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XVIII Meeting of the Inter-Agency Advisory  
Committee (IAAC) for MED POL

Athens, 26 May 1985

M I N U T E S

1. The Meeting was convened by the Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan. All Co-operating Agencies (FAO, WHO, WMO, UNESCO, IOC and IAEA) were invited to attend the meeting which took place at the office of the MED UNIT in Athens, on 26 May 1985. The list of participants is attached as annex I.

2. Mr. A. Manos opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He briefly summarized the main achievements of the Action Plan and of MED POL, mentioning in particular the entering into force of the LBS protocol.

3. Mr. S. Keckes introduced to the committee Mr. L. Jeftic, the new senior marine scientist of the Unit, and Mr. G. Kullenberg, the new IOC representative. He stressed the very close link between the LBS protocol and the objectives of MED POL - PHASE II.

4. The proposed agenda (reproduced in annex II) was adopted.

5. Mr. L. Jeftic briefly presented documents UNEP/WG.118/3 (Progress report on the implementation of the Long-term Programme for Pollution Monitoring and Research, 1983-1985) and UNEP/WG.118/4 (Proposed monitoring and research activities during 1986 and 1987 and related budget requirements).

6. As the former document reported on events up to 31 December 1984, Mr. F.S. Civili briefly described the main developments in the monitoring and research components of MED POL up to May 1985. As regards monitoring, Algeria had signed its monitoring programme while Cyprus and Yugoslavia had submitted proposals for 1985 programmes. Data collected during 1984 had been submitted by Cyprus, Israel, Lebanon and Morocco. In the Research component, 44 new proposals had been submitted from 10 countries. Of these, only two from the same country had not been accepted because they were largely incomplete.

7. A discussion on the various chapters of document UNEP/WG.118/3 was held. The implementation of monitoring of type 'A' (Pollution sources) was found particularly weak. This type of data was considered particularly important especially in view of the entering into force of the LBS protocol. The need to update the data obtained through the MED POL X exercise was felt, as this had also been stressed by the BP/PAP National Focal Points Meeting (Athens, 6-9 May 1985). It was decided to stress the importance of filling this gap at the III WGSPC and subsequently at the Intergovernmental Meeting in Genoa (September 1985). In November 1985 a visit to all Contracting Parties should be announced and strategy and methodology explained. In December 1985 the matter should be brought to the attention of the LBS meeting, and between January and April 1986 data should be collected, eventually by consultants from all Mediterranean countries. WHO should act as lead Agency, with the other Agencies, including UNIDO, collaborating as appropriate.

8. While discussing monitoring of type 'D', (Transport of pollutants through the atmosphere) it was agreed that while the activities should continue to be developed as research (activity 'L') the pilot project on transport of pollutants through the atmosphere should start in countries with existing facilities and personnel. Funds for equipping laboratories designated to participate could be taken from the assistance component of the monitoring budget.

9. The collaboration between IOC/GEMSI and UNEP was considered very important in the development of the sampling and analytical techniques and it was recommended that this be continued.

10. Regarding the Intercalibration exercises, carried out through IAEA/ILMR, better co-ordination between IAEA and the Unit was recommended, in order to enable the Unit to intervene promptly on those labs whose results were unsatisfactory, through training or scientific visits. To this effect, a bimonthly report from IAEA to the Unit was considered necessary as well as the continued updating of the list of the labs participating in MED POL by the MED Unit.

11. Regarding data storage and analysis, the advantage offered by UNEP's GRID facility in Geneva was stressed and the establishment of close links between GRID and the data processing facility of MED Unit was advocated.

12. In reviewing the research component of MED POL, it was stressed that starting from 1986, the Unit should be more strict in not accepting proposals submitted after the deadline of 15 March, in order to avoid delays in the processing of the proposals. It was also noted that this could allow the Agencies time to solicit proposals in fields where research gaps could be identified. Annex III gives more information on the recommended procedures for the co-ordination of MED POL activities. Section IV of this annex explains the procedures to be followed from 1985 as regards research proposals and reporting by the principal investigators. It was also agreed that funds provided to institutions for the implementation of research projects should not be utilised for the payment of salaries and wages and that travel should be undertaken only in exceptional cases.

12. In discussing the maintenance activities, the group agreed that particular emphasis should be given to the regular maintenance services and a plan of visits to participating institutions should be prepared. In addition it was agreed that the maintenance engineer from ILMR should also service computer facilities in MED Unit, PAP/RAC, BP/RAC, ROCC and SPA/RAC.

