



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**

**EP**



UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.185/4  
30 March 2001

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

Consultation Meeting to review the operational  
Aspects of the implementation of the  
Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to Address  
Pollution from Land-based Activities

Catania, Italy, 28 – 30 March 2001

**REPORT**

**CONSULTATION MEETING TO REVIEW THE OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME (SAP) TO ADDRESS  
POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page No.</b>
Report	1-12
Annex I: List of participants	
Annex II: Agenda	



## **Introduction**

1. Following the adoption by the Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Tunis, November 1997) of the Strategic Action Programme to address Pollution from Land-based Activities (SAP), the MAP Secretariat (MED POL) has given priority to activities to prepare the technical and institutional basis for the long-term implementation of the SAP, for which financing has been received from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The formulation and adoption of the SAP was undertaken with a view to the coming into force of the LBS Protocol, which was revised and adopted in Syracuse in 1996, and in the more general framework of the Global Programme of Actions (Washington, 1995).

2. At their Eleventh Ordinary Meeting (Malta, 1999), the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat (MED POL) to begin the process of updating the SAP by taking into account developments in the scientific, technical, economic, environmental and legal fields in order to ensure the effective implementation of the SAP. The Secretariat therefore prepared the present document, entitled "Operational document for the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme to address pollution of the Mediterranean Sea from land-based activities (SAP)" and convened a consultation meeting to examine and give its opinion on the necessary institutional measures and technical aspects of the implementation of the SAP, and to make recommendations on the effect to be given to it, with particular reference to the formulation of national action plans.

3. The Consultation Meeting was held in Catania from 28 to 30 March 2001 at the Sheraton Hotel, with the support of the Fondo Euromediterraneo, and in collaboration with the Municipality of Catania and the Associazione Nazionale Comuni Italiani (ANCI).

## **Participation**

4. Experts designated by the Contracting Parties from the following countries participated in the Meeting: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, European Commission, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey. The Meeting was also attended by representatives of the following United Nations organizations and international organizations: UNEP/Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UNEP/GPA Coordination Office, UNIDO/ICS and WHO/MED POL, as well as of the Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) and the Cleaner Production/Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC). The Secretariat of UNEP/MAP served as the secretariat of the Meeting. The List of Participants is attached as Annex I.

### **Agenda item 1.                    Opening of the meeting**

5. Mr Umberto Scapagnini, Mayor of Catania, after welcoming the participants emphasized that the Consultation Meeting constituted the starting point of an initiative, entitled "Friends for Life", dedicated to developing substantive interaction between the general policies adopted by the United Nations and the concrete activities of local communities. The fact that the Meeting was being held in Catania, which enjoyed a strategic position, was also symbolic in the sense that the Strategic Action Programme would mark for the future a consolidation of the bridges between Europe and the other coastal countries of the Mediterranean. He knew from his experience of chairing the Research and Scientific Affairs Committee of the European Parliament for five years, that ever greater interest was being shown, not only in measures which could have an immediate impact on pollution, but also on the implementation of a global approach which would result, through the United Nations system and European institutions, in concrete action by local administrations. The general structures had been established and the time had come to act locally.

6. Mr Valerio Calzolaio, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Environment of Italy, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Italian Government. The Consultation Meeting was an important initiative in the sense that the implementation of the measures envisaged in the Strategic Action Programme could no longer be put off. In the Mediterranean region, the intensification of economic and demographic pressures was prejudicing ecosystems and the diversity and role of the Mediterranean in the global ecological balance of the planet. The Mediterranean had several unique characteristics: it was the world's major tourist destination, as well as being the region in which oil tankers were the most concentrated. The Meeting therefore needed to demonstrate clearly that Mediterranean countries were committed to the adoption of measures to reduce pollution and promote sustainable development. This was possible at the Mediterranean level, as well as in specific regions, and it was therefore important to identify local measures which could be extended to the whole of the region. Italy, in its concern to cooperate with all Mediterranean countries to promote the appropriate management of water resources and combat drought and desertification throughout the region, considered its cooperation with UNEP and MAP to be essential and hoped that the Catania Meeting would not fail to bring them even closer. Furthermore, he welcomed the participation of the Fondo Euromediterraneo (FEM), with the "Friends for Life" project and the various municipal authorities, which was an indication of the need to work together with local authorities, NGOs and civil society as a whole.

