

III. RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

A. FRAMEWORK CONVENTION AND RELATED PROTOCOLS

The Contracting Parties:

1. Reaffirm the need to prepare a consolidated annual report on the steps taken in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols which should be submitted to the Secretariat by 30 June of each year.
2. Invite Contracting Parties to ratify the Protocol on Land-based sources.
3. Invite Contracting Parties to ratify the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas.
4. Invite the Contracting Parties to ratify the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from ships, 1973 and the related Protocol 1978 (MARPOL 73/78).
5. Invite the Contracting Parties to ratify all international conventions relevant to the protection of the environment.
6. Request the Secretariat to initiate preparation for a Protocol on the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from off-shore exploration and exploitation.
7. Invite the EEC to provide the Secretariat with documents and information on liability and compensation for damages resulting from pollution other than hydrocarbons.
8. Recommend that adequate port reception facilities be provided in the Mediterranean as required by the MARPOL 73/78 Convention.
9. Welcome the intention of the Interparliamentary Union to convene in 1986 its Special Committee for the study of the means to control the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea and invite the Secretariat to assist the IPU Committee in its work.
10. Invite all Contracting Parties to participate actively in the development of a network of regional centres for maritime traffic services so that all the Mediterranean may be covered in an appropriate manner by this network.

B. CO-OPERATION IN CASES OF EMERGENCIES

The Contracting Parties:

1. Recommend that all Coastal States develop and adopt national contingency plans, which are an essential prerequisite to building multilateral and sub-regional arrangements for mutual assistance in cases of emergency.
2. Recommend that the Regional Oil Combating Centre develops proposals for sub-regional co-operation arrangements in case of emergencies involving oil pollution.
3. Request that the Director of the Regional Oil Combating Centre, in consultation with the parties to the protocol, prepare the appropriate policies in order to reactivate co-operation within the context of the protocol and establish a work programme.

C. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Contracting Parties:

1. Wish to expand the co-ordinating and the catalytic role of the Co-ordinating Unit for the implementation of all components of the Action Plan and of the Convention, including its protocols.
2. Note with satisfaction the consolidation of the Regional Activity Centres for the Blue Plan (Sophia Antipolis), the Priority Actions Programme (Split) and the Specially Protected Areas (Tunis). Agreements with host countries covering the Centres should be completed as soon as possible.
3. Reconfirm that the Regional Activity Centres are national institutions entrusted to carry out specific tasks under the Mediterranean Action Plan.
4. Confirm that the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation for MED POL and the joint meetings of the national Focal Points for the Blue Plan and the Priority Actions Programme are the standing subsidiary bodies of the Contracting Parties for the scientific/technical and socio-economic components of the Action Plan.
5. Recommend that a meeting be convened to review the structure and functions of the Regional Oil Combating Centre (ROCC) and that its recommendations be submitted to the 5th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties for decision.
6. Recommend that a survey of training programmes and of technical co-operation programmes relevant to the various components of the Action Plan be carried out by the Secretariat and its results made available to all Contracting Parties.

7. Welcome the recommended steps to be taken in order to initiate action at the country level to publicize the role of the Mediterranean Action Plan in protecting the Mediterranean Sea against pollution, as proposed by the meeting of Directors of United Nations Information Centres, in particular by promoting the Mediterranean Environment Week.
8. Welcome the issue of the Mediterranean Action Plan Information bulletin, MEDWAVES, and consider it an important contribution to the information exchange.
9. Welcome the proposal of Italy that the Secretariat study the existing capacity and possibilities of co-operation in the Mediterranean, as well as the possibility of the establishment of regional and subregional activities for remote sensing.
10. Decide to hold the Fifth Ordinary Meeting in Athens (Greece) from 7 to 11 September 1987.

D. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Contracting Parties:

1. Take note of the status of the Mediterranean Trust Fund in 1984 - 1985.
2. Approve the apportionment of contributions for the 1986-1987 biennium contained in annex VI, and the revised 1984-1987 cash flow contained in annex VII.
3. Approve the budget for the 1986-1987 biennium contained in annex VIII.
4. Decide to recommend to the Governing Council of UNEP an extension of the Mediterranean Trust Fund through 1987.

