

Decision IG.19/10

"Sound management of chemicals"

The 16th Meeting of Contracting Parties,

Recalling Article 8 of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean as amended in Barcelona in 1995, herein after referred to as the Barcelona Convention,

Recalling Article 15 of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, as amended in 1996, herein after referred to as the LBS Protocol,

Recalling also decision IG 17/8 of the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Almeria, Spain in January 2008 on the implementation of the NAPs and elaboration of the legally binding measures and programmes pursuant to Article 15 of the LBS protocol,

Noting the action list of chemicals agreed upon by the MED POL Meeting on the Implementation of NAPs and the Preparation of Legally Binding Measures and Timetables Required by Article 15 of the LBS Protocol which was held in Aix-en-Provence, 27-28 November 2008,

Noting the launch of the joint MED POL/CP RAC pilot project for the disposal of PCBs in the framework of the GEF Strategic Partnership,

Recalling the progress made at international level on the need to ensure coordination and cooperation between the chemicals conventions and programmes,

Recognizing that there is a need to ensure effective use of resources and coherence between the sectoral policies related to chemicals at the national level,

Welcoming the decision taken by the 4th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention that acknowledges the MAP Regional Activity Centre on Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) as a Regional Centre under the Stockholm Convention for capacity building and technology transfer in the Mediterranean region,

Appreciating the work carried out at CP/RAC on the transfer of technology and the capacity building in Mediterranean Countries on BAT, BEP and the Sound Chemical Management,

Recognizing the importance of ensuring cooperative action between centres working in the field of Cleaner Production and Chemicals in the Mediterranean,

Decides to:

a) **agree** to promote the role of CP/RAC, in matters related to the implementation of the LBS Protocol, as the facilitator to the necessary coordination of Mediterranean Regional Centres under the Stockholm and Basel Conventions and the centres working in the field of Cleaner Production in the Mediterranean Region with the aim of preparing joint programmes as appropriate.

b) **agree** to endeavour to ensure coherence between the different national chemicals strategies (National Implementation Plans of Stockholm Convention and National Profiles for SAICM) with the National Action Plans under the LBS protocol of Barcelona Convention.

The 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, urges the Contracting Parties to agree to start working with the support of MED POL and CP/RAC with a view to preparing Regional Plans/Programmes pursuant to Article 15 of the LBS Protocol, on the following:

a) new POPs recently included in the Stockholm Convention, *inter alia* in relation to the production, use, trade articles and products and wastes containing those substances, and the stockpiles of the following substances:

- I. Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane
- II. Beta hexachlorocyclohexane
- III. Hexabromobiphenyl
- IV. Chlordecone
- V. Pentachlorobenzene
- VI. Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and Pentabromodiphenyl ether
- VII. Hexabromodiphenyl ether and Heptabromodiphenyl ether
- VIII. Lindane
- IX. Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and its salts and Perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and its salts

b) Mercury, *inter alia* in relation to the production, use, trade articles and products and wastes containing those substances, and the stockpiles

c) BOD in the food sector,

Invites the Contracting Parties, to support the joint work by MEDPOL and CP/RAC on the above list of pollutants;

Requests the Secretariat, CP/RAC and MEDPOL to take necessary measures for the implementation of this decision;

Requests also the Secretariat, CP/RAC and MEDPOL to cooperate, with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, in particular, Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam Conventions with a view to avoiding duplication, improve the impact and ensure efficient use of resources with regard to the sound management of chemicals.