7. Mr Sergio Illuminato, President of the Fondo Euromediterraneo (FEM), noted that despite ten years of effort and cooperation to combat pollution, it had to be admitted that direct links with local communities were lacking, and that they were inevitably kept at a distance from the plans and reports prepared at the intergovernmental level, and that their means of action were inadequate. The FEM had therefore taken the initiative of launching a programme entitled "Friends for Life", which was a programme of information and dialogue between the United Nations system and Italian communes. Through this programme, and particularly the Internet site which had been established for this purpose, it would be possible to disseminate more information on the activities of the United Nations, MAP and the Strategic Action Programme, thereby contributing to the achievement of visible results. The deterioration of the environment was now giving rise to very real fears and even, more recently, movements of panic. Action was needed in particular in the Mediterranean, where 50 million people were directly dependent on the sea. The initiative taken by the FEM and the Strategic Action Programme was therefore of the greatest importance in terms of bringing citizens closer to global action.

8. Ms Silvia Bernardini, Mayor of Ussita, speaking on behalf of the Associazione Nazionale Comuni Italiani (ANCI), emphasized the contribution that local communities could make in the implementation of operational plans and general policies for the protection of the Mediterranean against pollution and in remedying imbalances in coastal areas, within the framework of the "Friends for Life" project. Despite the adoption of legislative measures, many of which were excellent, as in the case of Italy, the action taken in practice was still essentially inadequate. It would therefore be necessary to develop a new form of involvement of local authorities and to ensure that they participated right from the beginning in all decision-making processes related to practical problems which required practical responses. In this way, local authorities could increase their awareness of the need to invest in the implementation of plans which could result in visible outcomes. Admittedly, this would involve difficult choices and the risk of conflict with powerful interests, but local authorities had proven that they could act with courage, and the Strategic Action Programme would support their action.

9. Mr Lucien Chabason, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), after welcoming the participants and thanking the Italian authorities for their essential contribution and ceaseless support for MAP, observed that Sicily, as described by Lampedusa, was the

perfect representation of the Mediterranean, with its history, strength and nature, but also its risks, natural catastrophes and volcanic eruptions. Its land, which was a reflection of Mediterranean history, with its monuments from antiquity, as well as the aggressions of modern times, was therefore a symbolic place which offered a synthesis of the problems to be faced.

10. He also welcomed the "Friends for Life" initiative launched by the FEM in collaboration with the ANCI in the common cause of the defense of the environment, as well as their support and cooperation with UNEP. The FEM's initiative was also extremely valuable in the sense that it would make it possible to build links between the action taken by international organizations and public opinion. As emphasized by Professor Duvignaud, the eminent Belgian ecologist, it was necessary to "think globally, act locally", which was precisely the objective of the Meeting.

11. The year 2001 was important not only because it preceded the year in which the "Rio +10" Conference would be held, but also because a meeting was to be held in Montreal at the end of the year to examine the implementation of the 1995 Global Programme of Actions to Address Pollution from Land-based Activities (GPA). As there was no global convention covering measures to combat this type of pollution, the implementation of the GPA was based on regional agreements. The Mediterranean countries would therefore have to demonstrate the manner in which they were applying the agreements, plans and decisions which had been adopted. Since the approval of the amendments to the Barcelona Convention in 1995, and to the LBS Protocol in 1996, much progress had been made. The Contracting Parties had adopted MED POL Phase III and the Strategic Action Programme, and financing had been obtained from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the implementation of the SAP. The stage had therefore been reached for their application in practice. A system of national reporting on the application of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols had been established and a meeting had been held in Sorrento in application of one of the "administrative" provisions of the LBS Protocol concerning inspectorates and permitting systems. The meeting had shown that MED POL, after a phase of the identification of pollution problems and a monitoring phase, was now launching the active phase of the full implementation of the decisions which had been adopted. Indeed, Mediterranean countries would be judged on the extent to which they could make the transition from general plans to practical action.

