

# **United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production**

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4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of RAC/CP National Focal Points

Barcelona, 12-13 June 2003

UNEP (DEC)/MED/WG.234/7

27 June 2003

Original: English

## **REPORT**

## **Introduction**

1. The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RAC/CP National Focal Points was held at the Gran Hotel Catalonia in Barcelona from 12 to 13 June 2003.
2. All National Focal Points (NFPs) were invited to attend the meeting. Representatives from the following Contracting Parties attended the meeting: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. Those were either the National Focal Points of RAC/CP or their representatives.
3. The representatives from the following Contracting Parties were absent: Algeria, Greece and Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.
4. The RAC/CP NFP for the MAP Coordinating Unit, as well as representatives of the European Commission and UNIDO also attended the meeting.
5. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.
6. The list of documents of the meeting is included in the document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/Inf.4.

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

7. The Director of RAC/CP, Mr Víctor Macià, declared the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of RAC/CP National Focal Points opened and welcomed the participants. Mr Macià made an opening speech highlighting the special relevance of the meeting since two major issues would be discussed: the new orientation of the RAC/CP concerning its scope of activities and the approval by the NFPs of the *Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations in the MAP countries*.

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

8. The Meeting unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairperson: Ms Maria Dalla Costa (NFP for Italy)

Reporter: Mr Anton Pizzuto (NFP for Malta)

**Agenda item 3. Adoption of the agenda and organisation of work**

9. The Meeting adopted the proposed agenda contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/1, which is attached as Annex II to this report.

**Agenda item 4. Review of activities carried out by RAC/CP in the biennium 2002-2003**

10. Mr Macià introduced and explained the document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/3 on the activities already carried out by RAC/CP during the current biennium or to be finalised within 2003.

11. With regard to both the CP News bulletin and the MedClean files, RAC/CP Director informed the Meeting that those publications would change from a paper format to an electronic one. Concerning the MedClean files, Mr Macià regretted the fact that when issuing new numbers of these case studies, only few countries (recalling recently the cases of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Israel) normally asked for more than one copy. RAC/CP Director asked the participants to be more active in the dissemination of the files and to increase their requests of copies in order to spread them among the concerned sectors.

12. When referring to the sectoral studies of the RAC/CP, Mr Macià informed the Meeting that the Secretariat of the Basel Convention had recently asked the permission of the RAC/CP for considering the distribution of the Study *Recycling possibilities and potential uses of used oils* as a reference document at the global level.

13. Concerning RAC/CP databases, Mr Macià explained that aside from the already existing database on Mediterranean cleaner production (CP) experts, other databases on environmentally friendly technologies for the textile as well as the pulp and paper industries was being prepared to be posted on RAC/CP web site in 2003.

14. Since RAC/CP is working in enlarging its mailing list for the better distribution of its material, Mr Macià requested the collaboration of the NFP in identifying potential users of RAC/CP's publications.

15. Within the scope of RAC/CP collaboration in the GEF project for the further elaboration and implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), Mr Macià informed the Meeting that three guides and one plan had been carried out by the Centre and posted on the intraweb of RAC/CP web site for the review and comments by the National Focal Points. Furthermore, Mr Macià underlined that the *Regional*

*guide for the application of best available techniques (BATs), best environmental practices (BEPs) and cleaner technologies (CTs) in industries of the Mediterranean countries* would be the reference document when applying BATs, BEPs and CTs in the Mediterranean, as agreed during the experts meeting held in Split last 18-20 March 2003. For more details, see document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/3.

16. After the presentation of Mr Macià, the Chairperson gave the floor to the attendants for questions or further comments.

17. The NFP for Bosnia and Herzegovina, recognised the work carried out by the RAC/CP and encouraged it to continue its task in spreading CP in the Mediterranean, especially at the local level.

18. Ms Maria Dalla Costa, as NFP for Italy, also highlighted the work done by the Centre. Ms Dalla Costa, as well as the NFPs for France and Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the initiative on changing from paper to electronic version the CP News bulletin and the MedClean files.

19. As regards the third number of RAC/CP Annual Technical Publication – Mediterranean Enterprises and Sustainability, which will be published during 2003, the Chairperson asked RAC/CP to consider extending the deadline for receiving articles from the NFPs. Ms Esther Monfà, RAC/CP Coordinator, agreed on extending the deadline two weeks as maximum.

20. Subsequently, a series of comments on the *Regional plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations in the MAP countries* (see document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/5) were made. The NFP for Morocco, asked RAC/CP to extend the deadline for the comments and amendments of the NFPs since it was a strategy that should have to be effective in order for the countries to achieve specific targets for the reduction of this type of waste in a short period. Therefore, according to her opinion, the revision of the contents of the Plan required more time.

21. Mr Macià recalled that the Plan had been posted on the intraweb of RAC/CP web site already last 4 April 2003 for review and amendments by the NFPs within a period of one month. Thus, Mr Macià answered to the comment of Morocco that this was not possible and that one of the agenda items of the meeting was the approval of the Plan by the NFPs for further submission to the Contracting Parties. RAC/CP Director also asked the Meeting to consider the document as a tool for guiding the countries when adopting strategies for reducing the generation of industrial hazardous waste (HW).

22. The NFP for France regretted the fact that surely the data and figures that had been given on the country for inclusion in the Plan were not as reliable as desirable.

23. In reply to the comment made by the NFP for France, Mr Macià explained that the data shown by the Regional Plan had to be considered just as a first approach on the current trends related to the generation of the HW and their management in the Mediterranean. Accordingly, the information provided by the countries had given an added value to the Plan from a Mediterranean perspective.

24. The NFP for Syria pointed out that the information provided by the Plan on this country had to be updated. The NFP for Syria offered herself to provide the RAC/CP with the updated data to be included in the Plan.

25. Both Italy and Malta agreed with RAC/CP Director that the Regional Plan could be considered a guide to be used by the countries for reducing HW generation, if approved by the Contracting Parties.

26. In response to the comments of several NFPs related to the deadline of 2007 and the reduction target of 20%, the Chairperson reminded the participants that if such objectives had already been approved by the Contracting Parties in 1997, as assured by Mr Francesco Saverio Civili, then there was no reason to submit the issue for decision among the NFP who, hierarchically, cannot rediscuss items already decided by the Contracting Parties.

27. From his part, the NFP for Malta pointed out that, with regard to the reliability of the data on this country shown in the Plan, only information about trends had been able to be provided by the NFP since the government was still working on gathering real data on the concerned issues. Regarding the new Study on the organisations of entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean, the NFP of Malta informed RAC/CP Director that his Centre could provide information on both the Chamber of Commerce of the country and other associations and institutions related to the economic sector.

#### **Agenda item 5. Collaboration between RAC/CP and the NFPs**

28. RAC/CP Director introduced and opened to discussion a range of issues concerning the cooperation between the Centre and the NFPs as well as other issues related to new RAC/CP activities.

29. As regards the collaboration between the RAC/CP and its NFPs, RAC/CP Director regretted that the Centre very rarely receives any technical consultation from

the National Focal Points and that there are very few suggestions from the NFP on proposing new projects or activities. It was also pointed out that when the Centre has organised meetings or training workshops, in several cases the experts designated by the NFPs for attending those had maybe not been the most suitable.

30. Concerning the forum included in the intraweb of RAC/CP and of restricted access to the NFPs, Mr Macià reminded the Meeting that it was created for reinforcing the exchange of experiences and information between the NFPs and the Centre. Nevertheless just one message from the NFPs had been registered in the forum so far, namely from Malta. Mr Macià recalled the Meeting that creating the forum had been a request from the NFPs and informed the Meeting of the cost of carrying out the stated project. Therefore, Mr Macià encouraged the NFP to be more active in using the forum. RAC/CP Director mentioned the idea of opening the forum to those centres or institutions dealing with CP (*i.e.* UNIDO, other cleaner production centres, etc.). Mr Macià informed as well that the distribution of RAC/CP documents to the NFPs for their review and amendments is currently being carried out through the intraweb.

