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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the MED POL National Coordinators

Athens, 6 - 9 May 1992

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SURVEY ON POLLUTANTS  
FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN  
(MED X BIS)

FOR REASONS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REQUESTED  
TO BRING THEIR DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING

In cooperation with:



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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UNEP  
Athens, 1992

## INTRODUCTION

1. The survey on pollutants from land-based sources in the Mediterranean is designed to provide an updated view of the general situation both in itself, and in comparison with the previous situation as shown by the results of the first survey (MED POL X) conducted in 1976-1977 (UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No.32, 1984). The survey was approved by Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols at their Fifth Ordinary Meeting in Athens in September 1987 within the framework of the Calendar of Activities for the progressive implementation of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources. The general content of the relevant questionnaires to be prepared had already been agreed on by National MED POL Coordinators at their Fifth Working Group Meeting in May 1987.
2. These questionnaires were drafted, using the 1976-1977 questionnaires as a baseline to facilitate comparison, and reviewed during a WHO/UNEP consultation meeting on monitoring of land-based sources of pollution in the Mediterranean held in Split from 1 - 5 December 1987 (WHO document EUR/ICP/CEH 044, 1988). They were thereafter finalized and submitted to National MED POL Coordinators on 29 November 1988 and, following receipt of such comments by a number of Coordinators, the final versions were formally submitted, again to National MED POL Coordinators, on 24 June 1989 for completion.
3. The questionnaires concern the following:
  - (1) Liquid domestic discharges.
  - (2) Industrial discharges containing selected substances listed in Annexes I and II to the LBS Protocol.
  - (3) Industrial discharges of petroleum hydrocarbons (including sub-questionnaires on discharges from refineries and reception facilities respectively).

## PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION

4. Both in the original covering letter to the questionnaires and in subsequent correspondence, National MED POL Coordinators were offered assistance in the completion of the questionnaires. This assistance includes (a) expert visits to assist in the organization of the necessary work and, where necessary, to evaluate it, and (b) small financial contributions to the cost of completion of the questionnaires themselves.
5. Where appropriate, the survey has been integrated with ongoing projects being conducted within the framework of ongoing Coastal Areas Management Projects (CAMP). Apart from providing an essential input into the CAMP projects themselves, the experience gained at local level provides the basis for completion of the questionnaires for the rest of the country.
6. Assistance in the form of expert advice in organizing the necessary work and/or financial contributions towards local costs have already been provided to Cyprus, Greece (Rhodes), Morocco, Tunisia and Yugoslavia (Kastela Bay). As at 1 April 1992, arrangements for the provision of similar assistance to Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Syria and Yugoslavia have either been completed or are in various stages of negotiation.

**STATUS OF PROJECT IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES**

7. The status of implementation of the project in individual countries is as follows:

ALBANIA	Negotiations in progress for the provision of expert assistance
ALGERIA	Negotiations in progress for the provision of expert assistance
CYPRUS	Expert assistance provided. Completed questionnaires expected shortly
EGYPT	Local and expert assistance being negotiated
FRANCE	Completed questionnaires regarding domestic discharges received. Remainder expected
GREECE	Completed questionnaires regarding domestic discharges for Rhodes and the Dodecanese received. Other questionnaires for Rhodes expected. No information regarding rest of country
ISRAEL	Completed questionnaires expected by end of 1992
ITALY	No information regarding date of completion
LEBANON	No information regarding date of completion
LIBYA	Negotiations for local and expert assistance in progress
MALTA	No information regarding date of completion
MONACO	Completed questionnaires received
MOROCCO	Expert assistance provided. No information regarding date of completion
SPAIN	Completed questionnaires regarding domestic discharges received. Other questionnaires received in part
SYRIA	Negotiations for local and expert assistance completed
TUNISIA	Expert assistance provided. No information regarding date of completion
TURKEY	No information regarding date of completion
YUGOSLAVIA	Expert assistance and contribution to local costs provided for Kastela Bay. Arrangements for assistance, and preparation of questionnaires, regarding rest of country in progress

**OBSERVATIONS**

8. A preliminary evaluation of data received so far indicates that the situation regarding treatment and disposal of domestic wastewater is much better than was the case in 1976 in the coastal areas in question.
9. The overall response to the questionnaires has not been particularly encouraging. In this context, it should be noted that the information solicited is also intended to provide an input into other activities relating to the progressive implementation of the LBS protocol, as well as to cover specific issues raised during Contracting Parties' meetings.

10. In particular, one of the recommendations adopted by Contracting Parties at their Seventh Ordinary Meeting (Cairo, 8 - 11 October 1991) was that a concrete action plan for the collection, treatment and disposal of sewage for each Mediterranean city with a population of over 10,000 inhabitants be prepared by the end of 1992, and ways to seek funds be explored. The basic information required for preparation of this plan is covered in the questionnaire on liquid domestic discharges, and responses to this particular questionnaire are therefore essential to enable compliance with this recommendation.
11. During the same meeting, it was stated that a study of the impact on the Mediterranean and its sub-regions by source of pollution was necessary as, in its absence, it would not be possible to assess the effects of remedial action undertaken. The information requested in all three questionnaires is again essential, as such information constitutes a basic part of such study.