12. Finally, he emphasized the urgent need to complete the process of ratifying the amendments to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, which would not come into force until they had been ratified by three quarters of the Parties. As of January 2001, the number of ratifications had almost attained the level of half of the Parties. It had to be hoped that sufficient progress would be made in the ratification process for the Convention and the LBS Protocol to come into force by the time of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in November 2001.

13. In conclusion, Mr Chabason thanked the Mayor of Catania and ANCI for the excellent organization of the Meeting.

## **Agenda item 2. Election of Officers**

14. The Meeting elected its officers as follows:

President:	Ms Margita Mastrovic (Croatia)
Vice-President:	Mr Samir Kaabi (Tunisia)
Rapporteur:	Ms Anastasia Lazarou-Bakali (Greece)

**Agenda item 3. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work**

15. The Meeting adopted its agenda, as contained in Annex II.

**Agenda item 4. Background and Purpose of the Meeting**

16. Mr Francesco Saverio Civili, MED POL Programme Coordinator, reviewed the background and general context of the Meeting. Following UNCED in 1992 and the adoption of the Global Programme of Actions (GPA) in Washington in 1995, MED POL had refocused its programme, from the assessment of pollution which it had carried out since its establishment, towards effective action for the reduction of pollution. This refocussing process, endorsed by the adoption of MED POL Phase III (1996-2005), had been accompanied by activities to strengthen national capacities, establish an informal regional network for compliance and effective implementation of legislation and, in particular, to launch the vast process of the implementation of the SAP adopted in 1997 as a follow up to the GPA.

17. In this context, the present Meeting, convened in accordance with a recommendation made to the Secretariat by the Contracting Parties at their Meeting in Malta in 1999, constituted an important stage since, for the first time, the countries were invited to examine the methods to be used for the implementation of the SAP, taking into account developments at the international, regional and national levels since its adoption. The Meeting had been preceded by a preparatory phase, during which the countries had provided information and comments, which had been taken into account by the Secretariat when formulating the operational document submitted to the participants. It was therefore now necessary to engage in a far-reaching exchange of views and discuss the most important institutional and technical aspects of the implementation of the SAP and, where appropriate, to propose the necessary changes to make it possible for the Secretariat to draw up a revised operational document, which would subsequently be submitted to the meeting of MED POL National Coordinators in May, the meeting of MAP Focal Points in September and then, in its definitive form, for adoption by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in Monaco in November 2001.

18. Mr Robbert Droop, UNEP/GPA Coordination Office, briefly reviewed the principal current developments at the global level in relation to the reduction and elimination of pollution from land-based activities. Since UNEP had been entrusted with acting as the Secretariat for the GPA, efforts had been made to give a practical orientation to the Programme with a view to facilitating the formulation and implementation of regional and national programmes. In the first place, the Office had developed a fully decentralized clearing-house which provided access to information and data and supported the establishment of networks. It should be understood as a two-directional mechanism: the countries benefited from its services, but also contributed to making it more effective by informing it of their experiences and results. Furthermore, the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office had launched a strategic action programme for municipal sewage setting out priorities, barriers and needs in this field. Finally, the Office was endeavouring to identify and mobilize internal and external sources of funding (with emphasis on the opportunities offered by the private sector).

19. He recalled that, from 26 to 30 November 2001, an intergovernmental meeting would be held in Montreal to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the GPA, approve the guidelines for municipal wastewater and establish the work programmes for 2002-2006. The high level segment of the meeting would adopt a ministerial declaration.

20. Finally, he presented the Partnership Marketing Meeting (PMM) based on national action programmes involving the business community to develop investment portfolios bringing together the private sector, the financial sector, local governments and NGOs to launch projects for the reduction and elimination of pollution. This initiative in particular



provided MED POL countries with an excellent opportunity for cooperation in the development and implementation of NAPs.