E. INTEGRATED PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE RESOURCES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

1. BLUE PLAN

The Contracting Parties:

- (a) Consider it necessary to create and circulate as soon as possible a document for use by the States, describing in detail the procedure of the scenarios, the baseline hypotheses, data and sources, and the goals to be achieved. The document should also set out clearly the data to be collected by the States and a methodology to allow to establish national scenarios in harmony with and consistent with the scenarios as a whole;
- (b) Consider it necessary to develop and maintain the process of interaction between the States and the Blue Plan Unit throughout Phases I and II and to take into account the comments and requirements of the Contracting Parties and to try to achieve agreement should any major difficulties arise;

- (c) Reiterate their commitment to the completion of the Blue Plan exercise by the end of 1987;
- (d) Welcome and endorse the recommendations of the Joint Meeting of the Focal Points of the Blue Plan and the Priority Actions Programme;
- (e) Recommend that the participation of all the Blue Plan Focal Points in the exercise be encouraged and facilitated and, through them, the participation of national institutions;
- (f) Decide that the following five National Focal Points will be members of the Steering Committee for 1986, until the completion of Phase II: EEC, Egypt, Greece, Israel and Malta, under the Chairmanship of the National Focal Point for Italy. The Focal Points for Algeria, Cyprus, France, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Monaco and Tunisia will constitute the Steering Committee in 1987 and will elect their chairman from a Contracting Party from the southern Mediterranean and a vice-chairman;
- (g) Request an in-depth review by the Contracting Parties of the results of the Blue Plan, and examination of its relevance for national development strategies (by 1988/89).

2. PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME

The Contracting Parties:

- (a) Welcome and endorse the programme recommendations of the Joint Meeting of Focal Points of Blue Plan and Priority Actions Programme;
- (b) Recommend that the States who have not yet done so, designate the PAP National Focal Points to provide full support to Priority Actions Programme. Whenever appropriate and feasible, it would be desirable that the National Focal Points for the Blue Plan and for the Priority Actions Programme are identical in order to ensure the harmonious development of the integrated planning and management component of the Action Plan;
- (c) Recommend that the involvement of national institutions and experts be encouraged, in order to facilitate the establishment of Priority Actions Programme networks of institutions and experts giving their contribution to the Priority Actions Programme.

3. SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

The Contracting Parties:

- (a) Invite the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas to formulate, in co-operation with the Secretariat and other relevant international organizations, common guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of Specially Protected Areas;

- (b) Recommend the preparation of national reports on existing and planned Specially Protected Areas and on the applicable legislation and transmit it to the Secretariat by 30 June 1986 in order to facilitate the early establishment of a regional network and co-ordination with other MAP components;
- (c) Recommend that all Contracting Parties designate a National Focal Point responsible for Specially Protected Areas;
- (d) Recommend the ratification of the Specially Protected Areas Protocol by all Parties to the Barcelona Convention by 1987.

F. LONG-TERM PROGRAMME FOR POLLUTION MONITORING AND RESEARCH (MED POL - PHASE II)

1. MONITORING

The Contracting Parties recommend the following activities to be carried out during the 1986/1987 biennium:

- (a) Continuation of negotiations with the MED POL National Co-ordinators in order to increase the contributions to MED POL - PHASE II through their National Monitoring Programmes; specific efforts will be made to improve the presently insufficient coverage of the Mediterranean with the monitoring programme and to achieve a more efficient and meaningful regular reporting on the obtained results;
- (b) Continuation of contacts with national research centres designated as participants in the monitoring activities of MED POL - PHASE II in order to facilitate their participation in the programme;
- (c) Provision of equipment, training and fellowships to national research centres, at the request of, and in consultation with, MED POL National Co-ordinators in the States with signed National Monitoring Programmes;
- (d) Continued support to the participants in MED POL through the common maintenance services, provision of reference methods for marine pollution studies, provision of reference material and standards, and through involvement in intercalibration in order to assist them to improve the quality of their data;
- (e) Strengthening of the computerized MED POL data bank by processing of data reported to the Secretariat and preparation of periodic data profiles on contaminants of specific and general interest;
- (f) Development and testing of additional reference methods for marine pollution studies and preparation of additional standards and reference materials relevant to parameters to be monitored during MED POL - PHASE II;