31. The same problem as that of the forum was mentioned with regard to the database of Mediterranean experts on CP since so far the NFPs have hardly used it and none has contributed to its enlargement. Mr Macià encouraged the participants to contribute to the development of the database and informed that the Centre was thinking on placing the experts database in the public area of the web site only once it was reviewed and updated by the NFPs through sending more curricula of experts.

32. RAC/CP Director introduced the Study on the organisation and the structure of the organisations of entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean Region (for more details, see document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/Inf.1) as one of the new RAC/CP projects to be carried out during the year 2003.

33. Another relevant issue mentioned by Mr Macià was that in line of the new role of the Centre, RAC/CP and MED POL agreed to hold their meetings of National Focal Points jointly.

34. After the introduction made by Mr Macià, the Chairperson gave the floor to the attendants for comments and open discussion related to the topics above.

35. The NFP for Italy recognised the importance of both the forum and the experts database as tools through which the NFPs could share experiences and expertise and regretted that they had been hardly used. Likewise she welcomed the new initiative on the study of entrepreneurs and the agreement between MEDPOL and RAC/CP on the realisation of joint meetings.

36. The NFP for Malta stressed that for a better use of RAC/CP intraweb maybe it would be desirable to open it to other institutions and organisations instead of restricting its access to the NFPs. The NFP also asked RAC/CP to enhance the information between the Centre and himself concerning the activities that RAC/CP carries out.

37. In response to the last comment of Malta, RAC/CP Director proposed the intraweb as a means by which assuring that all the NFPs were informed on the activities that were carried out by the Centre.

38. The NFP for France referred to the study on the organisations of entrepreneurs and expressed his concern on how he could be able to provide information on this matter. RAC/CP Director explained that the Centre would hire an expert who would design a questionnaire to be sent to the NFPs. Subsequently, each NFP would decide whether to fill out the questionnaire himself or otherwise to forward it to the suitable institutions or associations.

39. The representative of Tunisia stressed the need of evaluating the capacity of the experts on CP included in the database, according to the concept of CP stated as used by the RAC/CP. Likewise, he reminded that the NFPs should become more involved in spreading RAC/CP activities among the concerned actors since their main role as NFPs was to act as intermediaries and catalysts in the dissemination of the information on CP at the country level.

40. The representative of Cyprus pointed out that the intraweb should be used more widely and stressed the importance of the experts database as a tool through which the countries could find professionals who could give advise on real and specific concerns in the field of pollution prevention. Furthermore, the representative of Cyprus stated that he would send the RAC/CP study *Prevention of pollution in the dairy industry* to the section of the dairy industry of the Chamber of Commerce in Cyprus.

41. The NFP for Morocco informed the Meeting that the Moroccan Centre of Cleaner Production is working in creating a network that groups experts on CP from different fields (*i.e.* technical centres, universities, etc). So far, the list includes 12 experts. Like the representative of Tunisia, the Moroccan NFP also stressed the need of assuring the capacity of the experts. Furthermore, she asked to strengthen the collaboration between the RAC/CP, the Moroccan Cleaner Production Centre and the Moroccan Ministry of the Environment with the aim of reinforcing the capacities of experts on pollution prevention in the priority industrial sectors (for Morocco she named the textile, food, chemical and agro-chemical industries). Finally, the Moroccan NFP

raised the issue of financing, and pointed out that an effort should be made in reinforcing the financial means to help disseminating good housekeeping practices and cleaner technologies.

42. The representative of the European Commission introduced the task being performed by that institution in disseminating Best Available Techniques, mainly through Reference documents on Best Available Techniques (BREFs). Furthermore, the representative of the EC informed that the Commission had set up a system for disseminating information through a web site, similar to the one used by RAC/CP, and that it had very been successful. Moreover, she informed the Meeting that there was an intranet called "Work Space" for the exchange of information among sectors. Finally, the representative of the EC stressed that any document being produced, either draft or final version, was posted on the public area of the web and thus made available for everybody for comments.

43. The representative of Tunisia asked the RAC/CP to adapt the content of the BREFs to the Mediterranean reality in order to make them more useful for the countries of the region. To that comment, Mr Macià underlined that the studies carried out by RAC/CP take into account the BREFs available and that one of the main objectives of the Centre when preparing a study is adapting it to the specific characteristics of the Mediterranean basin.

44. The NFP for Spain stressed the importance of spreading information among the small and medium-sized enterprises and considered that another main goal should be to disseminate it to the local administrations. In line with the common opinion of the Meeting, she also supported the public dissemination of the documents of RAC/CP through the internet.

45. Following the intervention of Spain, the NFP of Bosnia and Herzegovina made a technical remark, proposing to make a change in the home page of RAC/CP web site in order to allow a faster access to it. With regard to the experts database, the NFP for BiH considered that further than focusing on experts, the database should also gather those institutions dealing with CP, including research centres, CP centres and universities, among others, in order to create a regional network of agents working on CP. Mr Macià stressed that the database of experts included or should indeed include the actors mentioned by the NFP of BiH.

46. In reply to the comments concerning the reinforcement of expert capacities made by the NFP of Morocco, RAC/CP Director totally agreed with the importance of the issue but considered that the training should be done in the countries and by the countries since the Centre had limited financial and human resources that made not

possible for it to assume this task. In addition, RAC/CP Director informed that the Centre had already organised and totally financed two training courses that had been attended by less people than expected.

47. With regard to the need of disseminating RAC/CP material through the internet, Mr Macià reminded the Meeting that all the documents of the Centre were available in its web site. As regards the technical remark concerning the home page of RAC/CP Mr Macià agreed on studying the possibility of changing it in order to facilitate a faster access to it.

48. When referring to the economical implications of CP that were considered in the studies, France NFP asked the RAC/CP to take into account not only microeconomic aspects but also macroeconomic aspects.

49. Several issues concerning the cooperation between RAC/CP and the NFPs when carrying out studies were raised during that session. Notably, participation by the NFPs in the studies by means of filling out questionnaires. The possibility of providing financial support only in very specific cases and to specific countries would be studied by RAC/CP in response to several comments made by the NFPs with the aim of facilitating practical cooperation between the Centre and the NFPs on carrying out the task above. Nevertheless, Mr Macià clarified that such amount would be small due to the limited resources of RAC/CP. Apart from financial issues, the cooperation between the Centre and the NFPs was explored by other means, such as through the participation of the NFPs in designing the questionnaires jointly with RAC/CP, as proposed by the NFP of Italy. In answer to the proposal of Italy, Ms Esther Monfà mentioned that this would imply an added work that would require a much faster reply from the NFPs when filling out the questionnaires, taking into account the short time available for receiving the responses from the countries and bearing in mind that the activities of RAC/CP are programmed and must be carried out on a yearly basis, due to the specific nature of the Centre. Nevertheless, Ms Monfà agreed with the proposal of the Italian NFP when possible.

50. The NFP for Albania stressed the need of establishing a CP Centre to work with the industries in her country since so far there is none operating there. She admitted that when working both as NFP and as a member of the Ministry of Environment she hardly had any contact with the industrial associations or the chambers of the commerce of Albania. To that comment, RAC/CP Director stated that there were institutions such as UNIDO and UNEP/DTIE already working on establishing new CP centres in the region.

**Agenda item 6. Future role and orientations of the Centre within MAP, SAP and MCSD**

51. RAC/CP NFP for the MAP Coordinating Unit as well as MED POL Coordinator, Mr Francesco Saverio Civili, broadly presented the Strategic Action Programme to the Meeting and the progress achieved so far. During his explanation, Mr Civili highlighted the important task performed by RAC/CP within the first phase of the SAP which had focussed on the preparation of the groundwork on which the countries would prepare their National Action Plans to combat pollution (NAP). The MAP representative explained that this phase had focussed on carrying out training and capacity building activities, technical guidelines and regional plans for pollution prevention, among others, which should help the countries when preparing the NAPs.