21. Mr Civili, MED POL Coordinator, presented document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG. 185/3, which was the working document of the Meeting and had been prepared with a view to providing a strategy and plan that were sufficiently flexible to be used by countries as a function of their respective levels of development. He first provided an overview of the document, before returning in greater detail to each component, the contents of its three sections and two annexes, placing emphasis on their essential aspects: institutional structures, a field in which greater efforts had to be made to ensure the coordination that was indispensable for the effective implementation of national action plans (NAPs); and the technical aspects, which were newer for MED POL and in respect of which consensus needed to be reached on the procedures to be employed to monitor the implementation of the activities envisaged in the SAP for the reduction of pollution. He concluded that, while the time limit of 2025 for the elimination of pollution had to be met, flexibility needed to be retained in setting specific intermediate dates, which could be reviewed every two years at the meetings of the Contracting Parties on the basis of the prevailing conditions in the region.

#### **Agenda item 5. Discussion on the operational aspects of the implementation of the SAP**

##### *Conceptual framework*

22. Referring to Part I of the document concerning the conceptual framework for the implementation of the SAP, he emphasized that it covered the objectives, principles and approaches of the SAP, as well as the main activities that would be undertaken during the long phase of the achievement of the objectives set out in the SAP. These activities were of both a national and a regional nature: the former were mainly activities oriented towards the preparation and implementation of NAPs, which should reflect all the principles and objectives of the SAP; while the latter concerned in particular the strengthening of capacities, which involved the provision by MAP of permanent and continuous support to countries. This support could be provided within the framework of MED POL, as well as through the financing provided by GEF to assist in the preparation of the technical documents on which NAPs would have to be based in the context of a broad capacity-building programme.

23. He drew particular attention to a new element which had not been envisaged in the SAP, namely the establishment of a process to review and update the SAP and its implementation process every five years in the light of new facts emerging at the national and regional levels, as well as, where appropriate, any commitments made by Mediterranean countries under new international conventions.

24. The discussion first turned to the issue of whether, since certain countries had already adopted sectoral plans, these might provide the framework for the implementation of the SAP, or whether only a NAP was the appropriate mechanism for this purpose. It was agreed that flexibility would have to be shown in this respect and that the decision on whether to develop a NAP or equivalent sectoral plans should be the exclusive responsibility of national authorities.

25. Several speakers emphasized that some countries in the Mediterranean region were already obliged to apply European Community directives respecting measures to combat pollution, which in many cases coincided with the provisions to be applied within the framework of the SAP, while others needed the assistance of MAP to develop their national programmes, to which the operational document prepared by the Secretariat could make an important contribution. In this respect, the representative of the European Commission

indicated that in practice the measures envisaged in the document would not impose any additional burden on Member States. National diagnostic analyses, for example, were no different from the impact evaluations already required by these directives.

26. With regard to the process of reviewing and updating the SAP and its implementation process envisaged every five years, the participants emphasized that the implementation of the SAP would be extremely complex and that none of its components should be modified before results had been achieved. The envisaged time-limit of five years was therefore an absolute minimum.

27. One speaker also raised the question of whether or not the implementation of the SAP was of a compulsory nature and noted that the LBS Protocol had not yet come into force. In this respect, Mr Civili recalled that when the LBS Protocol came into force, the implementation of the SAP would become compulsory. Moreover, the countries had requested the Secretariat to begin preparing the ground for the application of the Protocol even before it came into force and had, through their signature, undertaken in this respect an obligation which, even though it was not yet legally binding, was nevertheless a moral obligation.

28. One speaker expressed the opinion that the issue of technical assistance should be addressed in greater detail in the document and that it was important to know the areas in which it could be provided, such as the identification of hot spots and the preparation of national diagnostic analyses. Another speaker emphasized that, by publishing its documents in Arabic, MAP could also help countries improve their participation in MAP activities. In this regard, Mr Civili indicated that the technical assistance that could be provided to countries would be described better in the next version of the operational document, but that it was difficult for budgetary reasons to translate all the technical documents into Arabic. Nevertheless, some documents had already been translated into Arabic, and particularly those prepared for national training courses.