13. Mr. L. Jeftic informed the group of the decisions taken at a recent organizational meeting between UNEP, ICSEM and IOC on the next Workshop on Pollution. It was agreed that: 1) no interruption would occur between the period of the pollution workshop and that of the General Assembly; 2) one volume containing only abstracts would be printed before the meeting; 3) a second volume would be printed after the workshop; this would contain papers by the session moderators on the state of the art on the subject, a review of the papers, and results and recommendations; 4) abstracts on only two topics would be solicited: a) pollution processes at interfaces, b) levels and trends of specific pollutants (to be selected from annex II of the LBS protocol).

14. In reviewing document UNEP/WG.118/4, all the meetings proposed for 1986-1987 were discussed and the following was agreed. In para 13 of the document the meeting on review of new reference methods for determination of chemical contaminants would be the joint responsibility of IAEA, IOC and FAO depending on the type of reference methods, with IAEA as lead Agency. The meeting on reference methods dealing with metals and organic contamination in particulate matter would be the joint responsibility of IAEA and IOC with IAEA as lead agency. The intercalibration exercise on methods for petroleum hydrocarbons would be the responsibility of IOC and the intercalibration exercise on microbiological methods that of WHO. The meeting on epidemiology proposed in paragraph 15 would be the responsibility of WHO and the one on evaluation of methylmercury in paragraph 16 would be the joint responsibility of WHO and FAO with WHO as lead agency. Under activity 'H', UNESCO would be in charge of the preparation of the guidelines for the assessment of receiving capacities of waters for substances causing eutrophication, in cooperation with FAO, while under activity 'K', IAEA would organize the consultation to review ongoing projects on biogeochemical cycles of lead. The workshop on air pollutant deposition envisaged under activity 'L' (para 28) should be organized by WMO and the meeting on ongoing research projects on transport of pollutants by sedimentation should be organized by IOC and IAEA..

15. The status of preparation of the reference methods was reviewed and an updated list is attached as annex IV.

A N N E X I

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A N N E X    I I

Agenda

1. Activities implemented since IAAC XVII.
2. Review of budget for 1986-1987 to be presented to III WGSTC.
3. Review of procedure for implementation of MED POL - PHASE II.
4. Reference Methods.
5. Other matters.



A N N E X     I I I

RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES FOR THE COORDINATION  
OF MED POL ACTIVITIES

The following paragraphs outline the views of the Mediterranean Co-ordinating Unit on the ways and means of achieving a better and streamlined co-operation between UNEP, and cooperating agencies (WHO, FAO, IOC, WMO, IAEA) on the co-ordination of MED POL activities.

National monitoring programmes (NMP)

1. All correspondence to national MED POL co-ordinators on national monitoring programmes (NMP) should be signed by the senior marine scientist of MEDU. Whenever such correspondence involves items relevant to agencies which are expected to co-operate in the implementation of NMP, the relevant agency staff should be consulted and asked to clear that part of the correspondence.
2. Upon formal submission of the NMP by the national co-ordinator, this should be studied by all relevant officers in the Unit, in particular relevant points, such as adherence of the NMP to the basic criteria, type and number of parameters, sampling stations, sampling frequency, assistance requested.
3. Experience has shown that several national MED POL co-ordinators require assistance in compiling their national monitoring programme (NMP) in the proper format. This type of assistance should remain basically the responsibility of the marine scientists of UNEP, but they should however consult with agency counterparts on any matter which may affect agencies' involvement during the NMP's development and implementation. Agency officers should continue to assist in overall NMP development during country visits.
4. All formal negotiations with the national co-ordinator regarding the NMP should be carried out by the marine scientists of UNEP, who could, however, request any other member of the Unit to carry out discussions on any outstanding points during a country visit.

5. Following the signature of the agreement on the NMP, follow-up in implementation should be jointly discussed and agreed upon, including each agency's responsibility in the provision of equipment, training, etc. All formal correspondence with the national co-ordinator should continue to be carried out by the senior marine scientist of UNEP, but the agencies should clear any specific technical problems directly with the participating institutions whenever indicated. All correspondence between the participating institutions and the agencies should be routinely copied to the senior marine scientist of UNEP and to the relevant national MED POL co-ordinator.

6. Extensions of monitoring agreements should follow the same procedure as outlined above.

7. I. Data from national monitoring programmes

7. The reports received from the national MED POL co-ordinators should be brought to the attention of the relevant agency staff by the marine scientists of UNEP without delay.

8. Data contained in such reports should be forwarded to the relevant programme officers, according to earlier agreement on their specific responsibilities for the processing of data. These responsibilities include:

- checking that all data expected to be received have been received; and
- validation of data.