52. Mr Civili also reminded that the RAC/CP was becoming more and more involved in other Mediterranean initiatives than those of the SAP, such as those related to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), especially as one of the boosters of its working group on industry and sustainable development.

53. Mr Civili regretted that the activities performed by the RAC/CP so far had not been properly integrated in the process for implementation of the SAP. Therefore, he stressed that, apart from continuing with its technical activities, the Centre had to play a new role within the SAP and the overall MAP framework. He based his statement on the fact that pollution prevention on source and CP, the approaches on which the activities of RAC/CP focussed, had been pinpointed by the main international fora and agreements such as the Summits of Rio and Johannesburg as basic tools to be used when addressing pollution. Mr Civili stated that therefore, these approaches had to be fully integrated in the next phase of SAP that would focus on how the countries and the industrial sector meet the pollution reduction targets set by the SAP.

54. Mr Civili reminded the meeting of the added value that RAC/CP would provide when working in this next phase due to its broad working experience with the industrial sector, and especially with SMEs, which represent the main part of the Mediterranean industry. Mr Civili stated that thus, RAC/CP had to play a role of being the intermediary between the SAP, and MAP in general, and the industrial sector.

55. Mr Civili pointed out that one of the consequences of this new role of the RAC/CP within the SAP and MAP should be that the Centre and the MED POL (the MAP unit for the following-up of the implementation of the SAP) held their Meetings of NFPs jointly.

56. The representative of Tunisia considered that the SAP was mainly a political instrument that lacked the mechanisms on how to reach the targets established. He also reminded the Meeting of the pressure of the market as a tool to make industries change and wondered how the SAP could exert this pressure at the country level.

57. The representative of Monaco, also NFP of Monaco for MED POL, welcomed the new stage of closer collaboration between RAC/CP and MED POL as a way to facilitate the countries to know how to deal with the targets set by the SAP. The NFP of Italy adhered also to this opinion from the experience of being as well NFP for the Blue Plan and having attended to joint meetings of NFPs.

58. In reply to the remarks made by the representative of Tunisia, the MAP representative said that SAP was not conceived just as a political tool but it established specific targets for pollution reduction whose achievement would be assessed. He informed that MED POL was currently working on a reporting system on the implementation of the SAP and mentioned other initiatives focused on the assessment of the feasibility of the SAP. Notably, several pre-investment studies in selected Hot Spots, through which MED POL advised on the measures to be implemented to reduce pollution and on the costs implied by those measures. At his point Mr Civili regretted the lack of "industry culture" of MED POL and emphasised again the role that RAC/CP has to play for better carrying out those initiatives and projects in order to effectively implement the SAP.

**Agenda item 7. Main obstacles and barriers encountered by the NFPs when working on spreading CP and pollution prevention**

59. Throughout the afternoon sessions, each of the National Focal Points gave a presentation on a range of issues related to the promotion of CP in each of the Mediterranean countries, generally focussing on the activities carried out as NFPs as well as the barriers encountered in relation to introducing pollution prevention at the country level. More details about the presentations of the NFPs may be found in the document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/6.

**Agenda item 8. Review and approval of the "*Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations in the MAP countries*"**

60. Ms Mar Santacana, RAC/CP Technician, began the session by presenting the methodological process of building up the Plan step by step (see document

UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/Inf.2). Ms Santacana informed the Meeting on how the Plan was prepared by RAC/CP and a consultancy in close cooperation, posted on the intraweb of RAC/CP web site for comments and amendments by the NFPs within one month from 4 April 2003 with information to the GEF National Coordinators, reviewed in an experts meeting (Barcelona, 8-10 April 2003), presented for information at the Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators held in Sangemini on 27-30 May 2003, and amended according to all comments received as stated above. Ms Santacana therefore recalled the NFPs that during this session, they would have the chance of making only specific amendments to be included in the Plan or approve, due to the thorough process of review that it had been through already.

61. The Chairperson gave subsequently the floor to Mr Jordi Bruno, General Manager of ENVIROS-Spain, the consultancy that had carried out the aforementioned Plan in close collaboration with the RAC/CP.

62. Mr Bruno gave a general presentation of the Plan that would facilitate the session of review and approval. This presentation is included in the document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/Inf.3.

63. After the presentation of Mr Bruno, the Chairperson opened the floor for discussion and approval of the Plan. Most of the comments made by the NFPs during this session referred to the deadline and target of HW reduction as stated in the Regional Plan (*i.e.* 2007 and 20%), as several opinions questioned the possibility of meeting this target within the stated deadline. Some other issues raised focussed on financing the application of the Plan.

64. In relation to that, the NFP for Israel raised the issue of taking into consideration the history of each country concerning hazardous waste treatment and the necessity of addressing the reduction that had already been achieved since 1997, when the SAP was adopted. As an example, the NFP for Israel mentioned that in that country, hazardous waste recycling and reuse had increased from 38% in 1997 to 68% in 2002 regarding the total amount of hazardous waste generated in the country.

65. Furthermore, the representative of Lebanon discussed the financial issues mentioned in the sections A6.3 and A6.4 of the Plan, and he mentioned that the successful implementation of such a plan requires the creation of a financial support system that is highly needed by the southern Mediterranean countries.

66. In reply to the comments made on the target and deadline, both RAC/CP Director and the MED POL Coordinator insisted that the discussion of the NFPs with regard to the Plan should focus on the technical contents of the document and not on

the deadline and reduction target since those had already been approved by the countries when adopting the SAP in 1997. Furthermore, Mr Civili mentioned that the deadline of the Plan could be revised and updated accordingly if the technical review of the Plan by the NFPs considered that necessary in light of the current context, as it had been done with several documents produced by MED POL and presented during its last Meeting of National Coordinators (Sangemini, 27-30 May 2003). Mr Civili wished to express with that comment that the deadlines included in the SAP could thus be updated in light of the technological and scientific advance achieved. The Meeting proposed to extend the deadline of the Plan to the year 2010.

67. Concerning the approval of the Plan, the NFPs stated that they did not have a mandate for approving the political components in the Plan. After some discussion on that topic between the NFPs, RAC/CP and the MED POL Coordinator, who explained the practical procedures and status of the different actors within MAP, some decisions were made on that matter; those are included in the Annex III to this report.

68. During this item a first approach on the recommendations concerning the Regional Plan arose and it was decided that RAC/CP would draft those recommendations and distribute them in the session of agenda item 10 for discussion and eventual approval. The final remarks that were agreed in the Meeting with regard to the Regional Plan are reflected in the final recommendations contained in the Annex III to this report.

**Agenda item 9, 10, 11. Proposal of activities for the biennium 2004 – 2005. Open discussion, adoption of recommendations and final remarks. Other business.**

69. Prior to discussing the document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/4 on proposals of RAC/CP activities for the biennium 2004-2005 including the recommendations contained in the document, the representative of UNIDO, Eng. Roberta De Palma, gave a presentation on the Transfer of Environmentally-Sound Technology (TEST) initiatives as carried out and designed by UNIDO. The presentation is included in the document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/6.

70. After the presentation of Eng. De Palma, the Meeting discussed the recommendations on the basis of the document on the proposal of RAC/CP activities for the biennium 2004-2005. Thus, RAC/CP Director introduced the referred document, whose recommendations were submitted to the comments and amendments of the NFPs.

71. With regard to the whole of the recommendations, the representative of the European Commission reminded to take in account the work done at the European level specially when dealing with the information exchange of BATs resulting into the so-called BREFs.

72. Both the representatives of Cyprus and France stressed the fact that CP includes as well energy and not only waste, wastewater and emissions into the atmosphere along with their management. Italy underlined that several other programmes, institutions and networks are working on renewable energy and energy savings in the Mediterranean and that RAC/CP should only deal with it in relation to its primary focus.

