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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

MEDPOL

Meeting of MED POL Focal Points

Rhodes (Greece), 25-27 May 2011

Progress Report on the implementation of MED POL activities during 2010-2011

Delegates are kindly requested to bring their documents to the meeting

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1. Policy and Coordination

Concerning **personnel issues**, Mr Fouad Abousamra has left UNEP/MAP on 15 February 2011 to join the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia in Manama, Bahrain. Ms Tatjana Hema, currently MAP Programme Officer, will join MED POL to take Mr Abousamra's post on 1 June 2011. The moves are part of the implementation of UNEP's staff rotation policy and are achieved at the request of the staff members to improve career prospects and increase experience.

In addition to the long-standing **cooperation** with WHO in relation to the activities related to the sanitary aspects of the SAP and the LBS Protocol, compliance and enforcement, work has continued to be closely carried out in cooperation with IAEA/MEL in relation to data quality assurance of chemical analyses through training, intercalibration and scientific visits.

Cooperation and exchanges of information were intensified with the Basel Convention and the London Convention/London Protocol Secretariats. On the basis of the cooperation agreement signed in 2009 with the Basel Convention, joint activities were continued with the Regional Centres of the Convention in Bratislava and Cairo in the field of hazardous wastes. In particular, two contracts were made with the Centre in Bratislava 1) to prepare an assessment of the status of management of electric and electronic waste in the region and 2) to prepare a database of harmonized definitions and characteristics of banned chemicals. MED POL has participated at the work of the Scientific Working Group of the London Convention and Protocol focussing, among other, on CO₂ sequestration, waste assessment and reporting. Exchanges were also ensured regarding the respective reporting systems with a view at harmonizing and simplifying the corresponding national obligations.

Concerning cooperation with MAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs), MED POL actively participated at the Meetings of the Executive Committee Panel (ECP) aiming at properly coordinating activities and enhance synergies. Close working cooperation was maintained, as appropriate, with all the RACs. In particular, with CP/RAC for the preparation of the Regional Plans related to Art 15 of the LBS Protocol, INFO/RAC for the finalization of the MED POL Information System and for the preparation of the gap analysis related to the launch of the EC Shared Information System (SEIS), Blue Plan for the work on indicators and SP/RAC for the implementation of the road map for the application of the ecosystem approach.

The Agreement with the University of Alessandria, (Italy), to promote the use of biomarkers and to ensure good quality data related to biological effects monitoring, was successfully continued through the organization of training and intercalibration exercises. On the same subject, MED POL financed a common intercalibration exercise with ICES (OSPAR) aiming at harmonization of techniques.

Close contacts were kept with the UNEP Office of DEPI and the Regional Seas Programme in Nairobi for over all guidance and coordination.

With the adoption of the new Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) of the European Union (2008/56/EC, 17 June 2008), MED POL has been actively involved in the promotion of the Mediterranean interests in harmony with EU objectives and principles. To that end, MED POL is participating in the process of development of Descriptors and Indicators for Good Environment Status (GES) to be used by all EU Member States in the framework of the MSFD, under the coordination of JRC. MED POL also participated in the Mediterranean Global Intercalibration Group (MED GIG) of the European Union for the development of Biological Quality Elements in the framework of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) of the European Commission, the Working Group of the EC on Chemical Aspects, the Workshop of the EMODNET (European Marine Observation and Data Network) and the workshop of EEA (European Environmental Agency) on the development of the Marine and Coastal EEA/EIONET. By participating in the process of development of marine monitoring methods

and practices in the framework of the EU, MED POL aims to assure that the new EU relevant legislation 1) is in harmony with MAP and MED POL objectives, principles and targets (in particular the SAP and the process that has been initiated for the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities), and 2) could channel into the region technical and financial support for the achievement by the countries (also non-EU) of the common targets and objectives. In this framework, the Mediterranean EU member states may wish to propose to the EU to use MAP/MED POL as the operational tool for the implementation of the MSFD in the wider Mediterranean region thus bridging EU and non-EU countries in the initiative.