9. The results of checking and validation should be brought to the attention of the marine scientists of UNEP, who should reflect on them when confirming to the MED POL co-ordinators the receipt of the report.

10. The data found acceptable should be stored in MEDU's computer bank.

11. Any general queries on monitoring data should be handled directly between the marine scientists of UNEP and the relevant national MED POL co-ordinator.

12. Specific queries relevant to the quality of the data should be handled directly between the relevant agencies and the participating national institutions, with copies to the senior marine scientist of UNEP and the relevant national co-ordinator.

III. Quality control of data

13. Intercalibration exercises should continue, but results obtained should be used to help participating institutions to improve their performance.
14. The intercalibration relevant to chemical (contaminant) parameters will continue to be co-ordinated by ILMR/IAEA and IOC under the overall guidance of the senior marine scientist of UNEP and in consultation with FAO.
16. ILMR will be invited to submit to MEDU bi-monthly reports containing:
  - information on the distribution of reference materials, samples and standards;
  - information on reports received from research centres, including the evaluation of results contained in these reports;
  - suggestions on the type of remedial action, if necessary, in order to improve the quality of work.
17. Decisions on remedial action (visit of expert, check-up on equipment, training, etc.) will be taken by the senior marine scientist of UNEP, in consultation with FAO and ILMR.

IV. Research proposals

18. Research proposals should continue to be submitted in the normal way, i.e. the forms submitted to the senior marine scientist of UNEP through the national co-ordinator.
19. The marine scientists of UNEP, in consultation with relevant agency staff, should examine the proposals and reject those which do not conform with approved activities or which are unacceptable for policy reasons. The senior marine scientist of UNEP will inform, with minimum delay, the national MED POL co-ordinator which of the proposals have been rejected and which have been accepted for processing (with the indication about the agency to be involved in it).
20. Proposals which have been accepted for processing should be passed on to the relevant agency staff for detailed evaluation, and for the preparation of research contracts. This process will normally involve correspondence between the relevant agency and research centre which originated the proposal as well as consultation with the marine scientists of UNEP. Copies of such correspondence should be sent to the senior marine scientist of UNEP and to the relevant MED POL national co-ordinator.

21. New research contracts when finalized by agencies should be cleared by the senior marine scientist of UNEP before they are signed.
22. The agencies will be responsible for the technical supervision of the implementation of research contracts.
23. The results of each research contract will be evaluated by the relevant agency and the results of this evaluation will be submitted to the senior marine scientist of UNEP.
24. Principal investigators should report to the Agencies on the progress of the work at time intervals as explained below.

a) Six-monthly progress reports.

These should be submitted at the end of the first six months of the initial period and of the extension period and should contain a short description of the work performed during the preceding six months.

b) End-of-year reports

These should be submitted at the end of each completed year (except the final year) and cover the work done during the preceding 12 months. They should give a more detailed account of the research work carried out as well as the preliminary results and conclusions. Their length should not normally exceed ten pages including tables and figures. The decision to extend a contract is usually based on the content of these reports.

A statement of expenditures should be attached to the report indicating with reasonable accuracy how the annual MTF contribution has been spent. The statement should also be signed by the Research Centre's finance officer.

c) Final Reports

These reports should be submitted at the end of the research project and should cover its entire duration. They should be written in the form of a research paper, i.e. with a summary of about one page, an introduction explaining the scientific background and scope of the project, a section on materials/experimental methods, results, discussion, conclusions and references. These reports should be of a standard sufficiently high to render them suitable for publication in the MED POL series of research reports. Their length should not normally exceed twenty pages (including figures and tables).

Reprints of all papers published within the framework of the project should accompany the reports.