73. Concerning the publication of case studies, the NFP for Italy proposed to include also successful stories from environment institutions and not only from companies.

74. As regards the dissemination of RAC/CP publications, the NFP for Syria suggested that all RAC/CP documents related to the Mediterranean Region were also published in Arabic with the aim of being available for the sectors of the Arabic-speaking countries. RAC/CP Director regretted that translating the publications into that language would imply costs that could not be afforded by the Centre. Nevertheless, he added that the Centre would study the possibility of translating some specific documents. On this point, the representative of Morocco suggested to open the door for Arabic translation of those documents particularly addressed to small companies and professionals of Arabic-speaking countries, since those do not normally know other languages.

75. From his part, the MAP representative stated that at least there would be an Arabic version of the Regional Plan for the reduction of HW, since all the documents to be presented to the Contracting Parties had to be translated to all the MAP official languages.

76. Concerning capacity building activities of RAC/CP, the NFP for Morocco stressed the need of reinforcing the capacities of experts.

77. Subsequently to the discussion of the document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/4, and the recommendations it included, the Meeting discussed new proposals of recommendations from Morocco and Tunisia, related to the setting up of National Cleaner Production Centres and technical assistance to the existing ones. Those recommendations were amended and finally included in the final document of recommendations that is enclosed as Annex III to this report.

78. Finally, the Meeting discussed, amended and adopted the proposals on the recommendations concerning the Regional Plan for the reduction of industrial HW as prepared by RAC/CP, as well as two proposals of recommendations prepared also by the Centre concerning the role of RAC/CP in the Mediterranean and its further collaboration with MED POL.

79. As mentioned above, the final recommendations of the meeting are enclosed as Annex III to this report.

**Agenda item 12. Closure of the meeting**

80. The Chairperson declared the Meeting closed at 14:45 on Friday, 13 June 2003.

## ANNEX I

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

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## ANNEX II

### PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organisation of work
4. Review of activities carried out by RAC/CP in the biennium 2002-2003
5. Collaboration between RAC/CP and the NFPs
6. Future role and orientations of the Centre within MAP, SAP and MCSD
7. Main obstacles and barriers encountered by the NFPs when working on spreading CP and pollution prevention
8. Review and approval of the "*Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations in the MAP countries*"
9. Proposal of activities for the biennium 2004 – 2005
10. Open discussion, adoption of recommendations and final remarks
11. Other business
12. Closure of the meeting

## ANNEX III

### RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS

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Following the session of open discussion that took place on the proposals and recommendations for the next biennium (2004-2005), the recommendations presented below were adopted by the meeting.

Specific recommendations and considerations on the *Regional plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations in the MAP countries* were made.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of RAC/CP National Focal Points (12-13 June 2003) discussed the *Regional plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations in the MAP countries*, and agreed on the need for a strategic approach and action on such topic. It was also suggested that the deadline of the Plan was changed to 2010 instead of 2007. Furthermore, the meeting agreed<sup>1</sup> on the process for decision making on the Plan as proposed by RAC/CP and MED POL, notably submitting the Plan to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in November 2003 for adoption, since the principles in the Plan reflect the decision already made by the Contracting Parties in 1997 when adopting the SAP.

The participants also underlined the need that the implementation of the Plan should be based on appropriate legislative, financial and economic mechanisms, which also need to be evaluated. To this end, the MAP Secretariat should be asked to check the data included in the Plan, based on the national baseline budgets in preparation, as required by the SAP; to facilitate the countries that need to reviewing their legal framework; to study financial mechanisms needed for implementation of the Plan and to review periodically the progress achieved on implementation of the Plan.

#### **Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat:**

1. To ask the Contracting Parties to disseminate the guidelines:
  - Regional guide for the application of best environmental practices (BEPs) for rational use of fertilisers and reduction of nutrient loss from agriculture.
  - Regional guide for the application of best available techniques (BATs), best environmental practices (BEPs) and cleaner technologies (CTs) in industries of the Mediterranean countries.

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<sup>1</sup> The French National Focal Point wishes to express that the technical contents of the Plan, which derive from the considerable efforts carried out, are correct, and therefore approves the recommendation proposed on this matter. Furthermore, he expresses that approving this recommendation does not imply any political commitment for his country, since the French supervising authorities have not given the French National Focal Point a mandate on this level. The Italian National Focal Point adhered to the previous statement, especially on that concerning political objectives.

- Regional guide for the application of best available techniques (BATs) and best environmental practices (BEPs) in industrial installations that are sources of BOD, nutrients and suspended solids.

produced within the GEF project at the national level to the relevant administrations dealing with the implementation of the SAP as well as other related national activities, and take into account the approaches proposed on the guidelines when drafting the NAPs.

2. To ask the Contracting Parties to readapt the role of the RAC/CP so that it becomes a tool by means of which the Mediterranean industry leads to achieving sustainable development, being the SAP its framework for action.
3. To ask MAP Secretariat to submit the *Regional plan for the reduction by 20% by 2010 of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations in the MAP countries* to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in November 2003 for their consideration of adoption, since the principles in the Plan reflect the decision already made by the Contracting Parties in 1997 when adopting the SAP, assuming that the MAP Secretariat will:
  - Check the data included in the Plan, based on the national baseline budgets in preparation, as required by the SAP
  - Facilitate the countries that need to, reviewing their legal framework
  - Study financial mechanisms needed for implementation of the Plan
  - Review periodically the progress achieved on implementation of the Plan
4. To ask MAP Secretariat to strengthen the collaboration between RAC/CP and MED POL and to regularly hold their meetings of National Focal Points jointly, thus taking more profit of the synergies existing between the two MAP units.
5. To ask RAC/CP to work on the formulation and maintenance of a catalogue with a list of main counterparts at the regional, national and local level, classified according to various criteria (sectors, institutions, territorial scope, etc.).
6. To ask RAC/CP to continue working on identifying and compiling Mediterranean techniques, technologies and experts. To enlarge the databases with new sectors and update with new available techniques the already existing databases produced by RAC/CP.
7. To ask RAC/CP to continue publishing successful stories of institutions and Mediterranean companies having introduced more eco-efficient practices, stressing the economic feasibility of the actions undertaken.

8. To ask RAC/CP to continue publishing news and articles on the initiatives carried out in the Region with the aim of advancing towards industrial sustainability in the Mediterranean.
9. To ask RAC/CP to continue working within the industrial pollution component of the SAP, preparing documents that help countries develop their NAPs, taking into account the priorities as set by the SAP.
10. To ask RAC/CP to update the study State of cleaner production in the MAP countries.
11. To ask RAC/CP to continue preparing studies and guides addressing specific sectors, pollutants or other issues considered relevant in the Region, according to the approach undertaken, taking into consideration the priorities established in the Mediterranean, mainly by the SAP and the MCSD.
12. To ask RAC/CP to study the possibility of translating specific RAC/CP documents into Arabic when this would be considered desirable.
13. To ask RAC/CP to promote the exchange of knowledge between the various actors that may play an influencing role on the Mediterranean environment, including capacity building of experts.
14. To ask RAC/CP to collaborate in initiatives aiming at spreading eco-efficiency in the Mediterranean, at the regional, subregional, national or local levels, taking in consideration the priority issues established by the SAP and the MCSD.
15. To ask RAC/CP to contribute to promoting the setting up of national cleaner production centres in the Mediterranean and provide technical assistance to the already existing ones in the Region. Specifically, to promote exchange of experiences between those working on operating CP centres, such as professional visits to CP centres and carrying out a workshop focussing on the daily experience of operating CP centres along with the problems encountered and possible solutions.
16. To ask RAC/CP to take into account, in the activities of the Centre, aspects such as sustainable consumption, environmental management systems, eco-labelling, etc.
17. To ask RAC/CP to request National Focal Points to provide information, by means of examples, case studies, news and articles, on the activities that are carried out at the country level for contributing to making companies more eco-efficient.