MED POL closely cooperated with the EC in the implementation of the **Horizon 2020 Initiative**. The Initiative has taken into full account the progress made by MED POL in the implementation of the SAP and the NAPs. In particular, in the pollution reduction component of the initiative, projects identified by the EC and its partners were mostly based on the priority identified by the countries in their MED POL National Diagnostic Analyses and the investments listed in their National Action Plans. The European Investment Bank (EIB) has already selected a number of bankable projects, which are now under consideration for funding. The Horizon 2020 and the NAPs will jointly contribute to the common objective to substantially reduce land-based pollution.

In the context of the Horizon 2020 Initiative, cooperation was also strengthened with the European Environment Agency (EEA) in the field of monitoring and assessment and the identification of appropriate indicators. Several meetings were held to discuss the related work of MED POL and the Agency on indicators and data availability to try to find a common approach and strategy for the future work of monitoring and assessment that the Horizon 2020 Initiative will require. In the same context,

Concerning the capacity building component of Horizon 2020, MED POL has contributed to the preparation of the programme of work and has provided expert trainers in the field of industrial pollution, environmental inspectors and desalination.

In the framework of the EC initiative to launch a **Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)** in the Mediterranean and in the Eastern Europe, MAP was contracted by the EC to make an assessment of the data available in the Mediterranean together with the existing information systems and the data collection processes. MED POL, together with Blue Plan and INFO/RAC, actively contributed to the preparation of the assessment, being responsible for the assessment of the existing data collection processes and policies.

One of the innovations brought forward by the European Marine Strategy Directive is the application of the **Ecosystem Approach** (ECAP) to the management of human activities. The approach has been taken up by MED POL as early as in 2006, in the framework of the MED POL Phase IV and is now being applied by the entire MAP system. To assist the process, the European Commission financed a project to be implemented by MAP to assist the gradual application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities in the region. As part of the process, MED POL prepared 4 sub-regional thematic assessments on pollution which were the basis for the preparation of the integrated assessment. MED POL reviewed the integrated Assessment Report for the status of the Mediterranean and participated at 3 meetings of technical experts on the ECAP (April 2010, July 2010, February 2011) to review the Integrated Assessment Report. MED POL also contributed to the development of Ecological and Operational Objectives with associated indicators, according to the ECAP road map, which will be discussed and reviewed in the up-coming Government designated experts meeting in June 2011.

2. Implementation of the LBS Protocol

The GEF Strategic Partnership

In order to enhance and promote the implementation of the provisions of the LBS Protocol, MED POL took the opportunity offered by GEF to the region to propose a number of activities directly contributing to the process of pollution reduction. In particular, the MED POL-related activities are demonstration projects related to the reduction of specific pollutants, a larger project aiming at the disposal of several hundred of tons of PCBs in five countries and capacity building for the reinforcement of environmental inspection systems.

Concerning the **demonstration projects**, the activities respond directly to the actions adopted by countries with their National Action Plans (NAPs) for the reduction of pollution from land based sources. Following the recruitment of experts, implementation of activities began in 2010. The implementation of the demonstration project on reduction of metal inputs through improved management of phosphogypsum has been initiated. The objectives are to improve the legislative and institutional framework to manage the disposal of phosphogypsum slurry; to implement a management scheme for the phosphogypsum slurry; and to trigger the cooperation with phosphate fertilizer companies and relevant national authorities from Tunisia and Syria. The demonstration project was originally planned for Lebanon but, after some delay, Lebanon expressed its lack of interest to participate and Tunisia expressed its interest to participate instead. Activities are planned to start in 2011.

The demonstration project on Chromium, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and nutrients control in tanneries in Turkey (in the area of Buyuk Basin or Cadiz Basin) aims to improve the legislative and institutional framework for the control of releases from tanneries, to implement a demonstration project in a group of medium size tanneries, and to prepare and implement guidelines with the collaboration of all concerned countries (including Albania, Algeria, Egypt and Turkey). Experts have been selected and the phase 1 of the activity related to the assessment of the legal, institutional and technical status is being finalized.

The demonstration project on recycling of used lubricating oils in Algeria will improve the legislative and institutional framework for the recycling and regeneration of used lubricating oils, will implement a demonstration project, transfer the know-how and the expertise of the Tunisian and Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities on the organization of the lubricating oils recycling and regeneration system to Algeria and other concerned countries (Albania, Croatia, Egypt, Morocco, Montenegro, Palestinian Authority and Syria). Experts have been selected, and the phase 1 related to the assessment of the legal, institutional and technical status is being finalized.