- (g) Implementation of a pilot project to assess the feasibility of monitoring pollutant transport into the Mediterranean Sea through the atmosphere;
- (h) Preparation of inventories of sources and amounts of pollutants from land-based sources;
- (i) Assessment of the type and amount of selected substances reaching the Mediterranean through natural processes from land-based or maritime sources;
- (j) Organization of smaller ad hoc meetings of scientists/experts from collaborating research centres to discuss specific problems of particular importance for the implementation of the monitoring programme and in particular, a consultation meeting to assess the results of monitoring the pollutants from land-based sources, including the effectiveness of presently used methodology and sampling strategies;
- (k) Sponsoring the participation of scientists/experts in meetings organized by other bodies on subjects relevant to monitoring activities of MED POL;
- (l) Evaluation of the monitoring component of the MED POL programme. The Secretariat, in consultation with Mediterranean scientists/experts playing an active role in the programme, will prepare the necessary documentation which will be submitted for a thorough review to the 1987 Meeting of the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation for transmission to the Contracting Parties.

2. RESEARCH

- (a) During the 1986/1987 biennium the selection and funding of research proposals will follow the procedures endorsed by the Working Group for scientific and technical co-operation and approved by the Contracting Parties.
- (b) The already existing close link between the research and the monitoring components of MED POL will be strengthened in order to make full use of the results of the research activities in the assessments of the state of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea.
- (c) In order to facilitate the evaluation of the results coming from individual research projects, a more co-ordinated approach in the implementation of the projects will be followed. Scientific workshops and experts meetings will be held on topics which need a common methodology for sampling and analysis and co-ordination of work between research centres.
- (d) Specific activities proposed for individual research topics are listed here below.

Activity A (Development and testing of sampling and analytical techniques for monitoring of marine pollutants)

1. The development of new reference methods and the revision of the existing ones will closely follow the needs of the monitoring component of MED POL. Research projects will be limited to those considered necessary for achieving this goal.
2. Intercalibration exercises will be made mandatory for participants in the monitoring programme in order to ensure the comparability of the results and the quality of data.
3. A few research proposals will be solicited to develop and test reference methods relevant to the analysis of levels and effects of chemical contaminants in marine organisms.
4. The Joint IOC/UNEP Group of Experts on Methods, Standards and Intercalibration (GEMSI) will continue to assist in the development and in reviewing the new reference methods.
5. One expert meeting and one intercalibration exercise are planned to be convened in connection with Activity 'A':
 - review of new reference methods for the determination of chemical contaminants (end of 1986),
 - intercalibration exercise for reference methods dealing with petroleum hydrocarbons (early 1986);

Activity B (Development of reporting formats required according to the Dumping, Emergency and Land-Based Sources Protocols),

Activity C (Formulation of the scientific rationale for Mediterranean Environmental Quality Criteria), and,

Activity E (Guidelines and criteria for the application of the Land-Based Sources Protocol)

1. These activities are directly related to the implementation of the LBS Protocol, and their orientation will be based on the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on the Technical Implementation of the Protocol to be held in Athens, 9-13 December 1985.

Activity D (Epidemiological studies related to Environmental Quality Criteria)

1. It is intended to convert the present loose network of Mediterranean institutions working on the correlation between coastal water quality (recreational and shellfish-growing waters) and health effects into a more coherent one, with maximum complementarity between institutions, all of which will be working according to the same guidelines and towards one common objective. Liaison will also be ensured to the fullest extent possible with similar programmes outside the region to avoid duplication and minimize overlap. It is proposed to convene a consultation meeting in 1987 with the main objectives of (a) assessing and harmonizing the results of individual institutions, (b) reviewing the impact of such results on the requirements of the monitoring programme, and (c) discussing the scientific rationale required to evaluate the effect of the applications of environmental quality criteria for the relevant parameters.
2. By the beginning of 1986, the project on evaluation of methylmercury in Mediterranean populations and related health hazards is expected to be fully operational in at least four Mediterranean countries (Egypt, Greece, Italy and Yugoslavia). During 1986 and 1987, this project will continue its course, together with supporting studies, with possible expansion to other areas which might present mercury anomalies. In at least one country, the second phase of the project (the clinical epidemiological phase) is expected to commence in 1986. It is proposed to hold a consultation meeting during the second half of 1986 with the aims of (a) assessing results obtained to date, and (b) providing an interim report to the Contracting Parties, on the basis of which appropriate control and health protection measures could be carried out.

