme closer to the LBS Protocol and to the over-all objectives of MAP II.

15. Mr L. Jetic, while thanking the Chairman for his very efficient work, congratulated the experts for their constructive participation and for the very positive results of Consultation.

16. The Meeting was closed at 10,30 hours of 15 December 1995.

ANNEX I

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Background and scope
3. Organization of work
4. MED POL-Phase III - Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Region (1996-2005)
5. Conclusions
6. Closure of the meeting

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