The demonstration project on recycling of lead batteries in Syria aims to improve the legislative and institutional framework for the recycling of lead batteries; to prepare and implement a project on organizing a system for recycling lead batteries; and transfer the gained know-how and the expertise on the lead batteries recycling to Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia and Turkey. Experts have been selected and the phase 1 related to the assessment of the legal, institutional and technical status is being finalized.

In the framework of the activity related to the strengthening of the existing mechanism in the Mediterranean countries regarding **environmental inspection systems**, a national meeting among agencies responsible for permit, inspection and compliance, was held in Podgorica, Montenegro in May 2010. The meeting considered the existing legislation and set the objectives and policy planning, along with the improvement of the system for permitting, compliance control and compliance promotion. The needs identified during the meeting will be addressed through a national training course which will be designed in collaboration with all the competent authorities to be held in 2011.

Concerning the **Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of PCBs**, the objective of this activity is to initiate NAP and National Implementation Plan (NIP) implementation for the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of equipment, stocks and wastes contaminated with Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries and will result in strengthened legislative frameworks; the removal and disposal of 870 tons of PCBs at the demonstration sites; a phase out plan for PCBs in electrical companies; and increased awareness and technical knowledge on the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of PCBs. Project activities are being launched in Albania, Egypt, Libya and Syria. Originally also planned in Lebanon, the Lebanese authorities informed MED POL they are not ready to implement the activity in their country. As a result, a new work-plan was prepared and the activity will finally be implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well.

MED POL organized in cooperation with CP/RAC four national multi stakeholders' inception meetings in Albania, Syria, Egypt and Libya. The meetings reviewed the overall activities, finalized the programme of work and timetables, and decided on the role of each national partner. In the framework of the overall technical coordination of the activity, three experts were recruited with the task to follow all the steps related to the project that will be concluded with the disposal of 870 tons of PCBs in four countries.

In addition to the above activities, MED POL is in the process of recruiting an **environmental economist** to assist the countries in the process of ensuring financial sustainability to the implementation of the NAPs.

Municipal sewage

Following the surveys of the wastewater treatment plants in Mediterranean coastal cities in 2003 and 2006 covering cities with population more than 2000 inhabitants and the assessment of the treatment facilities in cities discharging their effluents in rivers that in their turn end up into the sea, it was considered that an updating of the situation was needed. The updating first revises the information and data on the wastewater treatment facilities and second provides a comparison, showing the trends in the Mediterranean cities. With the assistance of the MED POL Focal Points and national experts, all the Mediterranean countries provided updated information on the wastewater treatment plants of the coastal cities and of those in cities that discharge their effluents in rivers which end up in the Mediterranean. The updated information and the trends between 2003 and 2010, covering cities with more than 2000 inhabitants are included in the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 357/Inf.7.

Concerning capacity building on the safe use of wastewater, a course was held in Damascus, Syria from 21-23 February 2011, and another one was held in Durrës, Albania from 20-21 April 2011. It is expected that until November 2011, Turkey will organize another training course with the support of MED POL consisting in lecturing, training material and financial assistance.

Within the efforts to provide assistance to countries for climate change adaptation, a document was prepared on the development of compliance indicators for wastewater treatment plants and the reuse of effluents. The aim of the document is to provide rapid guidance to the plant operators. The indicators are included in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 357/Inf.9. In addition, a contingency plan for the Mediterranean countries for sanitation systems during extreme weather events was produced as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 357/Inf.8, with the objective to present a systematic procedure for the formulation of an efficient and effective contingency plan for the sewerage systems and the wastewater treatment plants to face extreme weather events .

A consultation meeting of country-designated experts on bathing waters was also held in Athens on 8-9 November 2010, where criteria and standards for bathing waters quality were finalized and adopted. In parallel, Albania, Algeria and Greece presented demonstration studies on the proposed methodology for bathing waters quality profiles following the agreed criteria and standards for bathing waters quality. The meeting recommended MED POL to present the

agreed criteria and standards to the MEDPOL Focal Points Meeting in 2011, with a view to be agreed and approved by all countries and to be further presented for adoption at the meeting of the Contracting Parties. The proposal containing the criteria and standards for bathing waters as they were agreed during the meeting, is tabled as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 357/8. During the period under review, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey have carried out demonstration studies of bathing water quality profiles.