A N N E X I V

UPDATED STATUS OF PREPARATION OF THE REFERENCE METHODS

A. Sanitary quality of coastal recreational and shellfish-growing waters

No.	1	UNEP/WHO: Guidelines for monitoring the quality of coastal recreational and shellfish-growing waters. Regular issue (English) expected September 1985.	draft(E) 09.05.84
No.	2	UNEP/WHO: Determination of total coliforms in sea-water by the membrane filtration culture method.	Rev.1(E) 31.08.83 Rev.1(F) 31.10.83
No.	3	UNEP/WHO: Determination of faecal coliforms in sea-water by the membrane filtration culture method.	Rev.1(E) 31.08.83 Rev.1(F) 31.10.83
No.	4	UNEP/WHO: Determination of faecal streptococci in sea-water by the membrane filtration culture method.	Rev.1(E) 31.08.83 Rev.1(F) 31.10.83
No.	5	UNEP/WHO: Determination of faecal coliforms in bivalves by multiple test tube method.	Rev.1(E) 31.08.83 Rev.1(F) 31.10.83
No.	21	UNEP/WHO/IAEA: Determination of total coliforms in sea-water by multiple test tube (MPN) method. Issue expected August 1985.	in print
No.	22	UNEP/WHO/IAEA: Determination of faecal coliforms in sea-water by multiple test tube (MPN) method. Issue expected August 1985.	in print
No.	23	UNEP/WHO/IAEA: Determination of faecal streptococci in sea-water by multiple test tube (MPN) method. Issue expected August 1985.	in print
D		UNEP/WHO/IAEA: Determination of faecal coliforms in estuarine waters, suspended matter and sediments.	in preparation
M		UNEP/WHO/IAEA: Statistical methods for the evaluation of results from monitoring the quality of coastal recreational and shellfish-growing waters. Draft issue expected July 1985.	in preparation

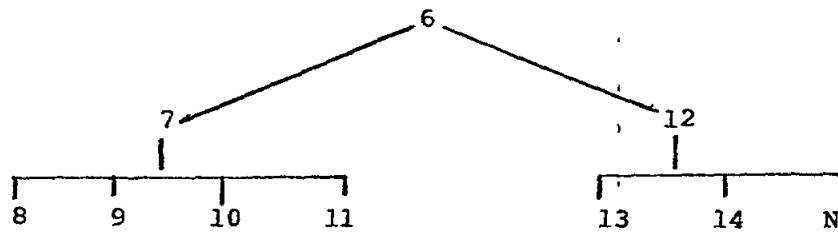
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| AA | UNEP/WHO/IAEA: Determination of Staphylococcus aureus in sea-water and sewage by the membrane filtration culture method.<br>Draft issue expected August 1985.  | in preparation |
| AB | UNEP/WHO/IAEA: Determination of Pseudomonas aeruginosa in sea-water and sewage by the membrane filtration culture method.<br>Draft issue expected August 1985. | in preparation |
| AC | UNEP/WHO/IAEA: Isolation/enumeration of salmonella from sea-water and sewage.<br>Draft issue expected August 1985.   | in preparation |



B. Chemical contaminants in marine organisms

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|-------|---|--------------------|
| No. 6 | UNEP/FAO/IAEA: Guidelines for monitoring chemical contaminants in marine organisms.<br>Draft issue expected September 1985.           | in preparation     |
| No. 7 | UNEP/FAO/IAEA/IOC: Sampling of selected marine organisms and sample preparation for trace metals analysis.                            | Rev.2(E) 12.11.84  |
| No. 8 | UNEP/FAO/IAEA/IOC: Determination of total mercury in selected marine organisms by cold vapour atomic absorption spectrophotometry.    | Rev.1(E) 12.11.84  |
| No. 9 | UNEP/FAO/IAEA: Determination of total arsenic in selected marine organisms by hydride generation atomic absorption spectrophotometry. | draft (E) 22.04.85 |

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| No. 10 | UNEP/FAO/IAEA; Determination of total selenium in selected marine organisms by hydride generation atomic absorption spectrophotometry.                  | (E) 12.11.84      |
| No. 11 | UNEP/FAO/IAEA/IOC; Determination of total cadmium, zinc, lead and copper in selected marine organisms by flameless atomic absorption spectrophotometry. | Rev.1(E) 12.11.84 |
| No. 12 | UNEP/FAO/IAEA; Sampling of selected marine organisms and sample preparation for the analysis of chlorinated hydrocarbons.                               | Rev.1(E) 12.11.84 |
| No. 13 | UNEP/FAO/IAEA; Determination of methylmercury in selected marine organisms by gas chromatography.   | (E) 12.11.84      |
| No. 14 | UNEP/FAO/IOC/IAEA; Determination of DDTs and PCBs in selected marine organisms by packed column chromatography.   | Rev.1(E) in print |
| N      | UNEP/FAO/IOC/IAEA; Determination of DDTs and PCBs in selected marine organisms by capillary column gas chromatography                                   | in preparation    |



C. Chemical contaminants in sea-water

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|--------|---|-------------------|
| No. 16 | UNEP/IAEA; Determination of DDTs, PCBs, PCCs and other hydrocarbons in sea-water by gas chromatography.             | draft(E) 27.09.82 |
| No. 18 | UNEP/IOC; Determination of total dissolved cadmium in sea-water by differential pulse anodic stripping voltammetry. | draft(E) 16.09.83 |
| B      | UNEP/IOC/IAEA; Monitoring of petroleum hydrocarbons in sea-water.   | in preparation    |