Activity F (Research on oceanographic processes)

1. It is proposed to continue and complete the review on oceanographic processes affecting pollutant distribution in the Mediterranean, and to prepare a consolidated bibliography on research in this field.

Activity G (Research on the toxicity, persistence, bioaccumulation, carcinogenicity and mutagenicity)

1. The ongoing research projects on the carcinogenicity and mutagenicity of pollutants will be more intimately linked with the WHO/UNEP/ILO and WHO/EURO programmes on chemical safety and other activities being carried out at the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to ensure that no duplication or overlap take place. The conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting on toxicity and bioaccumulation of selected substances in marine organisms (Rovinj, 5-9 November 1984) will be taken into consideration when approving new research proposals.
2. Two reference methods will be developed relevant to this field. The first one concerns acute toxicity testing and the second one testing sub-lethal effects of toxic substances on marine organisms.

Activity H (Eutrophication and concomitant plankton blooms)

1. Based on UNESCO's guidelines for the assessment of receiving capacity of waters for eutrophication substances, a meeting will be convened to agree on appropriate methods for eutrophication assessment and identify markedly eutrophied areas. A pilot project proposed to start in 1987, should include comparative studies in eutrophication of several coastal areas and will serve as a basis for a long-term eutrophication monitoring programme.
2. Depending on the analysis of the results obtained through the jellyfish programme, the programme may be extended for the 1986-1987 biennium.

Activity I (Pollution-induced ecosystems modifications)

1. The conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting planned to be convened in autumn 1985 to review the progress of the ongoing projects and to suggest common methodology for the interpretation of results will be taken into account for the further development of this activity.

Activity J (Effects of thermal discharges on coastal organisms and ecosystems)

1. The two ongoing projects approved as case studies are expected to be completed in 1986. Taking into account the results of these studies and the GESAMP Report No. 24 (Thermal discharges in the marine environment), a decision will be taken on the future of this activity.

Activity K (Biogeochemical cycles of specific pollutants)

1. Future research will be directed to fill the gaps identified by the Meeting on the Biogeochemical cycle of mercury in the Mediterranean (Siena, 27-31 August 1984). Projects relevant to these gaps will be solicited.
2. Studies will be continued on the survival of selected pathogens, according to Annex II of the Land-Based Sources Protocol.

Activity L (Pollutant-transfer processes)

1. In addition to the continuation of ongoing research projects, a review on pollutant transfer through the straits is proposed as well as the development of a pilot project to determine such exchanges as a basis for overall mass balance assessment of selected pollutants. A pilot project for sampling of surface microlayer for petroleum and other pollutants will be initiated.

2. A pilot project on studying air pollutant depositions into the Mediterranean region and pollutant concentrations in air should be initiated in 1986 in as many countries as possible on the basis of programme proposals agreed upon by experts nominated by National Co-ordinators. The WMO Background Air Pollution Monitoring Network (BAPMON) stations could be used for sampling. Provision of appropriate sampling equipment should be envisaged, if necessary. A workshop should be held in 1987 to review the preliminary results of these activities.
3. A small expert meeting is planned to be convened in 1987 to review the results of ongoing research projects on work of transport of pollutants by sedimentation and to determine further research needs.

3. TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAND-BASED SOURCES PROTOCOL

- (a) Early implementation of the Protocol is a single most important contribution to the control of pollutants entering the Mediterranean Sea.
- (b) The Secretariat will propose an order of priority and a realistic timetable for the development of programmes and measures for at least two substances annually, including common emission standards and standards of use, required for the implementation of the Protocol.
- (c) In preparing such a proposal, the substances of annex I of the Land-based Sources Protocol as well as pathogenic organisms will be taken into account as higher priority than the remaining annex II substances.
- (d) All Contracting Parties should ratify the Protocol by 1987.
- (e) The annex related to air pollution in the framework of the Protocol should be adopted by 1988.
- (f) For the implementation of the Protocol it is essential that the survey of Land-based Sources and amounts of pollutants reaching the Mediterranean be made by the end of 1986.

4. TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DUMPING PROTOCOL

- (l) Administrative matters.
 - (a) The Contracting Parties which have not yet done so should designate without delay "competent authorities", in accordance with article 10 of the Protocol.
 - (b) On the basis of information provided by the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat should prepare and circulate a roster of experts and institutions capable of providing technical assistance on matters of dumping of wastes at sea and on alternative methods for waste disposal.

