

Decision IG 17/8: Implementation of NAPs and the preparation of legally binding measures and timetables required by Article 15 of the LBS Protocol

The 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling the substantial progress in the fight against land-based pollution made by the Parties through the preparation and endorsement in 2005 of National Action Plans,

Considering that the implementation of the NAPs by the Parties, already started in 2006, will directly result in reduction of pollution and possible elimination of pollution hot spots,

Considering the need to formulate an appropriate long-term strategy to ensure the implementation of NAPs aiming at the mitigation of inherent technical, institutional and financial difficulties,

Taking into account the results of the comparative analysis made by the Secretariat of the content of the NAPs vis-a-vis the expected SAP targets,

Reaffirming the need to identify and agree on a differentiation approach for pollution reduction,

Reaffirming the need to agree on short- and long-term priority substances and sectors for pollution reduction,

Recalling the need to elaborate national and regional action plans and programmes, containing measures and timetables for their implementation (Art. 5 of the LBS Protocol),

Recalling the need to adopt the national and regional action plans and programmes containing measures and timetables for their implementation, which would become legally-binding one year after the entry into force of the Protocol (Art.15 of the LBS Protocol),

Taking into account the recommendations of the Meeting of the MED POL National Coordinators held in Hammamet in June 2007;

Decides:

1. To continue the implementation of NAPs endorsed in 2005 to the greatest possible extent foreseeing their revision in 2011; throughout the process, the Secretariat will continue to support with capacity building activities covering technical, institutional and financial aspects.
2. To develop the following elements in the framework of MED POL:
 - Identification of priority substances and sectors during 2008-2009;
 - Identification of a differentiation mechanism during 2008-2009 for the implementation of regional Emission Limit Values (ELVs), based on BAT, and start the process of developing regional and/or sub-regional –as appropriate- Environmental Quality Objectives (EQOs) for the marine environment;
 - Identification of relevant elements and indicators arising from the implementation of the ecosystem approach.

3. To establish a working group to develop by 2011³² action plans and programmes containing the legally binding measures and timetables required by article 15 of the LBS protocol, taking into consideration the possibility of using the elements arising from the above process for this purpose as well as for the revision of the NAPs.

³² Date to be revisited upon the entry into force of the LBS Protocol.