## **Introduction**

1. The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RAC/CP National Focal Points was held at the Gran Hotel Catalonia in Barcelona from 12 to 13 June 2003.
2. All National Focal Points (NFPs) were invited to attend the meeting. Representatives from the following Contracting Parties attended the meeting: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. Those were either the National Focal Points of RAC/CP or their representatives.
3. The representatives from the following Contracting Parties were absent: Algeria, Greece and Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.
4. The RAC/CP NFP for the MAP Coordinating Unit, as well as representatives of the European Commission and UNIDO also attended the meeting.
5. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.
6. The list of documents of the meeting is included in the document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/Inf.4.

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

7. The Director of RAC/CP, Mr Víctor Macià, declared the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of RAC/CP National Focal Points opened and welcomed the participants. Mr Macià made an opening speech highlighting the special relevance of the meeting since two major issues would be discussed: the new orientation of the RAC/CP concerning its scope of activities and the approval by the NFPs of the *Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations in the MAP countries.*

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

8. The Meeting unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairperson: Ms Maria Dalla Costa (NFP for Italy)

Reporter: Mr Anton Pizzuto (NFP for Malta)

**Agenda item 3. Adoption of the agenda and organisation of work**

9. The Meeting adopted the proposed agenda contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/1, which is attached as Annex II to this report.

**Agenda item 4. Review of activities carried out by RAC/CP in the biennium 2002-2003**

10. Mr Macià introduced and explained the document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/3 on the activities already carried out by RAC/CP during the current biennium or to be finalised within 2003.

11. With regard to both the CP News bulletin and the MedClean files, RAC/CP Director informed the Meeting that those publications would change from a paper format to an electronic one. Concerning the MedClean files, Mr Macià regretted the fact that when issuing new numbers of these case studies, only few countries (recalling recently the cases of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Israel) normally asked for more than one copy. RAC/CP Director asked the participants to be more active in the dissemination of the files and to increase their requests of copies in order to spread them among the concerned sectors.

12. When referring to the sectoral studies of the RAC/CP, Mr Macià informed the Meeting that the Secretariat of the Basel Convention had recently asked the permission of the RAC/CP for considering the distribution of the Study *Recycling possibilities and potential uses of used oils* as a reference document at the global level.

13. Concerning RAC/CP databases, Mr Macià explained that aside from the already existing database on Mediterranean cleaner production (CP) experts, other databases on environmentally friendly technologies for the textile as well as the pulp and paper industries was being prepared to be posted on RAC/CP web site in 2003.

14. Since RAC/CP is working in enlarging its mailing list for the better distribution of its material, Mr Macià requested the collaboration of the NFP in identifying potential users of RAC/CP's publications.

15. Within the scope of RAC/CP collaboration in the GEF project for the further elaboration and implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), Mr Macià informed the Meeting that three guides and one plan had been carried out by the Centre and posted on the intraweb of RAC/CP web site for the review and comments by the National Focal Points. Furthermore, Mr Macià underlined that the *Regional*

*guide for the application of best available techniques (BATs), best environmental practices (BEPs) and cleaner technologies (CTs) in industries of the Mediterranean countries* would be the reference document when applying BATs, BEPs and CTs in the Mediterranean, as agreed during the experts meeting held in Split last 18-20 March 2003. For more details, see document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/3.

16. After the presentation of Mr Macià, the Chairperson gave the floor to the attendants for questions or further comments.

17. The NFP for Bosnia and Herzegovina, recognised the work carried out by the RAC/CP and encouraged it to continue its task in spreading CP in the Mediterranean, especially at the local level.

18. Ms Maria Dalla Costa, as NFP for Italy, also highlighted the work done by the Centre. Ms Dalla Costa, as well as the NFPs for France and Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the initiative on changing from paper to electronic version the CP News bulletin and the MedClean files.

19. As regards the third number of RAC/CP Annual Technical Publication – Mediterranean Enterprises and Sustainability, which will be published during 2003, the Chairperson asked RAC/CP to consider extending the deadline for receiving articles from the NFPs. Ms Esther Monfà, RAC/CP Coordinator, agreed on extending the deadline two weeks as maximum.

20. Subsequently, a series of comments on the *Regional plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations in the MAP countries* (see document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/5) were made. The NFP for Morocco, asked RAC/CP to extend the deadline for the comments and amendments of the NFPs since it was a strategy that should have to be effective in order for the countries to achieve specific targets for the reduction of this type of waste in a short period. Therefore, according to her opinion, the revision of the contents of the Plan required more time.

21. Mr Macià recalled that the Plan had been posted on the intraweb of RAC/CP web site already last 4 April 2003 for review and amendments by the NFPs within a period of one month. Thus, Mr Macià answered to the comment of Morocco that this was not possible and that one of the agenda items of the meeting was the approval of the Plan by the NFPs for further submission to the Contracting Parties. RAC/CP Director also asked the Meeting to consider the document as a tool for guiding the countries when adopting strategies for reducing the generation of industrial hazardous waste (HW).

22. The NFP for France regretted the fact that surely the data and figures that had been given on the country for inclusion in the Plan were not as reliable as desirable.

23. In reply to the comment made by the NFP for France, Mr Macià explained that the data shown by the Regional Plan had to be considered just as a first approach on the current trends related to the generation of the HW and their management in the Mediterranean. Accordingly, the information provided by the countries had given an added value to the Plan from a Mediterranean perspective.

24. The NFP for Syria pointed out that the information provided by the Plan on this country had to be updated. The NFP for Syria offered herself to provide the RAC/CP with the updated data to be included in the Plan.

25. Both Italy and Malta agreed with RAC/CP Director that the Regional Plan could be considered a guide to be used by the countries for reducing HW generation, if approved by the Contracting Parties.

26. In response to the comments of several NFPs related to the deadline of 2007 and the reduction target of 20%, the Chairperson reminded the participants that if such objectives had already been approved by the Contracting Parties in 1997, as assured by Mr Francesco Saverio Civili, then there was no reason to submit the issue for decision among the NFP who, hierarchically, cannot rediscuss items already decided by the Contracting Parties.

27. From his part, the NFP for Malta pointed out that, with regard to the reliability of the data on this country shown in the Plan, only information about trends had been able to be provided by the NFP since the government was still working on gathering real data on the concerned issues. Regarding the new Study on the organisations of entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean, the NFP of Malta informed RAC/CP Director that his Centre could provide information on both the Chamber of Commerce of the country and other associations and institutions related to the economic sector.

#### **Agenda item 5. Collaboration between RAC/CP and the NFPs**

28. RAC/CP Director introduced and opened to discussion a range of issues concerning the cooperation between the Centre and the NFPs as well as other issues related to new RAC/CP activities.

29. As regards the collaboration between the RAC/CP and its NFPs, RAC/CP Director regretted that the Centre very rarely receives any technical consultation from

the National Focal Points and that there are very few suggestions from the NFP on proposing new projects or activities. It was also pointed out that when the Centre has organised meetings or training workshops, in several cases the experts designated by the NFPs for attending those had maybe not been the most suitable.

30. Concerning the forum included in the intraweb of RAC/CP and of restricted access to the NFPs, Mr Macià reminded the Meeting that it was created for reinforcing the exchange of experiences and information between the NFPs and the Centre. Nevertheless just one message from the NFPs had been registered in the forum so far, namely from Malta. Mr Macià recalled the Meeting that creating the forum had been a request from the NFPs and informed the Meeting of the cost of carrying out the stated project. Therefore, Mr Macià encouraged the NFP to be more active in using the forum. RAC/CP Director mentioned the idea of opening the forum to those centres or institutions dealing with CP (*i.e.* UNIDO, other cleaner production centres, etc.). Mr Macià informed as well that the distribution of RAC/CP documents to the NFPs for their review and amendments is currently being carried out through the intraweb.