- (2) Reporting and notification.
 - (a) Reports transmitted by the Contracting Parties to the Secretariat in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention should include copies, or alternatively summaries, of legal or administrative rules referring to implementation of the Protocol. The Secretariat should prepare and circulate annual reports summarizing submissions made by the Contracting Parties.
 - (b) The Contracting Parties concerned should transmit to the Secretariat "NIL reports" when no dumping permits were issued and no dumping has taken place during the period for which reports on permits issued and on actual dumping have to be submitted.
 - (c) The Contracting Parties should amend the Provisional Prior Consultation Procedure adopted by the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties so that its opening sentence would read: "The following procedure which does not apply to sewage sludge and dredge spoils is recommended ..." (appendix 1).
- (3) Definitions of terms mentioned in annex I and criteria for application of article 5 of the Protocol.
 - (a) The Contracting Parties should adopt, on a provisional basis, the definitions set forth in paragraphs 1(a) and 1(b) of appendix 2 for the terms "non toxic", "rapidly converted in the sea into substances which are biologically harmless", "rapidly rendered harmless by physical, chemical or biological processes in the sea" and, "trace contaminants" mentioned in annex I of the Protocol. The implication of these definitions should be taken into account when the Provisional Prior Consultation Procedure is applied.
 - (b) The Contracting Parties should adopt, on a provisional basis, the definition set forth in paragraph 1(c) of appendix 2 for the expression "acid and alkaline compounds of such composition and in such quantity that they may seriously impair the quality of sea-water" mentioned in paragraph 8 of annex I of the Protocol. The Secretariat should develop and circulate practical guidelines for dumping of acid and alkaline compounds covered by annex II of the Protocol.
 - (c) The Contracting Parties should urge the International Atomic Energy Agency to complete its work on the definition of the de-minimis level of radioactivity for wastes and other matter of low-level radioactivity and to make it available for the Contracting Parties.

- (4) Monitoring and research.
 - (a) The Contracting Parties concerned should include monitoring of critical dumping sites in their National Monitoring Programmes carried out within the framework of MED POL - PHASE II. Reports on the monitoring of dumping sites should be transmitted to the Secretariat in conjunction with the reports on the National Monitoring Programmes.
 - (b) The Contracting Parties concerned should encourage their national research institutions to initiate and conduct, within the framework of MED POL - PHASE II, research projects relevant to the implementation of the Protocol.

- (5) Relationships with other organizations.

The Contracting Parties should promote co-operation with the Secretariat and with other international organizations with regard to the exchange of scientific and technical information, on the prevention of marine pollution by dumping from ships and aircraft.

Appendix 1. Provisional prior consultation procedure

1. The following procedure is recommended to preclude misunderstandings between Parties in those instances where the terms "non-toxic", "rapidly converted" and "trace contaminants" (all three in annex I of the Protocol) are quoted to justify dumping.

2. If dumping of substances mentioned in annex I is being considered by a Party on the assumption that they are "non-toxic" or "rapidly converted", or appear only as "trace contaminants", the Organization shall be advised by the Party as soon as possible and no later than four months prior to the time of the envisaged dumping. Information concerning all the factors that are to be considered for the issuance of a permit (annex III of the Protocol) should be given. Where appropriate, an indication may be provided of the considerations that led to a rejection of land-based processing or storage. The Organization shall forward this information to the other Parties which may respond within one month.

3. If one of the Parties wishes to object against the proposed dumping, it must state within the period agreed upon why it considers dumping harmful, i.e. unpermissible. Alternative approaches to processing or storage of waste materials may be suggested. This response shall be sent to the Organization as well as to the Party that intends to resort to dumping. The Organization may be requested to distribute the comments among the other Parties. When requested by a Party the proposed dumping shall be postponed whenever possible, until the matter has been considered at a subsequent ordinary or extraordinary meeting of the Parties. Unless mutual agreement is reached to defer the matter to a subsequent meeting of the Parties or to handle the issue bilaterally, the Party which envisages dumping shall advise the other Parties through the Organization on the course of

action that will be followed. This reply should be supported by arguments, in particular regarding why there would be a need to proceed with the dumping before the issue could be brought up at the next meeting of the Parties. This leaves open the possibility (stipulated by article 14 of the Protocol), to convene a special meeting of the Parties at the request of three Parties, possibly preceding the time set for dumping.