Following a request by the national authorities, assistance was provided to Montenegro for the updating of the legislation regarding recreational waters and to hold a training course on the subject. The course was held in Podgorica on 26-27 January 2011. The intercalibration exercise on the capacity of the laboratories to perform microbial analyses, will be conducted in late September.

Coastal Solid Wastes and litter

A draft "Strategic Action Programme for the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean" (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 357/7) was prepared during the last biennium, that takes into consideration all the institutional and technical aspects highlighted in an assessment previously prepared (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 357/Inf.4). It was agreed that the implementation process of the strategy would be examined only when an analysis of the financial implications of the Strategic Action Programme and of its implementation would be prepared. Therefore a document was prepared and is presented as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 357/Inf.5.

The Strategic Action Programme is brought to the attention of the Meeting with the view to be discussed and approved by the MED POL Focal Points Meeting and subsequently to be presented to the MAP Focal Points Meeting for approval and to the Contracting Parties for adoption.

In addition, MEDPOL participated at a number of meetings of the technical sub-group on the EC descriptor "marine litter" within the framework of the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), with the aim to participate in the finalization of the descriptor and avoid any duplication of efforts.

Industrial Pollution

Concerning industrial pollution, after the finalization during 2008-2009 of the data base (DB) containing data and information from the **National Baseline Budgets of emissions and releases** for the year 2003, MED POL launched a second region-wide exercise to track the changes occurred between 2003 and 2008 on the levels of releases from industrial activities. The exercise was accompanied with a regional soft forum to facilitate the interactions and share information between national experiences from one side and the Secretariat from the other side. MED POL has therefore collected new reports related to the year 2008 from all countries with the exception of Albania and Greece.

As a result of the analysis of trends related to the loads of pollution that was compiled only for those pollutants for which adequate data was available, between 2003 and 2008 some encouraging trends have been observed on the reduction of emissions for different substances, countries and sectors, which indicate progress in the implementation of the National Action Plans to address pollution from land-based activities by the Mediterranean industry and the Mediterranean countries. By contrast, some increases in emissions have still been identified in the reported data (e.g. air emissions of some metals or PAHs), which might be related to the economic and demographic growth that took place during this period in most of Mediterranean countries. This indicates that additional measures are still needed in order to reduce pollutant releases, not only through the adoption of pollution abatement technologies but also by the promotion of cleaner production practices and sustainable consumption patterns, which shall

facilitate a de-link between economic growth and chemical pollution. Any achievement in this direction will have a positive effect in the quality and functionality of Mediterranean ecosystems, which are already affected by other pressures such as fisheries, urban development or climate change.

A draft document summarizing the results of the trend analysis has been prepared and is being circulated among MED POL Focal Points for comments.

Destruction of habitats

As a follow up to the work carried out by the Secretariat during previous years on the management of **sea water desalination** that led to the preparation of an assessment, Guidelines and the decision by the Contracting Parties to consider such activities as industrial activities falling under the provisions of the LBS Protocol, MED POL has attempted to diffuse as much as possible the information available on the environmental risks associated to desalination and on good management practices.

Reporting

MED POL continued to provide assistance to Contracting Parties experts to prepare their national reports on the implementation of LBS, Dumping and Hazardous waste Protocols in the framework of the MAP reporting exercise.

Considering the importance of the establishment of national **Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR)** systems, MED POL continued to provide technical and financial assistance to the countries to facilitate the implementation of pilot projects. In view of the successful results of the pilot project implemented in Izmir, Turkey, the national Authorities requested the implementation of a full size project that is expected to be launched by the second half of 2011.

In addition, the pilot project in Syria was successfully achieved in 12 industrial complexes thus preparing the launch of a full size project if resources are available.

As MED POL considers PRTR an essential tool for industrial pollution management, efforts are being made to identify new partners and find support. Preliminary but promising contacts were made with the Italian Government (INFO/RAC), the EC-ENV and through the planning of the long-term implementation of the SEIS initiative.

Other activities related to the LBS Protocol and the SAP

Regarding **Environmental Inspection systems** in the Mediterranean countries, as a follow up to the meeting of the Network on Compliance and Enforcement of legislation that was held from 13-14 October 2009 in Athens (it was held late in the previous biennium and therefore not referred to in previous progress reports), another meeting of the above Network is scheduled to take place in late November 2011 in Athens. The set of indicators for environmental inspections that was prepared and tested and finally agreed by all participants during the last meeting will serve for the preparation of country reports on the inspectorates to be presented during the next meeting.