31. The same problem as that of the forum was mentioned with regard to the database of Mediterranean experts on CP since so far the NFPs have hardly used it and none has contributed to its enlargement. Mr Macià encouraged the participants to contribute to the development of the database and informed that the Centre was thinking on placing the experts database in the public area of the web site only once it was reviewed and updated by the NFPs through sending more curricula of experts.

32. RAC/CP Director introduced the Study on the organisation and the structure of the organisations of entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean Region (for more details, see document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/Inf.1) as one of the new RAC/CP projects to be carried out during the year 2003.

33. Another relevant issue mentioned by Mr Macià was that in line of the new role of the Centre, RAC/CP and MED POL agreed to hold their meetings of National Focal Points jointly.

34. After the introduction made by Mr Macià, the Chairperson gave the floor to the attendants for comments and open discussion related to the topics above.

35. The NFP for Italy recognised the importance of both the forum and the experts database as tools through which the NFPs could share experiences and expertise and regretted that they had been hardly used. Likewise she welcomed the new initiative on the study of entrepreneurs and the agreement between MEDPOL and RAC/CP on the realisation of joint meetings.

36. The NFP for Malta stressed that for a better use of RAC/CP intraweb maybe it would be desirable to open it to other institutions and organisations instead of restricting its access to the NFPs. The NFP also asked RAC/CP to enhance the information between the Centre and himself concerning the activities that RAC/CP carries out.

37. In response to the last comment of Malta, RAC/CP Director proposed the intraweb as a means by which assuring that all the NFPs were informed on the activities that were carried out by the Centre.

38. The NFP for France referred to the study on the organisations of entrepreneurs and expressed his concern on how he could be able to provide information on this matter. RAC/CP Director explained that the Centre would hire an expert who would design a questionnaire to be sent to the NFPs. Subsequently, each NFP would decide whether to fill out the questionnaire himself or otherwise to forward it to the suitable institutions or associations.

39. The representative of Tunisia stressed the need of evaluating the capacity of the experts on CP included in the database, according to the concept of CP stated as used by the RAC/CP. Likewise, he reminded that the NFPs should become more involved in spreading RAC/CP activities among the concerned actors since their main role as NFPs was to act as intermediaries and catalysts in the dissemination of the information on CP at the country level.

40. The representative of Cyprus pointed out that the intraweb should be used more widely and stressed the importance of the experts database as a tool through which the countries could find professionals who could give advise on real and specific concerns in the field of pollution prevention. Furthermore, the representative of Cyprus stated that he would send the RAC/CP study *Prevention of pollution in the dairy industry* to the section of the dairy industry of the Chamber of Commerce in Cyprus.

41. The NFP for Morocco informed the Meeting that the Moroccan Centre of Cleaner Production is working in creating a network that groups experts on CP from different fields (*i.e.* technical centres, universities, etc). So far, the list includes 12 experts. Like the representative of Tunisia, the Moroccan NFP also stressed the need of assuring the capacity of the experts. Furthermore, she asked to strengthen the collaboration between the RAC/CP, the Moroccan Cleaner Production Centre and the Moroccan Ministry of the Environment with the aim of reinforcing the capacities of experts on pollution prevention in the priority industrial sectors (for Morocco she named the textile, food, chemical and agro-chemical industries). Finally, the Moroccan NFP

raised the issue of financing, and pointed out that an effort should be made in reinforcing the financial means to help disseminating good housekeeping practices and cleaner technologies.

42. The representative of the European Commission introduced the task being performed by that institution in disseminating Best Available Techniques, mainly through Reference documents on Best Available Techniques (BREFs). Furthermore, the representative of the EC informed that the Commission had set up a system for disseminating information through a web site, similar to the one used by RAC/CP, and that it had very been successful. Moreover, she informed the Meeting that there was an intranet called "Work Space" for the exchange of information among sectors. Finally, the representative of the EC stressed that any document being produced, either draft or final version, was posted on the public area of the web and thus made available for everybody for comments.

43. The representative of Tunisia asked the RAC/CP to adapt the content of the BREFs to the Mediterranean reality in order to make them more useful for the countries of the region. To that comment, Mr Macià underlined that the studies carried out by RAC/CP take into account the BREFs available and that one of the main objectives of the Centre when preparing a study is adapting it to the specific characteristics of the Mediterranean basin.

44. The NFP for Spain stressed the importance of spreading information among the small and medium-sized enterprises and considered that another main goal should be to disseminate it to the local administrations. In line with the common opinion of the Meeting, she also supported the public dissemination of the documents of RAC/CP through the internet.

45. Following the intervention of Spain, the NFP of Bosnia and Herzegovina made a technical remark, proposing to make a change in the home page of RAC/CP web site in order to allow a faster access to it. With regard to the experts database, the NFP for BiH considered that further than focusing on experts, the database should also gather those institutions dealing with CP, including research centres, CP centres and universities, among others, in order to create a regional network of agents working on CP. Mr Macià stressed that the database of experts included or should indeed include the actors mentioned by the NFP of BiH.

46. In reply to the comments concerning the reinforcement of expert capacities made by the NFP of Morocco, RAC/CP Director totally agreed with the importance of the issue but considered that the training should be done in the countries and by the countries since the Centre had limited financial and human resources that made not

possible for it to assume this task. In addition, RAC/CP Director informed that the Centre had already organised and totally financed two training courses that had been attended by less people than expected.

47. With regard to the need of disseminating RAC/CP material through the internet, Mr Macià reminded the Meeting that all the documents of the Centre were available in its web site. As regards the technical remark concerning the home page of RAC/CP Mr Macià agreed on studying the possibility of changing it in order to facilitate a faster access to it.

48. When referring to the economical implications of CP that were considered in the studies, France NFP asked the RAC/CP to take into account not only microeconomic aspects but also macroeconomic aspects.

49. Several issues concerning the cooperation between RAC/CP and the NFPs when carrying out studies were raised during that session. Notably, participation by the NFPs in the studies by means of filling out questionnaires. The possibility of providing financial support only in very specific cases and to specific countries would be studied by RAC/CP in response to several comments made by the NFPs with the aim of facilitating practical cooperation between the Centre and the NFPs on carrying out the task above. Nevertheless, Mr Macià clarified that such amount would be small due to the limited resources of RAC/CP. Apart from financial issues, the cooperation between the Centre and the NFPs was explored by other means, such as through the participation of the NFPs in designing the questionnaires jointly with RAC/CP, as proposed by the NFP of Italy. In answer to the proposal of Italy, Ms Esther Monfà mentioned that this would imply an added work that would require a much faster reply from the NFPs when filling out the questionnaires, taking into account the short time available for receiving the responses from the countries and bearing in mind that the activities of RAC/CP are programmed and must be carried out on a yearly basis, due to the specific nature of the Centre. Nevertheless, Ms Monfà agreed with the proposal of the Italian NFP when possible.

50. The NFP for Albania stressed the need of establishing a CP Centre to work with the industries in her country since so far there is none operating there. She admitted that when working both as NFP and as a member of the Ministry of Environment she hardly had any contact with the industrial associations or the chambers of the commerce of Albania. To that comment, RAC/CP Director stated that there were institutions such as UNIDO and UNEP/DTIE already working on establishing new CP centres in the region.

**Agenda item 6. Future role and orientations of the Centre within MAP, SAP and MCSD**

51. RAC/CP NFP for the MAP Coordinating Unit as well as MED POL Coordinator, Mr Francesco Saverio Civili, broadly presented the Strategic Action Programme to the Meeting and the progress achieved so far. During his explanation, Mr Civili highlighted the important task performed by RAC/CP within the first phase of the SAP which had focussed on the preparation of the groundwork on which the countries would prepare their National Action Plans to combat pollution (NAP). The MAP representative explained that this phase had focussed on carrying out training and capacity building activities, technical guidelines and regional plans for pollution prevention, among others, which should help the countries when preparing the NAPs.