4. Where dumping has occurred without an agreement on the necessity of dumping or the way it has been carried out, the subject shall be brought up at the next meeting of the Parties. This leaves open the possibility (stipulated by article 14 of the Protocol), to convene a special meeting of the Parties at the request of three Parties, possibly preceding the time set for dumping.

5. The provisional procedure outlined above does not, of course, affect article 9 of the Protocol, dealing with critical situation of an exceptional nature.

6. The provisional procedure should not be construed as a substitute for further efforts to refine the definitions of the terms mentioned in paragraph 1 above. On the contrary, experience with this notification and consultation procedure may point the way towards an unambiguous interpretation of these terms.

Appendix 2. Provisional definitions of terms mentioned in annex I and provisional criteria for application of article 5 of the Protocol

1. Definitions of terms mentioned in annex I:

- (a) Annex I substances listed in paragraphs 1, 2 and 8 of annex I may be regarded as "non-toxic" or "rapidly converted in the sea into substances which are biologically harmless" or "rapidly rendered harmless by physical, chemical or biological processes in the sea" if tests of the wastes or other matter proposed for dumping, including tests on the persistence of the material, show that the substances can be dumped so as not to cause acute or chronic toxic effects or bioaccumulation in sensitive marine organisms typical of the ecosystem at the disposal site.
- (b) Annex I substances listed in paragraphs 1-6 of annex I shall not be regarded as "trace contaminants" under the following three conditions:
 - if they are present in otherwise acceptable wastes or other material to which they have been added for the purpose of being dumped;
 - if they occur in such amounts that the dumping of the wastes or other material could cause undesirable effects, especially the possibility of chronic or acute toxic effects on marine organisms or human health whether or not arising from the bioaccumulation in marine organisms and especially in food species, and

- if they are present in such amounts that it is practical to reduce their concentration further by technical means.

- (c) In the context of paragraph 8 of annex I, "acid and alkaline compounds of such composition and in such quantity that they may seriously impair the quality of sea-water" are acid and alkaline compounds that their dumping at sea may change the pH value of the receiving waters, after allowance for 5 minutes of initial mixing, by more than 2 pH units. All other acid and alkaline compounds may be regarded as substances covered by annex II.

2. Provisional criteria for application of article 5 of the Protocol, pending review by the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation.

The dumping of wastes and other matter containing the substances listed in paragraph 1 of annex II of the Protocol must be subject to the provision of article 5 of the Protocol only when these substances are contained in the wastes or other matter in significant concentrations. In this context, provisionally, the term "significant concentrations" shall mean 0.05 per cent or more by weight for lead and its compounds, for pesticides and their by-products not covered in annex I, and, for synthetic organic chemical other than those referred to in annex I, likely to produce harmful effects on marine organisms or to make edible marine organisms unpalatable. For all of the other substances listed in paragraph 1 of annex II the term "significant concentrations" shall mean 0.1 per cent or more by weight.

5. INTERIM ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CRITERIA FOR MERCURY

- (1) According to the available evidence to date, on the basis of present concentrations of mercury in Mediterranean seafood it appears that the consumption of seafood by the general population does not present any risk.
- (2) It is considered therefore that, at this stage, the adoption of upper limits for mercury concentrations in seafood on a common regional basis would not be a priori justified.
- (3) On the basis of the assessment of the quality of Mediterranean seafood with regard to its mercury content prepared by FAO/UNEP, the Contracting Parties:
- (a) Take note of the interim criterion proposed by the joint FAO/WHO Committee of Experts on food additives. According to this criterion, the Provisional Tolerable Weekly Intake of 0.3 mg of mercury, of which not more than 0.2 mg is methylmercury, for a person of 70 Kg bodyweight, should not be exceeded;
- (b) Take into consideration this criterion to establish, if national circumstances so require, standards for maximum concentration of mercury in seafoods;