29. In response to a speaker who had raised the issue of the linkages, which appeared to be still not fully understood, between the GEF Project for the Mediterranean and the SAP, the MED POL Coordinator indicated that there was indeed just a single programme, namely the SAP. Nevertheless, since MED POL only had a limited budget and would not have been able to envisage launching a process of the scale of the SAP only on the basis of its own resources, it had called upon GEF and concluded a project document covering a three-year period which, in general terms, covered the financing of activities to strengthen capacities and structures in eligible countries for the long-term implementation of the SAP. However, in this respect, and following the discussion of the first part of the document, the Secretariat had gained the impression that there were underlying fears implicit in most interventions concerning the financial sustainability of the process which had been embarked upon. Although financing had been acquired for three years, during the period up to the completion of the Programme there did indeed remain an enormous amount of work to be done, for which it was not yet known where the resources would be found for its completion. The Secretariat considered, in the first place, that it was the responsibility of the countries themselves to send clear and convincing messages to potential donors, while taking advantage of the resources currently available to develop a solid institutional and technical basis. Secondly, in the document under examination a mechanism had been proposed to review the process every five years in order to identify any potential gaps and shortcomings and address each new phase on a healthy basis. Furthermore, a permanent committee was envisaged, composed of potential donors and MED POL, with a view to facilitating contacts with countries for the financing of projects and activities.

30. Introducing Part II of the document, which outlined a possible institutional framework, after providing a detailed description of its contents, which included a review of the various actors and their roles, the Secretariat drew the attention of the participants to the fact that the proposed framework had been designed so that it could be adapted to the individual conditions in each country and the structures which already existed. Some components were new, such as the MAP/Donors Steering Committee, which would be responsible for ensuring the necessary links between countries and donors and, at the national level, the "SAP incubators", which should be considered as study and reflection groups with the functions of proposing ideas and concepts and promoting the implementation of the SAP in accordance with emerging knowledge and technologies. The missions of the SAP incubators could develop towards the coordination of operational activities involving communities and industrial partners.

31. While recognizing that the Secretariat had made worthy efforts to propose a solid and innovative basis for the implementation of the Programme, a number of participants noted that the flexibility referred to in the first part of the document was not evident in the proposed structures. Several speakers therefore emphasized the need to further clarify roles and responsibilities, rather than identifying fixed structures. In this respect, in view of the experience that they had acquired, the National Coordinators of the MED POL Programme may be entrusted with the tasks related to the implementation of the SAP, since the action to be carried out in both contexts, although different, tended to overlap.

32. The speakers unanimously emphasized the need to retain the maximum level of flexibility, since it was in practice the responsibility of each country to decide upon the most appropriate structures in accordance with their specific administrative systems and their experience of similar programmes. Highly flexible models already existed, such as those which brought together interministerial, steering and local pluridisciplinary committees. It was recalled in this respect that, while it was valuable to have an interministerial committee which could ensure coherence between environmental problems and the measures required to resolve them, it was inevitable that coordinating bodies would be more specialized and composed of a variety of members. It was necessary to remain specific, but to have a high-level body which could ensure policy support for the implementation of the SAP. The Secretariat emphasized that the interministerial committee was a very important concept and expressed its conviction that such a body was the sole means of achieving the objective of the SAP, in view of its integrated nature. Moreover, GEF had placed great emphasis on this point when developing its Mediterranean project.

33. Several speakers considered that the "SAP incubators" were the most important element in the proposed structure, as they would play a major multidisciplinary role as a catalyst at the local and national levels. In response to the suggestion that, instead of being considered as national bodies, the incubators should instead be open to foreign experts and, in view of their very high cost, be of benefit to the region as a whole, the Secretariat indicated that this conception went somewhat against the spirit of the proposal: incubators could be useful in particular at the national level by maximizing synergies and contributing to the strengthening of capacities. The representative of CP/RAC noted that structures of this type already existed in some countries (such as CP centres) and they should be utilized.