The capacity building programme that was formulated under the GEF project commenced by mid-2010 in Montenegro with the identification of gaps in the inspection systems, a national workshop for practical guidance and a national final meeting for assessment and feedback. Croatia that was supposed to undergo the programme, decided to postpone it for the next biennium and Lebanon was contacted for implementing the activity.

MED POL Phase IV includes the issue of **health risks in tourist establishments** among those to be examined in the region, while tourism is indicated by the Mediterranean Commission on

Sustainable Development as being of outmost importance for development. Following the preparation during last biennium of an Action Plan on environmental health risks associated to tourism, guidelines to facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan are being prepared and will be finalized this year.

3. Assessment of pollution

Financial assistance agreements for the implementation of **national monitoring programmes**, have been signed with Egypt (2010), Tunisia (2010) and Turkey (2010).

Two missions were conducted to Algeria and Libya to discuss new national monitoring programmes in the framework of the MED POL Programme, and agreements for financial assistance are under negotiation with Algeria, Croatia and Morocco. The agreements are expected to be finalized and signed within 2011.

During the biennium 2010-2011, MED POL has received data from the national monitoring programmes of the following countries: Bosnia & Herzegovina (2006, 2007, 2008), Croatia (2009), Cyprus (2007), Egypt (2008, 2009), Israel (2008, 2009), Montenegro (2008, 2009), Morocco (2008, 2009), Slovenia (2007, 2008, 2009), Spain (2006, 2007), Tunisia (2008, 2009) and Turkey (2009, 2010). Efforts are still needed to extend the coverage temporally and geographically and to ensure good quality data.

Based on the recommendations of the 16th Contracting Parties Meeting and the conclusions of the Fifth Review Meeting of the Monitoring Activities (December, 2009), the countries that had no agreements with MED POL or had gaps in the provision of data were contacted with a request to provide the data and results of their monitoring activities according to MED POL specifications.

As a follow up to the approval by the Contracting Parties of the MED POL Phase IV programme, work continued on the organization of **sub-regional surveys** for the better understanding of the contamination levels of Mediterranean coastal waters. As an initiative was already in progress, it was decided to join hands with the ongoing activities and assist other Mediterranean laboratories to participate. In 2011 MED POL assisted the participation of Turkey in the project MYTITURK, which is being implemented with the scientific assistance of IFREMER. In the framework of the MYTITURK project, cages with mussels are placed in selected stations along the Turkish coasts and the mussels are later analysed for chemical contaminants (heavy metals and organics). MYTITURK Project is a continuation of MYTILOS/MYTIMED/MYTIAD/MYTIOR projects (Western Mediterranean Sea, Eastern Mediterranean Sea, Adriatic Sea, South-Eastern Mediterranean Sea), and completes the survey in the major part of the Mediterranean coastal zone. After the completion of the projects, a "snapshot" of the pollution impact on the marine biota in the entire Mediterranean coastal area, using caged mussels will be available. The overall programme is expected to be finalized by the end of 2011 and the results will be made available in 2012.

Also, as a follow-up to the recommendation of the MED POL Focal Points Meeting (Kalamata 2009) on the need to harmonize the assessment criteria for **biological effects monitoring** in the Mediterranean with those of the Northern European Organizations and Conventions, MED POL organised a Workshop on Environmental Biomonitoring and Risk Assessment (10 September 2010), as well as a five days Training Course on the development of biological effects monitoring methods in Alessandria, Italy (13-17 September 2010) with the participation of Mediterranean and non-Mediterranean scientists. The Report of the Intercalibration exercise and the Workshop will be soon made available.

Data quality assurance (DQA) is a vital component of the monitoring work. The Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory (MESL) of IAEA-MEL, continued to cooperate with the MED POL programme in the implementation of a comprehensive Data Quality Assurance programme for chemical contaminants in the framework of the national monitoring programmes.

As outlined below and described in more detail, the work of IAEA/MEL during 2010-2011 period focused on training courses in marine analytical chemistry of pollutants, inter-laboratory studies, the provision of expert technical advice and attendance at meetings.

