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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

*Consultation Meeting on the evaluation
of the MED POL Programme*

Athens, 7-8 January 1993

**MINUTES OF THE CONSULTATION MEETING ON THE EVALUATION
OF THE MED POL PROGRAMME**

A Consultation meeting on the evaluation of the MED POL Programme was held at the MAP Co-ordinating Unit's office in Athens from 7 to 8 January 1993.

The Meeting was attended by the MAP's officers involved in the co-ordination and implementation of MED POL and by 5 experts. List of participants appears as Annex I of this minutes.

The Meeting was opened by Mr S. Busuttil, MAP Co-ordinator, who welcomed the participants and briefly reminded them of the background of the evaluation process of the MED POL programme being undertaken.

He recalled that during the last meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Cairo, 9-10 November 1992) a decision was made that the scientific component of MAP (MED POL) should be evaluated by scientists/experts external to the MAP Office and that similar evaluations should be later carried out for all MAP components. He also stated that this evaluation had to keep some forthcoming events into account, i.e. the Meeting on the Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean (Malta, 11-13 February 1993) at which the MED POL programme was going to be discussed, the Bureau Meeting (Athens, 4-5 March 1993) at which progress on the evaluation should be reported, the Joint Meeting of the Scientific and Socio-Economic Committees (Athens, 3-7 May 1993), which may possibly give an input to the evaluation, and finally the Contracting Parties Meeting (Antalya, 12-15 October 1993), at which the evaluation should be presented.

Mr Jeftic, MAP Senior Marine Scientist, briefly reminded the participants to the objectives of the present meeting, i.e. to establish the objectives of the evaluation, to agree on the terms of reference, to prepare a draft outline of the evaluation and to agree on the workplan for the preparation of the evaluation. He also made a presentation which summarized the history of MED POL, its basic objectives and achievements.

The presentation was followed by a lengthy discussion during which the participants presented their preliminary views on the MED POL programme - based on their knowledge as well as on the comprehensive documentation which had been made available before and during the meeting - and, at the same time, they discussed and agreed on the procedures for the preparation of the evaluation.

The participants generally felt that the amount of work produced and the data obtained by MED POL were very impressive and that the programme had greatly improved the scientific capability of the developing countries of the Mediterranean in pollution monitoring and evaluation. Consequently, this important aspect of MED POL had to be considered as a success. Much less successful seemed to have been MED POL when the link between the scientific results of the programme and the governments' decision makers was analyzed. In fact, if the implementation of the Protocol on Land-based Sources of Pollution is examined, and in particular the Quality Criteria adopted by the Governments - which are proposed on the basis of the MED POL results -

very little seemed to have been done by the Mediterranean Governments. In other words, it seemed that the MED POL could not change or at least substantially influence the Governmental policy as to the marine environment protection. The evaluation would therefore have to examine this problem, assess the reason for this failure and make recommendations for the future. In particular, the participants agreed that the following questions should be answered in the evaluation:

- 1) the MED POL rationale: what should be changed ?
- 2) Quality of results: how good was it ?
- 3) Use of results: what was the impact of the results ? What is the link between MED POL and coastal area management ?
- 4) Cost effectiveness: how effective were the funds spent ?

The participants also agreed that it would be very beneficial to examine and compare similar programmes carried out in other geographical areas such as the Oslo/Paris Commission, the Baltic Commission, etc.

At the end of the discussion, the meeting agreed on a draft outline of the evaluation (Annex II) and on a workplan and timetable for the finalization of the document. Messrs. M. Ruivo and A. Jernelev should send their parts to Mr M. Bernhard by the end of February 1993, who would compile the first draft document before the end of March 1993. A meeting would be held from 26 to 28 April 1993 in Athens and it would be devoted to the review of the draft and to the preparation of the recommendations for future activities. The document would be finalized in June 1993 in the course of another meeting.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Mr Michael Bernhard Tel: 39 187 536111, 536249 (direct)
Centro Ricerche Energia Ambiente Fax: 39 187 536213, 536273
ENEA Tlx: 43-282861
Bateria S. Teresa Alta Cb1: ENEA SANTATERESA LA SPEZIA
Pozzuolo di Lerici
P.O. Box 316
19100 La Spezia
Italy

Mr Alexander Boussoulengas Tel: 33 31 274000
9 Socratous Street
54 635 Thessaloniki
Greece

Mr Salvino Busutti Tel: 30 1 7253190/5
Co-ordinator Fax: 30 1 7253197
Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean
Action Plan
48 Vassileos Konstantinou
11635 Athens
Greece

Mr Francesco Saverio Civili Tel: 30 1 7253190/5
First Officer (Marine Scientist) Fax: 30 1 7253197
Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean
Action Plan
48 Vassileos Konstantinou
11635 Athens
Greece

Mr Gabriel P. Gabrielides Tel: 30 1 7253190/5
Senior Fishery Officer (Marine Pollution) Fax: 30 1 7253197
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
FAO Project Office
Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean
Action Plan
48 Vassileos Konstantinou
11635 Athens
Greece

Mr Ljubomir Jeftic
Senior Marine Scientist
Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean
Action Plan
48 Vassileos Konstantinou
11635 Athens
Greece

Tel: 30 1 7253190/5
Fax: 30 1 7253197

Mr Arne B. Jernelov
Johannes Plan 1
11138 Stockholm
Sweden

Tel: 468 7291500
Fax: 468 318516

Mr Stjepan Keckes
9 Chemin de Taverney
1218 Geneva
Switzerland

Tel: 41 22 7988945
Fax: 41 22 7332673

Mr Mario Ruivo
National Commission for UNESCO
Av. Infante Santo 42-5th Floor
1300 Lisbon
Portugal

Tel: 351 1 3969061
Fax: 351 1 3969064

Mr Louis J. Saliba
Senior Scientist
World Health Organization
WHO/EURO Project Office
Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean
Action Plan
48 Vassileos Konstantinou
11635 Athens
Greece

Tel: 30 1 7253190/5
Fax: 30 1 7253197

ANNEX II

DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE MED POL EVALUATION

1. Introduction
2. MED POL - Phase I
 - 2.1 Monitoring and research programme (MED POL - Phase I)
 - 2.1.1 Quality control and instrument maintenance
 - 2.1.2 Institutions involved and their distribution
 - 2.1.3 Supporting meetings
 - 2.1.4 Training and fellowships
 - 2.1.5 Evaluation of results
 - 2.2 Institutional arrangements and procedures
3. MED POL - Phase II
 - 3.1 Monitoring and research programme (MED POL - Phase II)
 - 3.1.1 Quality control and instrument maintenance
 - 3.1.2 Institutions involved and their distribution
 - 3.1.3 Supporting meetings
 - 3.1.4 Training and fellowships
 - 3.1.5 Evaluation of results
 - 3.2 Institutional arrangements and procedures
4. General Evaluation of Phase I and Phase II
 - 4.1 Major results obtained in MED POL - Phase I and Phase II
 - 4.1.1 Monitoring
 - 4.1.2 Research
 - 4.2 Major bottlenecks
 - 4.2.1 Monitoring
 - 4.2.2 Research
 - 4.3 Management and institutional arrangements
 - 4.3.1 Med Unit
 - 4.3.2 National Co-ordinators
 - 4.3.3 Activity Centres
 - 4.3.4 EC influence
5. Implementation of MED POL
6. Recommendations for the future
 - 6.1 Rationale of future activities
 - 6.2 Technical recommendations