- (c) Use for the determination of total mercury the Reference Method "Determination of Total Mercury in Selected Marine Organisms by Cold Vapour Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry" (Reference Methods for Marine Pollution Studies No. 8/Rev. 1, UNEP/FAO/IAEA, 1984) and for the determination of methylmercury in marine organisms, the Reference Method "Determination of Methylmercury in Selected Marine Organisms by Gas Chromatography" (Reference Methods No. 13, UNEP/FAO/IAEA, 1984). However, other methods giving comparable results could also be used;
- (d) Include, to the extent possible, in their National Monitoring Programmes, the sampling and analysis of species of seafood, known to accumulate mercury, in addition to those already monitored in the framework of MED POL - PHASE II;
- (e) Limit anthropogenic discharges of mercury into the Mediterranean Sea pending the eventual formulation of emission standards for mercury, as a result of the entry into force of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources, and in terms of article 5 of that Protocol, commence as early as possible, the elaboration of the necessary programmes and measures with respect to mercury;
- (f) Provide the Secretariat to the Convention with the fullest information possible on :
- present legislation and administrative measures on existing national criteria for levels of mercury in seafood;
 - measures taken on (b), (c), (d) and (e);
 - relevant monitoring data on (d) above;
- (g) Continue to carry out the monitoring and research component of MED POL PHASE II relevant to the assessment of mercury content of Mediterranean seafoods, and the risks affecting all sectors of the population arising from seafood consumption, in particular:
- identification of population groups at risk;
 - surveys on seafood consumption patterns among such populations;
 - surveys on mercury levels in affected population groups;
 - epidemiological studies to obtain the necessary information on the relationship between mercury intake and health effects;
 - studies of the relationship between total mercury and methylmercury content of seafood, and the effects of cooking on such content;
 - studies on biogeochemical cycles of mercury in the Mediterranean;
 - studies on the effects of selenium in decreasing mercury toxicity.

6. INTERIM ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CRITERIA FOR BATHING WATERS

(1) The Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Athens, 10-13 April 1984) had recommended to adopt the WHO/UNEP interim environmental quality criteria of the Mediterranean bathing waters, shellfish and shellfish-growing waters and implement them to the extent possible by appropriate national, legal and/or administrative measures.

(2) On the basis of the results of MED POL VII and the analysis of the present national and international regulations related to the environmental quality criteria of the Mediterranean bathing waters, proposals were submitted for the consideration of the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation, with a view to their transmission by UNEP to the Contracting Parties.

(3) The Contracting Parties:

(a) Take measures for a transition period that will ensure as minimum common requirements that the quality of bathing waters will conform with the proposed interim WHO/UNEP environmental quality criteria concerning faecal coliforms, (see table below);

- during this period, the Contracting Parties which have already standards will continue to apply them without modifying their legislation and will perform comparative studies between their own standards and the WHO/UNEP criteria;
- the results of these studies, after being evaluated by the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Cooperation, will be submitted to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties, with a view to reach Mediterranean common criteria.

(b) Adopt one of the "Methods for Marine Pollution Studies" developed to support the proposed interim environmental quality criteria as one of the two reference methods (Reference Methods for Pollution Studies Nos. 3, "Determination of Faecal Coliforms in sea-water by the Membrane Filtration Culture (MFC) Method", or 22, "Determination of Faecal Coliforms in sea-water by the Multiple Test Tube (MPN) Method") to be used in connection with these criteria;

(c) Include, to the extent possible, all public coastal recreational beaches in their National Monitoring Programmes within the framework of MED POL - PHASE II;

(d) Provide the Secretariat to the Convention with the fullest information possible on:

- present legislation and administrative measures on existing national criteria for coastal recreational and shellfish-growing waters;
- measures taken on (a) and (c) above;
- relevant monitoring data from (c) above.

(e) Continue to provide full support to the research and monitoring component of MED POL - PHASE II relevant to the assessment of the environmental quality of bathing waters, shellfish and shellfish-growing waters, in particular to:

- studies on the intercomparison of various analytical techniques for the main microbiological indicators;
- development of sampling and analytical techniques for pathogenic organisms in coastal recreational and shellfish-growing waters;
- studies on the survival of pathogenic organisms in sea-water;
- expansion of the present programme of epidemiological studies to achieve the necessary information on the relationship between water quality and health effects.