34. In this context, the opinion was expressed that countries would need assistance in developing incubators and that institutions such as CP/RAC, UNIDO/ICS and MAP in general could play a useful role in this regard, where appropriate through the training of consultants and experts and the development of opportunities for exchanges with regional experts. The MED POL Programme should support this process at each stage through to the formulation of the NAPs.

35. The representative of the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office noted that discussions concerning institutional mechanisms were always interesting because they addressed issues essential to the effectiveness of the projects and programmes concerned. In the present case, he invited the Meeting to examine the possibility of involving other actors representing civil society, since experience of past programmes showed that their omission would result in failure. The "SAP incubators" were an attractive concept, provided that they were integrated into project formulation, once again with the active participation of civil society. It could even be envisaged that they could be brought together in a network at the regional level with a view to intensifying exchanges of experience. No programme was assured of success without adequate financing, but financing could not come exclusively from the public sector and the "financial function" described in the document should include the private sector.

36. The representative of PAP/RAC considered that it was necessary to identify more clearly the role of the national focal points in the development of the economic instruments envisaged as part of the activities of the GEF Project in support of the long-term implementation of the SAP. She emphasized that PAP/RAC would participate in capacity-building activities and would be given responsibility for activities related to integrated coastal area management (ICAM) and integrated river basin management (IRBM).

37. Several speakers referred to the need to establish a mechanism to maximize synergies between public and private actors, and particularly between universities, business and local communities. The "incubators" had an important role to play to promote initiatives and, in some ways, constituted "technical markets" which could provide enterprises, and especially SMEs, with the important technical means needed to point their activities towards non-pollution. The speakers emphasized that it was necessary to ensure the broadest possible participation in the implementation of the SAP, including not only NGOs, but also industry, the private sector and civil society in general. This aspect was not clearly indicated in the operational document, which should include guidance on the means of ensuring such participation, which should go beyond mere information and constitute active participation in the real sense. The Secretariat recognized that the section of the document in Part III concerning public participation only envisaged the participation of NGOs and indicated that this aspect would be developed in the new version of the proposed document and that it would be covered by the "guidelines" for governments to be prepared within the framework of the GEF Project.

38. The Secretariat emphasized that the proposed structures were based on the functions of the various actors of the SAP and that interministerial action was indispensable to achieve an integrated response. The intention had not been to propose rigid structures, but only ideal structures which were practical, would help in monitoring the implementation of the SAP and which, in a spirit of very great flexibility, would provide a model that each country could adapt to its own circumstances. It would therefore undoubtedly be necessary in the future version of the document to simplify the proposed structures and to explain the envisaged roles and functions more clearly, with greater emphasis on the flexibility which should be attributed to the whole of the mechanism.

#### *Technical aspects*

39. The MED POL Coordinator introduced Part III of the document, which he believed contained the greatest number of innovations in relation to MED POL's "traditional" fields of action. Once again, he emphasized that, while the time limit of 2025 had to be met for the elimination of pollution, the other intermediary dates were to be considered as pragmatic objectives whose feasibility could be verified at regular intervals and which, if necessary, could be varied in accordance with developments in the region. The section entitled "industrial

development” was undoubtedly the one which would require the closest attention, since it described a possible mechanism to be used to achieve and monitor reductions in pollution.

40. The representative of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) of UNEP pointed out that the introduction to Part III was confined to measures for the reduction and elimination of pollution and that it omitted to refer to upstream prevention and cleaner production measures and to set priorities in this area.