52. Mr Civili also reminded that the RAC/CP was becoming more and more involved in other Mediterranean initiatives than those of the SAP, such as those related to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), especially as one of the boosters of its working group on industry and sustainable development.

53. Mr Civili regretted that the activities performed by the RAC/CP so far had not been properly integrated in the process for implementation of the SAP. Therefore, he stressed that, apart from continuing with its technical activities, the Centre had to play a new role within the SAP and the overall MAP framework. He based his statement on the fact that pollution prevention on source and CP, the approaches on which the activities of RAC/CP focussed, had been pinpointed by the main international fora and agreements such as the Summits of Rio and Johannesburg as basic tools to be used when addressing pollution. Mr Civili stated that therefore, these approaches had to be fully integrated in the next phase of SAP that would focus on how the countries and the industrial sector meet the pollution reduction targets set by the SAP.

54. Mr Civili reminded the meeting of the added value that RAC/CP would provide when working in this next phase due to its broad working experience with the industrial sector, and especially with SMEs, which represent the main part of the Mediterranean industry. Mr Civili stated that thus, RAC/CP had to play a role of being the intermediary between the SAP, and MAP in general, and the industrial sector.

55. Mr Civili pointed out that one of the consequences of this new role of the RAC/CP within the SAP and MAP should be that the Centre and the MED POL (the MAP unit for the following-up of the implementation of the SAP) held their Meetings of NFPs jointly.

56. The representative of Tunisia considered that the SAP was mainly a political instrument that lacked the mechanisms on how to reach the targets established. He also reminded the Meeting of the pressure of the market as a tool to make industries change and wondered how the SAP could exert this pressure at the country level.

57. The representative of Monaco, also NFP of Monaco for MED POL, welcomed the new stage of closer collaboration between RAC/CP and MED POL as a way to facilitate the countries to know how to deal with the targets set by the SAP. The NFP of Italy adhered also to this opinion from the experience of being as well NFP for the Blue Plan and having attended to joint meetings of NFPs.

58. In reply to the remarks made by the representative of Tunisia, the MAP representative said that SAP was not conceived just as a political tool but it established specific targets for pollution reduction whose achievement would be assessed. He informed that MED POL was currently working on a reporting system on the implementation of the SAP and mentioned other initiatives focused on the assessment of the feasibility of the SAP. Notably, several pre-investment studies in selected Hot Spots, through which MED POL advised on the measures to be implemented to reduce pollution and on the costs implied by those measures. At his point Mr Civili regretted the lack of "industry culture" of MED POL and emphasised again the role that RAC/CP has to play for better carrying out those initiatives and projects in order to effectively implement the SAP.

**Agenda item 7. Main obstacles and barriers encountered by the NFPs when working on spreading CP and pollution prevention**

59. Throughout the afternoon sessions, each of the National Focal Points gave a presentation on a range of issues related to the promotion of CP in each of the Mediterranean countries, generally focussing on the activities carried out as NFPs as well as the barriers encountered in relation to introducing pollution prevention at the country level. More details about the presentations of the NFPs may be found in the document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/6.

**Agenda item 8. Review and approval of the "*Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations in the MAP countries*"**

60. Ms Mar Santacana, RAC/CP Technician, began the session by presenting the methodological process of building up the Plan step by step (see document

UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/Inf.2). Ms Santacana informed the Meeting on how the Plan was prepared by RAC/CP and a consultancy in close cooperation, posted on the intraweb of RAC/CP web site for comments and amendments by the NFPs within one month from 4 April 2003 with information to the GEF National Coordinators, reviewed in an experts meeting (Barcelona, 8-10 April 2003), presented for information at the Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators held in Sangemini on 27-30 May 2003, and amended according to all comments received as stated above. Ms Santacana therefore recalled the NFPs that during this session, they would have the chance of making only specific amendments to be included in the Plan or approve, due to the thorough process of review that it had been through already.

61. The Chairperson gave subsequently the floor to Mr Jordi Bruno, General Manager of ENVIROS-Spain, the consultancy that had carried out the aforementioned Plan in close collaboration with the RAC/CP.

62. Mr Bruno gave a general presentation of the Plan that would facilitate the session of review and approval. This presentation is included in the document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/Inf.3.

63. After the presentation of Mr Bruno, the Chairperson opened the floor for discussion and approval of the Plan. Most of the comments made by the NFPs during this session referred to the deadline and target of HW reduction as stated in the Regional Plan (*i.e.* 2007 and 20%), as several opinions questioned the possibility of meeting this target within the stated deadline. Some other issues raised focussed on financing the application of the Plan.

64. In relation to that, the NFP for Israel raised the issue of taking into consideration the history of each country concerning hazardous waste treatment and the necessity of addressing the reduction that had already been achieved since 1997, when the SAP was adopted. As an example, the NFP for Israel mentioned that in that country, hazardous waste recycling and reuse had increased from 38% in 1997 to 68% in 2002 regarding the total amount of hazardous waste generated in the country.

65. Furthermore, the representative of Lebanon discussed the financial issues mentioned in the sections A6.3 and A6.4 of the Plan, and he mentioned that the successful implementation of such a plan requires the creation of a financial support system that is highly needed by the southern Mediterranean countries.

66. In reply to the comments made on the target and deadline, both RAC/CP Director and the MED POL Coordinator insisted that the discussion of the NFPs with regard to the Plan should focus on the technical contents of the document and not on

the deadline and reduction target since those had already been approved by the countries when adopting the SAP in 1997. Furthermore, Mr Civili mentioned that the deadline of the Plan could be revised and updated accordingly if the technical review of the Plan by the NFPs considered that necessary in light of the current context, as it had been done with several documents produced by MED POL and presented during its last Meeting of National Coordinators (Sangemini, 27-30 May 2003). Mr Civili wished to express with that comment that the deadlines included in the SAP could thus be updated in light of the technological and scientific advance achieved. The Meeting proposed to extend the deadline of the Plan to the year 2010.

67. Concerning the approval of the Plan, the NFPs stated that they did not have a mandate for approving the political components in the Plan. After some discussion on that topic between the NFPs, RAC/CP and the MED POL Coordinator, who explained the practical procedures and status of the different actors within MAP, some decisions were made on that matter; those are included in the Annex III to this report.

68. During this item a first approach on the recommendations concerning the Regional Plan arose and it was decided that RAC/CP would draft those recommendations and distribute them in the session of agenda item 10 for discussion and eventual approval. The final remarks that were agreed in the Meeting with regard to the Regional Plan are reflected in the final recommendations contained in the Annex III to this report.

**Agenda item 9, 10, 11. Proposal of activities for the biennium 2004 – 2005. Open discussion, adoption of recommendations and final remarks. Other business.**

69. Prior to discussing the document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/4 on proposals of RAC/CP activities for the biennium 2004-2005 including the recommendations contained in the document, the representative of UNIDO, Eng. Roberta De Palma, gave a presentation on the Transfer of Environmentally-Sound Technology (TEST) initiatives as carried out and designed by UNIDO. The presentation is included in the document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/6.

70. After the presentation of Eng. De Palma, the Meeting discussed the recommendations on the basis of the document on the proposal of RAC/CP activities for the biennium 2004-2005. Thus, RAC/CP Director introduced the referred document, whose recommendations were submitted to the comments and amendments of the NFPs.

71. With regard to the whole of the recommendations, the representative of the European Commission reminded to take in account the work done at the European level specially when dealing with the information exchange of BATs resulting into the so-called BREFs.

72. Both the representatives of Cyprus and France stressed the fact that CP includes as well energy and not only waste, wastewater and emissions into the atmosphere along with their management. Italy underlined that several other programmes, institutions and networks are working on renewable energy and energy savings in the Mediterranean and that RAC/CP should only deal with it in relation to its primary focus.

73. Concerning the publication of case studies, the NFP for Italy proposed to include also successful stories from environment institutions and not only from companies.