Interim environmental quality criteria
for bathing waters in the Mediterranean Sea

Parameter	Concentrations per 100 ml not to be exceeded		Minimum number of samples	Analytical method	Intepretation method
	50% of the samples	90%			
Faecal coliforms	100	1000	10	WHO/UNEP Reference Method No. 3, "Determination of Faecal Coliforms in sea-water by the Membrane Filtration Culture Method", or WHO/UNEP Reference Method No. 22, Culture Method", or "Determination of Faecal Coliforms in sea-water by the Multiple Test Tube Method".	Graphical or analytical adjustment to a log normal probability distribution

7. ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CRITERIA FOR SHELLFISH AND SHELLFISH-GROWING WATERS

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 1984 regarding the adoption of the WHO/UNEP interim environmental quality criteria for shellfish and shellfish-growing waters, the Contracting Parties request that these subjects be taken into account at the meeting of the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation with a view to their application and enforcement, as far as possible, by appropriate measures.

G. CREATION OF FLOATING RECEPTION FACILITIES IN
THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

The Contracting Parties:

Recalling that the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution made at Barcelona 1976 and its related Protocols are based on the full realization of the need for close co-operation among the States and International organizations concerned in a co-ordinated and comprehensive regional approach for the protection and enhancement of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea area;

Whereas the Mediterranean is designated as a "special area" under MARPOL 73/78 for which special mandatory methods for the prevention of sea pollution by oil are required;

Whereas Article 6 of the Barcelona Convention concerning pollution from ships calls upon Contracting Parties to take all measures in conformity with international law to prevent, abate and combat pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area caused by discharges from ships and to ensure the effective implementation in that Area of the "rules that are generally recognized at the international level" in this regard;

Conscious of the lack of reception facilities in many areas; and that their construction on shore takes a long time;

Taking note of the conclusions of the expert meeting on floating reception facilities held in Brussels on 4 and 5 July 1985;

Taking note in particular that floating reception facilities in the Mediterranean could be operational in a short time, and complementary to the shore reception facilities, these could be economically viable under specific conditions, be technically feasible and could be operated by a private company or other entity;

Taking note that a call for tender should be launched to this effect;

Invite Governments to participate actively in the implementation of one or several floating reception facilities in the vicinity of ports or sheltered areas in which important maritime traffic of tankers may need such facilities in order to comply with stringent discharge requirements;

Encourage interested Parties to realize a demonstrative pilot project of such a facility which constitutes a first step toward a more comprehensive system;

Apply the necessary control procedures, in accordance with international regulations promulgated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), to ensure that vessels use the reception facilities for discharging their dirty ballast water and oil residues in a reception facility and to report periodically to the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP).

H. PARTICIPATION TO ACTION COST 30I CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF THE
RISK OF MARITIME CASUALTIES AND THE PREVENTION OF
POLLUTION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA THROUGH A
REGIONAL NETWORK OF VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICES CENTRES (RVTS)

The Contracting Parties:

Recalling that the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution done at Barcelona 1976 and its related Protocols are based on the full realization of the need for close co-operation among the States and international organizations concerned in a co-ordinated and comprehensive regional approach for the protection and enhancement of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea Area;

Whereas States bordering a semi-enclosed sea such as the Mediterranean should co-operate with each other directly or regionally in the protection and preservation of the marine environment;

Conscious of the impressive and noteworthy co-operation to date of the Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols and the need for maintaining that level of full co-operation in the future;

Conscious also of the need for all Contracting Parties to ratify existing international Conventions relating to the safety of navigation and comply with guidelines and rules relating to traffic separation schemes, traffic services and ships reporting system promulgated by IMO;

Recognizing that a non assisted maritime traffic is subject to high risk of casualties and consequent great potential danger for the marine environment;

Taking note with satisfaction of the existence of the EEC Action COST 30I concerning the reduction of the risk of maritime casualties and the prevention of pollution in European waters through shore-based marine traffic systems;

Whereas in the framework of the action COST 30I a pilot project has been set up to improve maritime safety and pollution prevention and fighting in the Mediterranean, to which participate some Contracting Parties, namely France, Greece, Italy and Spain;

Whereas the specific Mediterranean project developed within the COST 30I welcomes the participation of all countries wishing to do so;

Taking note with great interest that bilateral contacts are in progress between the European Mediterranean States and a number of other coastal States of the Mediterranean basic to ensure a wider involvement in the Mediterranean part of this COST 30I project;

Whereas the Mediterranean Sea needs to be widely protected from maritime casualties in order to prevent pollution to the marine environment;

Urge all the Contracting Parties to participate actively in the action COST 30I in order to ensure that all the Mediterranean sea can be adequately covered by an effective Regional Network of Vessel Traffic Services Centres (RVTS).