41. One speaker indicated that, throughout the part on technical aspects, the various sections were addressed differently, with some of them being given a general treatment, while others were covered in greater detail. This imbalance should be redressed. With regard to municipal sewage, several speakers raised the issue of the need for a precise definition and the updating of environmental quality criteria and emission standards, taking into account the requirements or recommendations of other organizations, such as the European Union and WHO. The research activities described in the section first required the identification of real needs in the Mediterranean, since a whole range of innovative technologies were already available and could easily be transferred and adapted. With regard to the improvement of wastewater treatment plants, it would undoubtedly be necessary to limit tertiary treatment to very problematic areas, since sophisticated installations often gave rise to operational difficulties. One speaker emphasized that the problem of rainwater should be given greater emphasis in the document in view of its importance as a source of pollution. Furthermore, certain of the criteria set out in the document (such as urban agglomerations of 100,000 inhabitants) were already outdated and should be lowered in view of the progress achieved in certain countries. Finally, from a methodological point of view, it was important to mention the activities of networks of cities, since responsibilities were increasingly being devolved to the level of local communities in many Mediterranean countries.

42. The representative of the European Commission and one country representative suggested that the Water Framework Directive could be taken into consideration throughout the region, particularly in view of the accession process and the development of the future free trade area.

43. The representative of UNEP/GPA recalled the existence of the Strategic Action Programme on municipal sewage, which had already been described to the Meeting, and which included guidelines which could be of use to Mediterranean countries. The operational document referred to the mobilization of substantial resources for inclusion in national budgets and the active association of financial institutions, but once again left aside the essential contribution of the private sector and the participation of civil society. Demand should be the principal factor on which projects were based.

44. With regard to environmental quality criteria and emission standards, it should be noted that a new element of the “traditional” MED POL was devoted to compliance. During the course of the year, criteria would be developed for bathing waters. This constituted a continuous process which could clearly be linked to the SAP. Finally, the fact that several speakers had called for the adjustment of certain objectives confirmed the value of the periodic review advocated in the document.

45. The representative of the European Commission presented the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, of 22 December 2000, respecting measures to combat water pollution, certain elements of which could be of use in the context of the implementation of the SAP. This Directive, which set out Community policy in this area, addressed the threats to water quality and introduced a number of new elements identified over the past 15 years, and principally the determination of common ecological objectives using flexible methods, the introduction of a single system for the management of ground water and surface waters at the

river basin level, the progressive elimination of certain substances, the reduction of discharges and emissions and the coordination of all other aspects within the framework of a combined and integrated approach based on both the reduction of emissions and the improvement of water quality. Another element which could be of use in the context of the SAP was Directive 1996/61/EC on integrated pollution prevention and control on the basis of emissions permits. This Directive was mainly applicable to large installations and its objectives included limiting transboundary pollution, establishing emission limits and promoting the application of Best Available Technologies (BAT).

46. During the discussion of the national baseline budget proposed by the Secretariat, one speaker agreed that difficulties could be envisaged in the implementation of the SAP with regard to pollution reduction factors. In European countries, at least, there already existed regulations in this field and enterprises which had already invested to comply with them would undoubtedly refuse to make further investments to reduce emissions by 50 per cent at the regional level. It would not be possible to go beyond Community standards, particularly if they were not reflected in the baseline budget. The representative of the European Commission indicated in this respect that it would be the responsibility of national authorities to determine the initial baseline budget in 2003, starting with hot spots and installations which had not yet applied BATs.

47. Mr Fouad Abousamra, MED POL Programme Officer, added that once agreement had been reached on the concept of a national or regional baseline, the Secretariat could help the countries to apply it. The countries should in particular carry out sound diagnostic analyses with the assistance of GEF, after which a national baseline could be established, with the baseline year to be selected by the countries themselves. The Secretariat had proposed 1997, the year in which the report on pollution hot spots had been published, but countries could also decide to choose another reference year.

48. The representative of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics of UNEP, emphasized the need to harmonize the terminology used in the operational document in relation to certain prevention concepts. Reference was made to both cleaner production and cleaner technologies, although the first of these concepts had a strategic connotation which was broader in scope than the second, in the sense that it could include, for example, material substitution or product re-design and measures of the same type. The Secretariat supported this observation and hoped to be able to rely on the assistance of UNEP/DTIE in this field.