74. As regards the dissemination of RAC/CP publications, the NFP for Syria suggested that all RAC/CP documents related to the Mediterranean Region were also published in Arabic with the aim of being available for the sectors of the Arabic-speaking countries. RAC/CP Director regretted that translating the publications into that language would imply costs that could not be afforded by the Centre. Nevertheless, he added that the Centre would study the possibility of translating some specific documents. On this point, the representative of Morocco suggested to open the door for Arabic translation of those documents particularly addressed to small companies and professionals of Arabic-speaking countries, since those do not normally know other languages.

75. From his part, the MAP representative stated that at least there would be an Arabic version of the Regional Plan for the reduction of HW, since all the documents to be presented to the Contracting Parties had to be translated to all the MAP official languages.

76. Concerning capacity building activities of RAC/CP, the NFP for Morocco stressed the need of reinforcing the capacities of experts.

77. Subsequently to the discussion of the document UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.234/4, and the recommendations it included, the Meeting discussed new proposals of recommendations from Morocco and Tunisia, related to the setting up of National Cleaner Production Centres and technical assistance to the existing ones. Those recommendations were amended and finally included in the final document of recommendations that is enclosed as Annex III to this report.

78. Finally, the Meeting discussed, amended and adopted the proposals on the recommendations concerning the Regional Plan for the reduction of industrial HW as prepared by RAC/CP, as well as two proposals of recommendations prepared also by the Centre concerning the role of RAC/CP in the Mediterranean and its further collaboration with MED POL.

79. As mentioned above, the final recommendations of the meeting are enclosed as Annex III to this report.

**Agenda item 12. Closure of the meeting**

80. The Chairperson declared the Meeting closed at 14:45 on Friday, 13 June 2003.

## ANNEX I

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

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## ANNEX II

### PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organisation of work
4. Review of activities carried out by RAC/CP in the biennium 2002-2003
5. Collaboration between RAC/CP and the NFPs
6. Future role and orientations of the Centre within MAP, SAP and MCSD
7. Main obstacles and barriers encountered by the NFPs when working on spreading CP and pollution prevention
8. Review and approval of the "*Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations in the MAP countries*"
9. Proposal of activities for the biennium 2004 – 2005
10. Open discussion, adoption of recommendations and final remarks
11. Other business
12. Closure of the meeting

## ANNEX III

### RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS

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Following the session of open discussion that took place on the proposals and recommendations for the next biennium (2004-2005), the recommendations presented below were adopted by the meeting.

Specific recommendations and considerations on the *Regional plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations in the MAP countries* were made.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of RAC/CP National Focal Points (12-13 June 2003) discussed the *Regional plan for the reduction by 20% by 2007 of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations in the MAP countries*, and agreed on the need for a strategic approach and action on such topic. It was also suggested that the deadline of the Plan was changed to 2010 instead of 2007. Furthermore, the meeting agreed<sup>1</sup> on the process for decision making on the Plan as proposed by RAC/CP and MED POL, notably submitting the Plan to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in November 2003 for adoption, since the principles in the Plan reflect the decision already made by the Contracting Parties in 1997 when adopting the SAP.

The participants also underlined the need that the implementation of the Plan should be based on appropriate legislative, financial and economic mechanisms, which also need to be evaluated. To this end, the MAP Secretariat should be asked to check the data included in the Plan, based on the national baseline budgets in preparation, as required by the SAP; to facilitate the countries that need to reviewing their legal framework; to study financial mechanisms needed for implementation of the Plan and to review periodically the progress achieved on implementation of the Plan.

#### **Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat:**

1. To ask the Contracting Parties to disseminate the guidelines:
  - Regional guide for the application of best environmental practices (BEPs) for rational use of fertilisers and reduction of nutrient loss from agriculture.
  - Regional guide for the application of best available techniques (BATs), best environmental practices (BEPs) and cleaner technologies (CTs) in industries of the Mediterranean countries.

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<sup>1</sup> The French National Focal Point wishes to express that the technical contents of the Plan, which derive from the considerable efforts carried out, are correct, and therefore approves the recommendation proposed on this matter. Furthermore, he expresses that approving this recommendation does not imply any political commitment for his country, since the French supervising authorities have not given the French National Focal Point a mandate on this level. The Italian National Focal Point adhered to the previous statement, especially on that concerning political objectives.

- Regional guide for the application of best available techniques (BATs) and best environmental practices (BEPs) in industrial installations that are sources of BOD, nutrients and suspended solids.

produced within the GEF project at the national level to the relevant administrations dealing with the implementation of the SAP as well as other related national activities, and take into account the approaches proposed on the guidelines when drafting the NAPs.

2. To ask the Contracting Parties to readapt the role of the RAC/CP so that it becomes a tool by means of which the Mediterranean industry leads to achieving sustainable development, being the SAP its framework for action.
3. To ask MAP Secretariat to submit the *Regional plan for the reduction by 20% by 2010 of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations in the MAP countries* to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in November 2003 for their consideration of adoption, since the principles in the Plan reflect the decision already made by the Contracting Parties in 1997 when adopting the SAP, assuming that the MAP Secretariat will:
  - Check the data included in the Plan, based on the national baseline budgets in preparation, as required by the SAP
  - Facilitate the countries that need to, reviewing their legal framework
  - Study financial mechanisms needed for implementation of the Plan
  - Review periodically the progress achieved on implementation of the Plan
4. To ask MAP Secretariat to strengthen the collaboration between RAC/CP and MED POL and to regularly hold their meetings of National Focal Points jointly, thus taking more profit of the synergies existing between the two MAP units.
5. To ask RAC/CP to work on the formulation and maintenance of a catalogue with a list of main counterparts at the regional, national and local level, classified according to various criteria (sectors, institutions, territorial scope, etc.).
6. To ask RAC/CP to continue working on identifying and compiling Mediterranean techniques, technologies and experts. To enlarge the databases with new sectors and update with new available techniques the already existing databases produced by RAC/CP.
7. To ask RAC/CP to continue publishing successful stories of institutions and Mediterranean companies having introduced more eco-efficient practices, stressing the economic feasibility of the actions undertaken.

8. To ask RAC/CP to continue publishing news and articles on the initiatives carried out in the Region with the aim of advancing towards industrial sustainability in the Mediterranean.
9. To ask RAC/CP to continue working within the industrial pollution component of the SAP, preparing documents that help countries develop their NAPs, taking into account the priorities as set by the SAP.
10. To ask RAC/CP to update the study State of cleaner production in the MAP countries.
11. To ask RAC/CP to continue preparing studies and guides addressing specific sectors, pollutants or other issues considered relevant in the Region, according to the approach undertaken, taking into consideration the priorities established in the Mediterranean, mainly by the SAP and the MCSD.
12. To ask RAC/CP to study the possibility of translating specific RAC/CP documents into Arabic when this would be considered desirable.
13. To ask RAC/CP to promote the exchange of knowledge between the various actors that may play an influencing role on the Mediterranean environment, including capacity building of experts.
14. To ask RAC/CP to collaborate in initiatives aiming at spreading eco-efficiency in the Mediterranean, at the regional, subregional, national or local levels, taking in consideration the priority issues established by the SAP and the MCSD.
15. To ask RAC/CP to contribute to promoting the setting up of national cleaner production centres in the Mediterranean and provide technical assistance to the already existing ones in the Region. Specifically, to promote exchange of experiences between those working on operating CP centres, such as professional visits to CP centres and carrying out a workshop focussing on the daily experience of operating CP centres along with the problems encountered and possible solutions.
16. To ask RAC/CP to take into account, in the activities of the Centre, aspects such as sustainable consumption, environmental management systems, eco-labelling, etc.
17. To ask RAC/CP to request National Focal Points to provide information, by means of examples, case studies, news and articles, on the activities that are carried out at the country level for contributing to making companies more eco-efficient.