D. Chemical contaminants in marine sediments and suspended matter

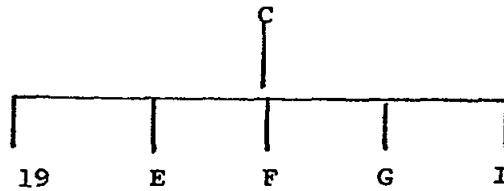
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| No. 17 | UNEP/IAEA; Determination of DDTs, PCBs and other hydrocarbons in marine sediments by gas-liquid chromatography.                        | draft(E) 22.09.82  |
| No. 20 | UNEP/IOC; Monitoring of petroleum hydrocarbons in sediments.   | in preparation     |
| No. 26 | UNEP/IAEA; Determination of total mercury in marine sediments and suspended solids by cold vapour atomic absorption spectrophotometry. | draft (E) 25.03.85 |
| No. 27 | UNEP/IAEA; Determination of total cadmium in marine sediments by flameless atomic absorption spectrophotometry.                        | draft (E) 25.03.85 |
| E      | UNEP/WHO/IAEA; Determination of phosphorus in suspended matter and sediments.  | in preparation     |
| F      | UNEP/WHO/IAEA; Determination of nitrogen in suspended matter and sediments.  | in preparation     |

E. Chemical contaminants in estuarine water and suspended matter

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|--------|---|--------------------|
| No. 19 | UNEP/IOC/IAEA; Determination of total mercury in estuarine waters and suspended matter by cold vapour atomic absorption spectrophotometry. Regular issue expected September 1985. | draft (E) 25.03.85 |
| C      | UNEP/IAEA; Guidelines for monitoring of estuarine waters and suspended matter.  | in preparation     |
| E      | UNEP/WHO/IAEA; Determination of phosphorus in suspended matter and sediments.   | in preparation     |
| F      | UNEP/WHO/IAEA; Determination of nitrogen in suspended matter and sediments.   | in preparation     |
| G      | UNEP/WHO/IAEA; Determination of BOD <sub>5</sub> and COD in estuarine waters.   | in preparation     |



- I UNEP/IOC/IAEA; Determination of total cadmium in estuarine waters and suspended matter in preparation



F. Chemical contaminants on beaches

- No. 15 UNEP/IOC/IAEA; Monitoring of tar on marine beaches. draft (E) 25.03.85

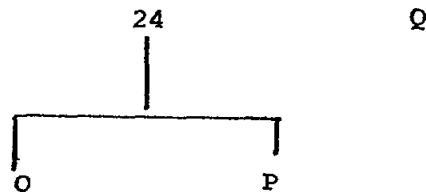
G. Atmospheric chemical contaminants

- No. 24 UNEP/WMO/IAEA; Sampling of aerosols and wet precipitation for analysis of chemical pollutants. draft (E) 12.04.85

- O UNEP/IAEA; Determination of selected trace metals in aerosols and in wet precipitation. in preparation

- P UNEP/IAEA; Determination of halogenated hydrocarbons in aerosols and in wet precipitation. in preparation

- Q UNEP/WMO/IAEA; Sampling of dry deposition. in preparation



H. Effects on marine organisms and ecosystems

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|--------|---|----------------|
| No. 25 | SPC/UNEP: Coral reef monitoring handbook.   | (E) 27.08.84   |
| A      | UNEP: Sampling and identification of common Mediterranean scyphomedusae and evaluation of their occurrence. | in preparation |
| H      | UNEP/FAO/IAEA: Acute toxicity tests.  | in preparation |
| J      | UNEP/FAO/IAEA: Biological non-acute toxicity tests.   | in preparation |

I. Standard physical, chemical and meteorological observations

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|---|--|----------------|
| K | UNEP/IOC/IAEA: Determination of basic oceanographic and meteorological conditions. | in preparation |
| L | UNEP/IOC/IAEA: Determination of standard physical and chemical parameters.         | in preparation |

J. Miscellaneous methods

- |    |   |                |
|----|---|----------------|
| AD | UNEP/WHO/IAEA: Determination of methylmercury, total mercury and selenium in human hair. Draft issue expected July/August 1985. | in preparation |
| AE | UNEP/WHO/IAEA: Guidelines for monitoring and epidemiological studies on health effects of methylmercury.                        | in preparation |