49. The Secretariat indicated that the discussion on the baseline budget approach proposed in the "industrial development" section was undoubtedly the crucial point of the Meeting. If a blockage was reached on this issue, the whole process of the examination and review of the operational document would be placed in doubt. It was therefore necessary to obtain the approval of the participants for the very principle of the approach. The Secretariat understood that this approval might be subject to criteria and conditions, and was fully prepared to review details of the approach in the light of the comments that were made. It therefore proposed that the Meeting should establish a working group which would endeavour to reach a consensus acceptable to the full Meeting when the report and recommendations were adopted.

50. The Meeting accepted the Secretariat's proposal and it was decided that the following representatives would be members of the working group: CP/RAC, UNEP/DTIE, WHO/MED POL, European Commission, Croatia, Greece, Italy and Spain.

51. At the proposal of the President, the Meeting examined the remainder of the document and made several suggestions for its improvement. For example, a link should be established

with biodiversity, particularly since a SAP-BIO was under preparation. Continuous monitoring, which had been one of the successes of MED POL from the beginning, should be the subject of a more integrated approach, covering watersheds and therefore including internal surface waters, coastal waters and, insofar as possible, groundwater. With regard to the preparation and submission of reports, in reply to a question, the MED POL Coordinator indicated that, in addition to the reporting system which was currently being established in MAP, specific formats would be developed for the SAP after the intergovernmental meeting on the GPA, which would provide guidance on this subject.

#### **Agenda item 6. Conclusions and recommendations for follow up**

52. The participants unanimously expressed satisfaction at the operational document prepared by the Secretariat, which was well structured and provided an excellent basis for the implementation of the SAP.

53. The participants recommended that the Secretariat should prepare a new version of the operational document, which would take into account all the comments and remarks which had been made during the Meeting, and present it to the Meeting of the MED POL National Coordinators scheduled for 28-31 May 2001.

54. Regarding Part I of the operational document, "the conceptual framework", the Meeting concluded that it satisfactorily described the objectives, principles, activities and workplan of the SAP. The new version of the document would, however, need to be more specific on the opportunities for the countries to receive technical assistance for the implementation of the various activities.

55. With reference to Part II of the operational document, "the institutional framework", the participants recommended that emphasis should be placed in the new version of the document on the role and responsibilities of the proposed structures and that they should be considered as flexible models to be adapted to the prevailing situations in the countries. The participatory role of civil society in the implementation of the SAP should also be well identified and described.

56. Regarding Part III of the operational document, "technical aspects", the Meeting agreed to adopt the "national baseline budget" approach for industrial pollution reduction targets as described in the operational document. Therefore, in order to implement this approach, the Secretariat should provide the Contracting Parties with the necessary supporting documents indicating:

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

The Meeting agreed to consider 2003 as the base year for the estimation of the baseline budget on the basis that, by that year, countries would have finalized their national diagnostic analyses and formulated their national action plans in accordance with the GEF Project workplan.

57. After reviewing and amending, as appropriate, the draft text prepared by the Secretariat and the Rapporteur, the Meeting unanimously adopted its Report in English and French.

**Agenda item 7. Other Business**

58. The representative of UNEP/DTIE briefly reviewed resources and assistance available to promote more sustainable production and consumption patterns. She highlighted the need to use all available tools, including voluntary initiatives which could help raise awareness and galvanize support among stakeholders. The International Declaration on Cleaner Production was presented as one such initiative.

**Agenda item 8. Closure of the meeting**

59. Mr Umberto Scapagnini, Mayor of Catania, congratulated the participants on the work they had achieved during the Meeting, which would provide a starting point for greater cooperation throughout the Mediterranean. He hoped that the process that had been launched would lead up to a Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2003, which the Municipality of Catania would be pleased to host.

60. Following the usual exchange of courtesies, the Chairperson closed the Meeting at 13:30 hours on 30 March 2001.



## ANNEX I

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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 Agenda and Organization of Work

**Agenda item 4.** Background and Purpose of the Meeting

**Agenda item 5.** Discussion on the operational aspects of the implementation of the SAP

5.1 Institutional aspects

5.2 Technical aspects

**Agenda item 6.** Conclusions and recommendations for follow up

**Agenda item 7.** Other Business

**Agenda item 8.** Closure of the Meeting