Two training courses were organized in Monaco during the later part of 2010, and complete reports of the individual courses have been submitted to MED POL. A training course for the measurement of chlorinated pesticides and PCBs in environmental samples was organized from 25 October to 5 November 2010, with the participation 4 trainees from 4 countries (Albania, Morocco, Syria and Turkey). Similarly, a training course on determination of heavy metals in marine samples was organized during the same period (25 October to 5 November 2010), with the participation of 5 trainees from 5 countries (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Israel and). Two more training courses are scheduled for October-November 2011.

Two world-wide intercomparison exercises for organic contaminants (including the flame retardant PBDEs) (IAEA-451) and metals (IAEA-452) in biota were concluded during the biennium 2010-2011. In the framework of the IAEA-451 study, biota samples were sent to 67 laboratories from 19 countries and results were received from 35 laboratories from 12 countries. In the framework of the IAEA-452 study samples were sent to 58 laboratories from 14 countries and results were received from 42 laboratories from 13 Mediterranean countries. The relative reports are under preparation.

Also, during the biennium 2010-2011, two Analytical Performance Studies for organic pollutants and metals in sediments were completed on behalf of MED POL. For organic contaminants, samples were sent to 28 laboratories from 13 countries, and results were received from 16 laboratories from 10 countries. For the metals in sediments, 25 laboratories from 11 countries received samples and results were received from 14 laboratories from 6 countries. The reports are under preparation.

Actually, IAEA is preparing new Analytical Performance Studies for organic contaminants and metals in sediments, which will be sent to Mediterranean laboratories latter this year.

For eutrophication parameters an intercalibration exercise was implemented in 2010 using the services of QUASIMEME. MED POL supported the participation of 19 Mediterranean laboratories from 11 countries in the exercise for the determination of nutrients and chlorophyll-a.

To improve DQA for the biological effects monitoring, an intercalibration exercise financed by MED POL was organised by DiSAV with the participation of 12 Mediterranean and 2 non-Mediterranean laboratories (from OSPAR region). The intercalibration exercise was held in 2010.

MED POL participated in the 37th session of the GESAMP (Join Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection) (February 2010), and the 39th Congress of the CIESM (May 2010) to present the trends in the state of contamination in the coastal waters and hot spots in the Mediterranean, the Advisory Board meeting of the KNOWSEAS Project to assist the EC in the implementation of the ecosystem approach in the European regional Seas. Also MED POL followed the developments in the EU funded scientific projects SESAME, (assessment of past and current status in the Mediterranean and Black Sea) and MyOcean (operational oceanography)

4. Information System

The **MED POL Information System** that was developed by INFO/RAC includes the following modules:

- Intranet facilitating the contacts and dissemination of documents and information between the secretariat and the national coordinators;
- On line reporting that includes reporting on status, trends and compliance monitoring programmes;
- Data acquisition and drawing; and
- GIS.

During the current biennium INFO/RAC has faced a number of problems of legal and organizational nature due to the change of management, as the overall responsibility for the Centre moved from the Region Sicily to ISPRA. As a result, no activity could be implemented until the end of 2010. Recently, the MED POL Information System has been reactivated and is currently being updated. The System is expected to be fully functional within 2011.

Within the limit imposed by the current budget, MED POL is preparing a dedicated **web site** with the following address <http://www.medpol.unepmap.org> that is expected to be finalized by the end of the year.

5. Activities related to the implementation of the Dumping Protocol

Under the provisions of Article 5 of the 1976 Dumping Protocol, national authorities are requested to keep records of the dumping activities by issuing permits and informing the Secretariat accordingly. However, during the current biennium no countries have reported to the Secretariat on the permits issued.

The Secretariat has continued to keep close links with the London Convention and Protocol for the exchange of data and experience. MED POL has participated at the extraordinary Session of the Scientific Group of the London Convention and the Scientific Group of the London Protocol in 2010 where subject of common interest were debated, such waste assessment, Co2 sequestration, reporting and technical cooperation.

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

In cooperation with the Basel Convention Regional Center in Bratislava, an assessment the state of the art of the management of electric and electronic waste in the Mediterranean region which includes suggested national actions was prepared (see document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 357/Inf.11). In addition, in cooperation with BCRCs Slovakia a database of harmonized definitions and characteristics of banned chemicals is also being prepared taking into account the requirements of the Hazardous Waste Protocol as well as the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions.