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Third Meeting of the Working Group
for Scientific and Technical Co-operation
for MED POL

Athens, 27-31 May 1985



REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP
FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION
FOR MED POL

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Introduction

1. The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related protocols adopted, at their Second Ordinary Meeting (Cannes, 2-7 March, 1981), the Long-term Programme for Pollution Monitoring and Research in the Mediterranean Sea (MED POL - PHASE II) (document UNEP/IG.23/11, annex V). A standing Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation was thereby established by the Contracting Parties to assist them in reviewing the progress of the programme and in the evaluation of the results. The Working Group's terms of reference included advising UNEP on technical and policy matters relating to the MED POL programme and related matters, and the preparation of recommendations for submission to the Contracting Parties, through UNEP as the secretariat of the Convention.

2. As a result of the decisions of the Cannes Meeting, the Working Group held its first meeting in Athens from 28 September to 2 October 1981 (UNEP/WG.62/7) and its second in Athens from 21 to 25 November 1983 (UNEP/WG.91/12).

3. In pursuance of its mandate, the Co-ordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan invited designated National Co-ordinators for MED POL to attend the Third Meeting of the Working Group which was convened at the premises of the Mediterranean Co-ordinating Unit in Athens from 27 to 31 May 1985. Representatives of the Co-operating Agencies, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organisation (WHO), World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as well as representatives of other intergovernmental organisations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Organisation for Industrial Development (UNIDO), were also invited.

4. The meeting was attended by National Co-ordinators for MED POL from 16 Mediterranean countries and the EEC and representatives of 5 United Nations Co-operating Agencies. A list of participants is attached as annex I to this report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

5. The meeting was opened by Mr. S. Keckes, Director of the Programme Activity Centre for Oceans and Coastal Areas (OCA/PAC), who welcomed the participants on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. M. K. Tolba.

6. Mr. S. Keckes briefly reviewed the development of MED POL and stressed the importance of Phase II of MED POL as the mechanism which is expected to provide the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, on a continuing basis, with information and scientific advice required for the successful implementation of the Convention and its protocols.

7. The first concrete results of MED POL which could be used in the implementation of programmes and measures envisaged under the Land-Based Sources Protocol were the environmental quality criteria formulated on the basis of MED POL by its participants. These criteria included proposals for "standards of use" in respect of the level of mercury in seafood as well as for the microbiological quality of coastal recreational waters, shellfish and shellfish-growing waters. Mr. S. Keckes expressed the hope of the secretariat that the Meeting would review the proposed environmental quality criteria and recommend their adoption by the Contracting Parties in the proposed form or with modifications, as deemed necessary.

8. The Co-ordinator, Mr. A. Manos, in welcoming participants, stressed the importance of the meeting as a step in the preparation of the meeting of the Contracting Parties which was to take place on ministerial level in Genoa in September 1985.

9. Following the entry into force of the Protocol on the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources, and its ratification by nine Contracting Parties, the MED POL programme needed to stress its principal objective of "providing the Contracting Parties with information required for the implementation of the Convention and the protocols". Mr. A. Manos further mentioned that an effective MED POL programme was also required in support of the expanding network of activities of the Action Plan, and referred in particular to aquaculture, tourism, the Blue Plan and Specially Protected Areas.

Agenda item 2: Rules of procedure

10. Mr. L. Jeftic informed the meeting that the Rules of Procedure for the Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Related Protocols (UNEP/IG.23/11, annex VII) would apply mutatis mutandis to the meeting of the Working Group as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Agenda item 3: Election of officers

11. The meeting unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Mr. Joaquín ROS	(Spain)
Vice-Chairmen	Ms. Athena MOURMOURIS	(Greece)
	Mr. Yusef I. ELMEHRIK	(Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)
Rapporteur	Mr. Hratch H. KOUYOUMJIAN	(Lebanon)

Agenda item 4: Adoption of the agenda

12. The meeting adopted the agenda which appears in annex II to this report. Documents which were available to the meeting are listed in annex III.

Agenda item 5: Organization of work

13. The meeting agreed to work only in plenary session with the proviso that ad hoc discussion groups or drafting committees would be formed by the Bureau in consultation with the secretariat if any specific matter so required.

Agenda item 6: Progress report on the implementation of the MED POL - PHASE II (1983 - 1985)

14. The secretariat introduced document UNEP/WG.118/3 which reported on monitoring and research activities of MED POL - PHASE II implemented during 1983-1985. When introducing the document, the secretariat orally provided additional information on activities and developments which had taken place since the document was issued.

15. The National Co-ordinators from Italy and Egypt informed the meeting that a first draft of their national monitoring programmes had been prepared and copies were handed to the secretariat. All other countries whose national monitoring programmes had not yet been finalized briefed the meeting on their current status, including the difficulties relating to their completion.

16. Several participants stressed the difficulties encountered in collecting and reporting information on the sources and amounts of pollutants reaching the Mediterranean Sea from land-based sources. While recognizing the methodological difficulties involved, the secretariat drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that the adopted phase II of MED POL included, inter alia, reporting as provided for in Article 13 of the Land-Based Sources Protocol. Consequently the secretariat was developing proposals for reporting formats as well as guidelines and reference methods for the assessment of the sources, types and amounts of pollutants from land-based sources, which would assist the Contracting Parties in fulfilling their obligations assumed under the Protocol and the monitoring agreements.

17. The problems encountered by the secretariat in analysing the implementation of the Dumping Protocol were explained. In this context, the secretariat pointed out that it did not interpret the lack of any response or report as a nil report, and stressed the need for submission of formal reports even when no dumping took place. Several participants clarified that they had not submitted reports because no permits had been delivered and that they had felt they had no obligation to submit reports. In conclusion, the Group recommended that nil reports be submitted from now on.

18. The usefulness of international co-operation in the monitoring of reference areas, as defined in Article 1 of the Convention, was stressed, as was the importance of international programmes and activities, such as those of ICSEM.

19. The Co-ordinator invited the participants from Greece and Turkey to discuss pending matters concerning their national monitoring programmes; in

response the Turkish representative reiterated its Government's readiness to immediately enter into cooperation with Greece to ensure the effective implementation of the MED POL programme in the international waters of the Aegean. The participant of Greece had no objection for the exchange of monitoring programmes concerning reference areas only for subsequent examination and exchange of views on them so as to render possible the implementation of the MED POL programme.

20. The role played by the National Co-ordinators was highlighted. The Co-ordinators should be kept informed on a continuous basis by the secretariat and the national institutions as appropriate, of all developments concerning the activities of the country's participating institutions, including copies of correspondence sent.

21. The representative of WHO informed the meeting that the 1976 review of national legislation relevant to the control of pollution from land-based sources had been updated. However, owing to the comparative lack of response from the countries, most of the material had to be prepared from indirect sources. Both the original version and the updated material would be sent to MED POL national co-ordinators, who were asked to make any amendments and/or additions necessary to ensure accuracy and completeness of the final version.

22. The representative of WMO drew the attention of the Working Group to document UNEP/WG.118/Inf.4, "Atmospheric Transport of Contaminants into the Mediterranean Region". This report, approved by the fifteenth session of GESAMP (New York, March 1985), could be considered as a basis for a pilot project for the monitoring of atmospheric transport of pollutants into the Mediterranean Sea. He also referred to training courses on background air pollution measurements regularly organised by WMO in Budapest (Hungary). More detailed information on these courses could be provided if needed.

23. The meeting stressed the need for the inclusion of additional relevant information on activities planned for 1985 in documents to be made available to the forthcoming meeting of the Contracting Parties (Genoa, September 1985). In particular, more details should be provided concerning: the completion of the MED POL - PHASE I document (paragraph 72 (f)); the development of the MED POL data bank (subparagraph (g)); the rationale behind the elaboration of additional reference methods (subparagraph (h)); the rationale behind the meeting on the correlation between the quality of coastal recreational waters and the health effects (subparagraph (i)); and supportive references to published documents or reports should be provided (subparagraph (r)).

24. The meeting noted the role of the IAEA in the preparation of reference materials for intercalibration exercises on chemical contaminants, the execution of intercalibration exercises (UNEP/WG.118/Inf.7), and the development of Reference Methods for marine pollution monitoring (UNEP/WG.118/Inf.9 and UNEP/WG.118/Inf.9/Corr.1).

25. The Working Group also took note of the report on a driftcard experiment (DRIFTLX) that had been organised by IOC in collaboration with UNEP in those subregions and of the completion by IOC of two reviews: on pollution by petroleum hydrocarbons (WG.118/7) and on ongoing research in physical dynamical processes (WG.118/Inf.24). The IOC representative drew the attention of the Meeting to the recommendations relevant to oil pollution research and monitoring contained in doc. WG.118/7, and from an IOC/UNEP/CSIC intercalibration exercise for oil and petroleum hydrocarbons (WG.118/Inf.16), as well as an IOC/UNEP mussel homogenate intercalibration exercise for petroleum hydrocarbons (WG.118/Inf.20).

26. The secretariat informed the meeting that the actual expenditures for the year 1984 were US \$ 578,634 for monitoring and US \$ 315,109 for research, mentioned in UNEP/WG.118/3, Table 1.

27. Taking into account the comments and additional information contained in paragraphs 14 - 27 above, the meeting took note of the summary and conclusions as they appear in paragraphs 77 and 78 of the progress report document (UNEP/WG. 118/3).

Agenda item 7: Proposed monitoring and research activities during 1986 and 1987 and related budget requirements

28. The secretariat introduced document UNEP/WG.118/4 containing proposals for monitoring and research activities, including a budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

29. The meeting was informed about the secretariat's plans to gather information relevant to the preparation of inventories of sources and amounts of pollutants from land-based sources, in order to respond to the needs of the Blue Plan and to the needs arising from the implementation of the Land-Based Sources Protocol. The problems related to the implementation of this activity were discussed, and as a result a country-visit programme was considered as an effective approach.

30. In response to a request for clarification on the use of the term "strengthening" of the computerised data bank, the secretariat explained that the term was used to reflect the intention of making full use of the potential of the existing system.

31. Although the MED POL - PHASE II was approved for an initial period of ten years, it was felt that an overall evaluation of the approach used to the monitoring as well as of the results this approach yielded would be appropriate. While such an evaluation was obviously the prerogative of the Contracting Parties, which would be exercised through the Working Group, in the secretariat's view it should also involve the Mediterranean scientists/experts playing an active and decisive role in the implementation of the programme. The Working Group for Scientific and Technical Cooperation therefore proposed that a thorough review of the monitoring component of MED POL should be conducted at its 1987 meeting. The results of this review would be submitted to the Contracting Parties. The Working Group for Scientific and Technical Cooperation invited the secretariat to prepare the necessary documentation in consultation with the scientists and experts mentioned above.

32. In the discussing of the proposed research activities the following specific comments were made on the individual research topics.

(a) Activity A (Development and testing of sampling and analytical techniques for monitoring of marine pollutants). On request of some participants additional information on the status of reference methods was provided by the secretariat, with special reference to the requirements of MED POL. This was found satisfactory and is attached as annex IV to this report.

(b) Activity F (Research on oceanographic processes). It was pointed out by the secretariat that studies under this Activity were to be carried out only in the context of environmental pollution problems. The IOC representative informed the Working Group of relevant activities and suggested that the review on research activities (WG.118/Inf.24) be expanded to

encompass a review of actual scientific knowledge on physical dynamical processes affecting pollutant transport. Referring to the report DRIFTEX I (WG.118/Inf.6) the IOC representative also proposed that a Second Experiment (DRIFTEX II) be organised in the Eastern Mediterranean, according to an outline submitted to the meeting. It was felt that the contained collaboration with IOC in these fields would bring about useful contributions to MED POL.

(c) Activity L (Pollutant-transfer processes). The EEC representative informed the working group that a document on the study of coastal transport of pollution (voluntary contribution) would be soon transmitted to the secretariat. The representative of WMO highlighted the importance for the national co-ordinators to identify interested national institutions in view of the launching of the pilot project for monitoring atmospheric transport of pollutants into the Mediterranean Sea and for preparing review reports on national activities in this field. He invited national co-ordinators by 1 September 1985 to nominate experts for agreeing upon detailed programme proposals for the pilot project.

33. The meeting endorsed the monitoring and research programme proposed by the secretariat, taking into account the comments contained in paragraphs 29 - 32 above.

34. The secretariat presented a proposed budget for the monitoring and research activities for the biennium 1986 - 1987. The meeting endorsed the budget as presented (US \$ 1,950,000 for monitoring and US \$ 650,000 for research), after several clarifications were provided by the secretariat. The approved budget appears in annex VIII to the present report.

Agenda item 8. Assessment of the present state of pollution by mercury in the Mediterranean Sea and review of the control measures taken by the Contracting Parties

35. In introducing document UNEP/WG.118/5 the secretariat recalled that it had been prepared on the basis of results obtained through MED POL in response to the decision of the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Geneva, 1979) in order to assist states to satisfy the provisions of Articles 5 and 7 of the Land-Based Sources Protocol envisaging common criteria and standards for use. It contained an analysis of the problems related to the mercury in the Mediterranean Sea, a review of existing and potential approaches to safeguard the general public from mercury in seafood and recommendations for measures to achieve such protection. The document, and the recommendations contained therein, had been endorsed by FAO, WHO and UNEP, and it had been circulated to all MED POL National Co-ordinators in November 1983 with a request for comments. As no substantive comments had been received, the secretariat assumed that the Meeting would be in position to endorse document UNEP/WG.118/5 and the recommendations contained in paragraph 113 of that document in particular.

36. The ensuing discussion concentrated on paragraphs 109, 112 and 113 of the document (measures proposed for adoption by the Contracting Parties). The value of the substantive part of the document was recognised by the Meeting. However, several participants stressed the difficulties their States might encounter in implementing the proposed measures, while others supported the text of these paragraphs as they appeared in the document. The EEC representative provided further details with respect to paragraph 90 of document UNEP/WG.118/5 concerning directive 82/176/EEC; in particular, the quality targets which had been fixed were not intended to establish rules for consumer protection or for the marketing of seafood (6th preambular paragraph of the directive)

37. The secretariat reiterated that, in view of the absence of written comments and objections to the main conclusions and recommendations contained in the document, it intended to propose the recommended measures (based on paragraphs 109, 112 and 113 of the document) for adoption by the Contracting Parties at their forthcoming meeting later this year. This proposal would also include the adoption of the proposed FAO/WHO/UNEP environmental quality criteria for mercury in seafood which was considered by FAO, WHO and UNEP as the best interim measure to safeguard the general public.

38. As the Meeting did not reach unanimous agreement on the support to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 109, 112 and 113 of the document, an alternative set of recommendations (annex V) was proposed and adopted by the Working Group. The Meeting requested the secretariat to bring these recommendations to the attention of the forthcoming meeting of the Contracting Parties, together with the report of the Meeting.

Agenda item 9. Assessment of the present state of microbial pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and review of the control measures taken by the Contracting Parties

39. In introducing document UNEP/WG.118/6 the secretariat referred to the decision of the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Geneva, 1979) requesting the formulation of environmental quality criteria for recreational waters, shellfish-growing waters and seafood which could be adopted as common criteria for use according to the relevant provisions of the Land-Based Sources Protocol. The document, and the recommendations contained therein, had been endorsed by WHO and UNEP, and it had been circulated to all MED POL National Co-ordinators in November 1983 (and in its present, slightly modified form in March 1985) with a request for comments. As no substantive comments had been received, the secretariat assumed that the Meeting would be in a position to endorse document UNEP/WG.118/6 and the recommendations contained in paragraph 181 of that document in particular.

40. During a detailed discussion on the environmental quality of Mediterranean bathing waters and on the proposed WHO/UNEP environmental quality criteria as the minimal common measure for safeguarding the general public, several participants supported the measures proposed by WHO and UNEP, for adoption by the Contracting Parties, as they appeared in paragraphs 155 and 181 of the document. The use of the MPN (most probable number) method along with the MF (membrane filtration) method, as an equally valid reference method, was unanimously agreed. The EEC representative proposed the following values for faecal coliforms; (a) imperative value which must be respected by the Contracting Parties: 2000 in 95% of samples; (b) recommended value: 100 in 80% of samples; (c) minimum sampling frequency: fortnightly during the bathing period; (d) method of analysis: filtration on membrane and count according to MPN. In this context the EEC representative recalled the letter of 28 November 1984 concerning comments to be included in document UNEP/WG.91/6. Those comments concerned the conclusions of paragraph 50 based on the guide values and not only on the imperative values. The latter were legally binding and were therefore the values which should be taken into consideration.

41. After a debate on this question, no unanimous agreement could be reached on the measures proposed by WHO and UNEP, in particular due to problems which some States which had different norms might face; the Meeting nevertheless recommended to the Contracting Parties the adoption of measures which would ensure, as a minimum common requirement, that the quality of bathing waters

would comply with the proposed WHO/UNEP environmental quality criteria. Some participants expressed the view that it was premature to introduce faecal streptococci as a mandatory indicator organism.

42. Several participants suggested that States which might eventually have stricter norms than the criteria mentioned in the previous paragraph should not be required to modify their national legislation if these criteria were adopted by the Contracting Parties. It was nevertheless proposed that a comparative study be carried out by the States concerned on the interpretation of results obtained by the various (EEC and WHO/UNEP) evaluation criteria for the environmental quality of Mediterranean bathing waters.

43. The Working Group adopted the recommendations relevant to the measures to be proposed for adoption by the Contracting Parties at their following meeting (annex VI).

44. The representative of the EEC understood that the recommendation in subparagraph (a) of annex VI were not necessarily entailing any changes in Community standards and not prejudging the position which would be taken at the level of Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocol.

45. The Meeting took note of the section of document UNEP/WG.118/6 relevant to the environmental quality of shellfish-growing waters and shellfish, including the recommendations belonging to that section of the document, but the Working Group felt that it was not prepared to discuss the subject in depth and work on recommendations which could be transmitted to the Contracting Parties. Consequently, the Meeting recommended that the consideration of the subject be proposed for the fourth meeting of the Working Group and agreed to provide the secretariat, by 31 December 1985, with written comments relevant to the environmental quality of shellfish-growing waters and shellfish, including additional information on national legislation, administrative measures, policies and practices. The secretariat was requested to prepare a new document on the assessment of the present state of microbial pollution in the Mediterranean Sea relevant to shellfish and shellfish growing waters, including recommendations which could be considered for adoption by the Contracting Parties. The new document should be based on the relevant parts of document UNEP/WG.118/6, on the information expected to be received from the MED POL National Co-ordinators by 31 December 1985 and on any other information at the disposal of the secretariat.

46. The National Co-ordinator of Spain offered to organize, as a contribution of Spain, a pilot study on the measures proposed in paragraph 175 of UNEP/WG.118/6 as well as the alternative measures which could be considered as suitable in the Mediterranean region. The results of that pilot study would be available in time for consideration by the fourth meeting of the Working Group. He invited the interested MED POL Co-ordinators to form a task team which could assist in carrying out the proposed pilot study.

47. The secretariat expressed its concern over the fact that the Meeting was not prepared to consider the proposed environmental quality criteria relevant to the shellfish-growing waters and shellfish, although ample time was at the disposal of the national MED POL Co-ordinators for the examination of the document. In view of the position taken by the Meeting the secretariat felt that the recommendations relevant to the environmental quality criteria for shellfish and shellfish-growing waters should not be submitted to the Contracting Parties before they were subjected to a detailed review by the next meeting of the Working Group.

Agenda item 10. Assessment of the present state of pollution by petroleum hydrocarbons in the Mediterranean Sea

48. The secretariat and the representative of IOC introduced document UNEP/WG.118/7, highlighting the major conclusions contained therein.

49. After an exchange of views on the format and content of document UNEP/WG.118/7, as well as of documents UNEP/WG.118/Inf.10 and Inf.10 Add.1, prepared by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the Meeting recognized that the implementation of measures to control pollution by petroleum hydrocarbons must be considered a high priority issue and should receive the early attention of the Contracting Parties. However, in view of the fact that those documents were made available to the MED POL National Co-ordinators too late to permit their detailed analysis, it was recommended that:

- (a) the documents should not be presented to the Contracting Parties in their present form;
- (b) the MED POL National Co-ordinators should submit in writing, by 30 November 1985, their comments on those documents to the secretariat;
- (c) the secretariat, in co-operation with the relevant specialized agencies (IOC and IMO), should prepare a new consolidated version of the document on the assessment of the present state of pollution by petroleum hydrocarbons in the Mediterranean Sea, including recommendations on the measures which could be taken by the Contracting Parties to control pollution by petroleum hydrocarbons and correcting some geographical mistakes appearing in the text;
- (d) the document mentioned in (c) above, including the recommendations contained therein, should be reviewed by the fourth meeting of the Working Group and recommendations for measures to control pollution by petroleum hydrocarbons resulting from that review should be transmitted to the Contracting Parties.

50. As regards the pollution by petroleum hydrocarbons, the EEC representative informed the group on the appropriate action taken as a result of an accident of an oil tanker off Messina (Italy).

Agenda item 11: Progress in the implementation of the Protocol for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft

51. The secretariat introduced the report on the implementation of the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft and recommendations for future action (UNEP/WG.118/8).

52. In the discussion the Libyan Delegation expressed the need for national experts to review document UNEP/WG.118/8 before approving recommendations.

53. The Working Group examined the report and after receiving additional clarifications, approved the recommendations contained in annex VII.

Agenda item 12: Meeting of experts for the technical implementation of the Protocol for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea from land-based-sources

54. The secretariat introduced document UNEP/WG.118/Inf.11 and Inf.12, containing the provisional agenda, the annotated agenda and the list of documents for the Meeting of Experts on the Technical Implementation of the LBS Protocol.

55. The Working Group discussed the two documents and proposed amendments to the titles of some agenda items which were then accepted.

Agenda item 13: Other business

56. The question of the publication of the information bulletin on the Mediterranean Action Plan was raised by some participants, who were informed by the secretariat that the preparation of the first issue was in progress and would appear shortly. The first issue of the bulletin, to be published bi-monthly, would be presented to the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Genoa.

57. The EEC delegate asked some explanations regarding the juridical value of the proposed measures. In particular, how they would be enforced, who would be in charge of the control of their enforcement, who would actually control their enforcement. The secretariat gave the necessary answers, as appropriate.

Agenda Item 14: Adoption of the report

58. The participants adopted the Report of the Meeting on 31 May 1985.

Agenda item 15: Closure of the meeting

59. Mr. A. Manos underlined the progress accomplished by the meeting, but stressed the importance of the work still to be accomplished with regard to the implementation of the Land-based sources protocol. In this context, the contribution of national institutions and Coordinators was considered essential.

60. Mr. S. Keckes, Director of OCA/PAC, in his closing remarks thanked the participants for the spirit of cooperation and for the constructive approach which prevailed in the meeting. He specially expressed the secretariat's appreciation for the way in which the past and proposed monitoring and research activities were reviewed. However, in spite of undeniable positive achievements of the meeting, he stressed the secretariat's concern about the slow progress in designing and adopting measures requested by the Contracting Parties which would lead to an effective protection of the Mediterranean Sea. Specifically, he referred to the common environment quality criteria proposed jointly by FAO, WHO and UNEP for adoption by the Contracting Parties, as the minimal measures safeguarding the general public from mercury in seafood and from microbial contamination of bathing waters, shellfish and shellfish-growing waters. The recommendation of the meeting to merely take note of the recommended Provisional Tolerable Weekly Intake (PTWI) of mercury in seafood and to take it into consideration when establishing national standards was, in the view of the Secretariat, a long way from adoption of

common Mediterranean criteria. The recommended adoption of unspecified measures which would ensure compliance with proposed Mediterranean environmental quality criteria for bathing waters was much closer to the goals of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, although not identical to the adoption of common Mediterranean environmental quality criteria for bathing waters. He reiterated the concern of the secretariat for the lack of progress on the formulation of common environmental quality criteria for shellfish and shellfish-growing waters (reflected in paragraph 47 of the report) and stressed that the microbial contamination of shellfish may be, according to the views of the secretariats of WHO and UNEP, a more serious public health problem than the quality of bathing water itself. Mr. S. Keckes expressed the hope that in the future meetings of the Working Group all MED POL national coordinators would be more outspoken in expressing their views and in forwarding their arguments which would lead to actions taking into account the wishes and interests of every Contracting Party. Finally, Mr. S. Keckes, on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, thanked the participants for their constructive contributions, and expressed appreciation to the specialized Agencies and the supporting staff which contributed to the success of the meeting.

61. The Chairman also thanked the participants for their very constructive attitude, and stressed the importance of the progress accomplished, especially if compared to other international Conventions, which are not always reflected in the documents.

62. The Chairman closed the meeting on 31st May 1985 at 14.00 hours.

ANNEX I
ANNEXE I

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LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Rules of procedure.
3. Election of officers.
4. Adoption of the agenda.
5. Organization of work.
6. Progress in the implementation of the MED POL - PHASE II (1983-1985).
7. Proposed monitoring and research activities for 1986 and 1987 and related budget provisions.
8. Assessment of the present state of pollution by mercury in the Mediterranean Sea and review of the control measures taken by the Contracting Parties.
9. Assessment of the present state of microbial pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and review of the control measures taken by the Contracting Parties.
10. Assessment of the present state of pollution by petroleum hydrocarbons in the Mediterranean Sea.
11. Progress in the implementation of the Protocol for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft.
12. Meeting of experts for the technical implementation of the Protocol for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea from land-based sources.
13. Other business.
14. Adoption of the report.
15. Closure of the meeting.

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| UNEP/WG.118/1/Rev.1 | Provisional agenda. |
| UNEP/WG.118/2/Rev.1 | Annotated provisional agenda. |
| UNEP/WG.118/3 | Progress report on the implementation of the long-term programme for pollution monitoring and research (MED POL - PHASE II) (1983-1985). |
| UNEP/WG.118/4 | Proposed monitoring and research activities during 1986 and 1987 and related budget requirements. |
| UNEP/WG.118/5 | Assessment of the present state of pollution by mercury in the Mediterranean Sea and proposed control measures (formerly issued as UNEP/WG.91/5). |
| UNEP/WG.118/6 | Assessment of the present state of microbial pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and proposed control measures. |
| UNEP/WG.118/7 | Assessment of the present state of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by petroleum hydrocarbons. |
| UNEP/WG.118/8 | Report on the implementation of the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft and recommendations for future action. |
| UNEP/WG.118/9 | Report of the meeting. |

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| UNEP/WG.118/Inf.1/Rev.2 | List of documents. |
| UNEP/WG.118/Inf.2 | List of participants. |
| UNEP/WG.118/Inf.3 | Proceedings of the workshop on jellyfish blooms in the Mediterranean (Athens, 31 October - 4 November, 1983). |
| UNEP/WG.118/Inf.4 | Progress report on the work of GESAMP Working Group No. 14 on Interchange of Pollutants between the Atmosphere and the Oceans. |

- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.5 Report on the progress made in developing a network for monitoring the transport of pollutants through the atmosphere (NOT ISSUED).
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.6 Report of a driftcard experiment in the Mediterranean Sea (DRIFTEX).
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.7 Report on intercalibration organized and co-ordinated by IAEA's International Laboratory for Marine Radioactivity.
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.8 Inventory of MED POL data base.
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.9 Status of reference methods for marine pollution studies.
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.9/Corr.1 Status of reference methods for marine pollution studies.
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.10 Legal, administrative and technical arrangements for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea from petroleum hydrocarbon pollution.
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.10/Add.1 Legal, administrative and technical arrangements for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea from petroleum hydrocarbon pollution.
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.11 Provisional agenda and provisional annotated agenda for the meeting of experts on the technical implementation of the LBS protocol.
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.12 Provisional list of documents for the meeting of experts on the technical implementation of the LBS protocol.
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.13 Report on the WHO/UNEP meeting on microbiological methods for coastal water quality monitoring (Athens, 25-29 June 1984).
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.14 Report on the FAO/IAEA/UNEP expert consultation meeting on reference methods for the determination of chemical contaminants in marine organisms (Rome, 4-8 June 1984).
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.15 Report on the WHO/UNEP meeting on microbiological methods for coastal water quality monitoring (Tunis, 12-16 November 1984).
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.16 Report on the IOC/UNEP/CSIC intercalibration exercise for oil and petroleum hydrocarbons (Barcelona, 11-17 November 1984).
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.17 Report on the WHO/FAO/UNEP meeting on biological monitoring of methylmercury in Mediterranean populations (Zagreb, 17-21 September 1984).

- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.18 Report on the FAO/UNEP meeting on the toxicity and bioaccumulation of selected substances in marine organisms (Rovinj, 5-9 November 1984).
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.19 Report on the FAO/WHO/IOC/IAEA/UNEP meeting on the biogeochemical cycle of mercury in the Mediterranean (Siena, 27-31 August 1984).
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.20 Report on the IOC/UNEP mussel homogenate inter-calibration exercise for petroleum hydrocarbons.
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.21 Report on the WHO/UNEP meeting on microbiological methods for coastal water quality monitoring (Barcelona, 7-11 November 1983).
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.22 Reports on the legal and/or administrative measures taken by the Contracting Parties relevant to the proposed interim environmental quality criteria for mercury in seafood and for coastal recreational waters, shellfish and shellfish-growing waters.
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.23 Principles, methodologies and guidelines for the protection of the marine environment against pollution from Land-Based Sources.
- UNEP/WG.118/Inf.24 Information on research activities relevant to the physical dynamical processes affecting pollutant transport in the Mediterranean Sea.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- UNEP Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols. UNEP 1982 and 1983.
- UNEP Long-term programme for pollution monitoring and research in the Mediterranean (MED POL) PHASE II. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 28. UNEP, 1983.
- UNEP/IG.23/11 Report of the second meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols and Intergovernmental review meeting of Mediterranean coastal States on the Action Plan (Cannes, 2-7 March 1981).
- UNEP/IG.49/5 Report of the extraordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (Athens, 10-13 April 1984).

- UNEP/IG.49/Inf.5 Report of a consultation on a jellyfish project in the Mediterranean Sea (Athens, 6-7 February 1984).
- UNEP/WG.62/3/Rev.1 Basic criteria for the implementation of national monitoring programmes.
- UNEP/WG.62/4/Rev.1 Basic criteria for the development of research activities.
- UNEP/WG.62/7 Report of the first meeting of the Working Group for scientific and technical co-operation for MED POL (Athens, 28 September - 2 October 1981).
- UNEP/WG.91/3 Report on the implementation of the monitoring activities during 1981-1983 and proposals for 1983-1985.
- UNEP/WG.91/4/Rev.1 Progress report on the implementation of research activities during 1981-1983 and activities planned for 1984-1985.
- UNEP/WG.91/12 Report of the second meeting of the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation for MED POL (Athens, 21-25 November 1983).
- UNEP/WG.103/1 Report of workshop on jellyfish blooms in the Mediterranean (Athens, 31 October - 4 November 1983).
- UNEP/WG.104/5 Report of the meeting on the contribution of Mediterranean bilateral and multilateral programmes to the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan (Brussels, 23-26 October 1984).
- UNEP/ECE/UNIDO/FAO/
UNESCO/WHO/IAEA Pollutants from land-based sources in the Mediterranean
UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 32.
UNEP, 1984.
- GESAMP Biological effects of thermal discharges in the marine environment. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 45. UNEP, 1984.

ANNEX IV

STATUS OF REFERENCE METHODS

(NA = not available, A = available (the number or letter in parentheses refers to the Reference Methods listed in UNEP/WG.118/Inf.9/Corr.1), P = in preparation (see also UNEP/WG.118/Inf.9/Corr.1 for citation of Reference Method), "-" = not applicable)

Parameter	Effluent	Coastal, Estuarine and Reference Waters			
		Sea-water	Organisms	Sediments	Susp. Solids
Organohalogens	NA	A(16)	A(14)	A(17)	A(17)
Organosilicons	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mercury	NA	P(19)	A(8)	A(26)	A(26)
Organic mercury	NA	NA	A(13)	NA	NA
Cadmium	NA	A(18, I)	A(11)	A(27)	P(I)
Plastics	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Petroleum hydrocarbons	NA	P(B)	NA	P(20)	P(20)
Tar balls on beaches	-	-	-	A(15)	-
Radioactivity	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Acids/alkalis	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Biological/chemical war agents	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Organophosphorus	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Organotin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Carcinogens/mutagens	NA	NA	P(H,J)	NA	NA
Zinc	NA	NA	A(11)	NA	NA
Copper	NA	NA	A(11)	NA	NA

Parameter	Effluent	Coastal, Estuarine and Reference Waters			
		Sea-water	Organisms	Sediments	Susp. Solids
Nickel	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Chromium	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Lead	NA	NA	A(11)	NA	NA
Selenium	NA	NA	A(10)	NA	NA
Arsenic	NA	NA	A(9)	NA	NA
Antimony	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Molybdenum	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Titanium	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Barium	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Beryllium	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Boron	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Uranium	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Vanadium	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cobalt	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Thallium	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tellurium	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Silver	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cyanide	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Fluoride	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Detergents	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Phosphorus	NA	NA	NA	P(E)	P(E)
Staphylococcus aureus	P(AA)	P(AA)	NA	NA	NA
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	P(AB)	P(AB)	NA	NA	NA
Salmonella	P(AC)	P(AC)	NA	NA	NA
Thermal discharges	NA	-	-	-	-
Taste/smell detriment	NA	NA	NA	-	-
Oxygen demand(chemical)	NA	A(G)	-	-	-

Parameter	Effluent	Coastal, Estuarine and Reference Waters			
		Sea-water	Organisms	Sediments	Susp. Solids
Oxygen demand (biological)	NA	A(G)	-	-	-
Total coliforms	NA	A(2,21)	NA	NA	NA
Faecal coliforms	NA	A(3,22)	A(5)	P(D)	P(D)
Faecal streptococci	NA	A(4,23)	NA	NA	NA
Oceanographic/meteorology	-	P(K)	-	-	-
Physical/chemical parameters	-	P(L)	-	-	-
Polyaromatic hydrocarbons	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ecological parameters	-	-	NA	NA	NA
Nitrogen	NA	NA	NA	P(F)	P(F)
Phenols	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Notes: The parameters listed are all included in annexes I and II of the LBS and/or dumping protocols, and are reflected in UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 28 (see pages 5-8) for monitoring.

The tabulation does not include Reference Methods dealing with guidelines for sampling, sample preparation and statistical evaluations which have been issued or are being prepared, i.e. methods 1, 6, 7, 12, 25, A, C and M. Neither does it include Reference Methods for air-sea pollutant transfer measurements, i.e. methods 24, O, P, Q and those methods related to other miscellaneous matters, AD, AE
(please refer to UNEP/WG.118/Inf.9/Corr.1)

ANNEX V

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING MERCURY

The Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Athens, 10 - 13 April 1984) had recommended to adopt the FAO/WHO/UNEP interim environmental quality criteria for mercury in Mediterranean seafood and implement them to the extent possible by appropriate national legal and/or administrative measures as the minimal common measures safeguarding the general public.

On the basis of the assessment of the quality of Mediterranean seafood with regard to its Mercury content as described in doc. UNEP/WG.118/5, the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Cooperation submits to the Contracting Parties the following recommendations:

- (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 (PTWI) 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 in selected marine organisms, the reference method by cold vapour atomic absorption spectrophotometry (Ref. Meth. for Marine Pollution Studies No. 8/Rev. 1, UNEP/FAO/IAEA, 1984) and for the determination of methylmercury in selected marine organisms the reference method by gas chromatography (Ref. Meth. No. 13, UNEP/FAO/IAEA, 1984). However, other methods giving comparable results could be also 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.

ANNEX VI

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING BATHING WATERS

On the basis of the results of MED POL VII' (including the assessment of the quality of Mediterranean recreational waters, shellfish and shellfish-growing waters) and the analysis of the present national and international regulations related to the environmental quality criteria of the Mediterranean recreational waters, shellfish and shellfish-growing waters, proposals were submitted for the consideration of the Working Group, with a view to their transmission by UNEP to the Contracting Parties.

The Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation recommends to the Contracting Parties to:

- (a) adopt measures that will ensure as minimum common requirement that the quality of bathing waters will conform with the proposed WHO/UNEP environmental quality criteria. Countries that may eventually have stricter norms will not be required to modify their legislation;
- (b) adopt the methods for marine pollution studies developed to support the proposed interim environmental quality criteria as the two reference methods (on Reference Methods for Pollution Studies N° 2, 3 and 22, 23) to be used in connexion with these criteria;
- (c) include, to the extent possible, all public coastal recreational beaches and shellfish-growing areas 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 recreational 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 seawater;
- expansion of the present programme of epidemiological studies to achieve the necessary information on the relationship between water quality and health effects.

ANNEX VII

Recommendations for the further implementation
of the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution
of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft

Recommendations for immediate action:

1. 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) The Contracting Parties should designate "national focal points" for contact in critical situations.
- (c) The Contracting Parties should establish a ad hoc Scientific Group on Dumping with the terms of reference set forth in Appendix 1. The Scientific Group on Dumping should meet at least once a year and should prepare reports on its activities and bring forward recommendations for consideration by the meetings of the Working Group. The Contracting Parties should identify the budgetary allocations required for financing the activities of the Scientific Group on Dumping.
- (d) 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 2).

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 3 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 would be applied.
- (b) The Contracting Parties should adopt, on a provisional basis, the definition set forth in paragraph 1(c) of Appendix 3 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.
- (d) The ad hoc Scientific Group on Dumping should discuss and evaluate the interpretation set forth in paragraph 2 of Appendix 3 for the application of Article 5 of the Protocol.

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 organisations with regard to the exchange of scientific and technical information, on the prevention of marine pollution by dumping from ships and aircraft.

Other recommendations:

6. The Contracting Parties should assign the ad hoc Scientific Group on Dumping the task of discussing the subject listed below and bringing forward appropriate recommendations for consideration by future meetings of the Contracting Parties:

- (a) Review of the provisional definitions, procedures and criteria referred to in the above recommendations for immediate action, in particular Annex II of the Protocol.
- (b) Examination and review of test procedures for wastes including acute toxicity and chronic toxicity tests, biodegradability tests and bio-accumulations tests.
- (c) Review and development of procedures for amendment of the annexes to the Protocol and, in particular, development of scientific criteria for assigning substances to Annex I and Annex II of the Protocol.
- (d) Development of guidelines for the applications of Annex III of the Protocol, guidelines for the selection of dumping sites and guidelines for dumping of specific types of wastes and other matter.

7. The secretariat should invite the Contracting Parties to provide it with information relevant to the subjects listed above. On the basis of that information, consultations with other relevant organizations and the advice of experts, the secretariat should prepare background documentation for the discussions of the Scientific Group on Dumping.

Appendix 1

Terms of reference for the ad hoc Scientific Group on Dumping

The Scientific Group on Dumping is established to provide timely advice to the meetings of the Working Group on scientific and technical matters related to the implementation of the Protocol. Membership of the Scientific Group is open to all Contracting Parties.

In accomplishing its overall mission the Scientific Group on Dumping is required to do the following:

1. respond to specific requests from the meetings of the Contracting Parties for scientific and technical advice on matters related to the Protocol;
2. review relevant scientific information, particularly that arising from new scientific and technological developments insofar as this may assist implementation of the Protocol, and
3. keep under review the implementation of the Protocol and bring forward, for consideration by the meetings of the Contracting Parties, recommendations for the further implementation of the Protocol.

Appendix 2

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, e.g. 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 a subsequent meeting of the Parties.
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 constructed 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 3

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:
- (1) if they are present in otherwise acceptable wastes or other material to which they have been added for the purpose of being dumped;
 - (2) 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
 - (3) if they are present in such amounts that it is practical to reduce their concentrations 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 ad hoc Scientific Group on Dumping.

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 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 chemicals 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.

ANNEX VIII

Budget

MED POL - MONITORING

	1986	1987
<u>1. PERSONNEL ^{A/}</u>		
<u>Experts/Consultants</u>		
- FAO Fishery Expert, P-5	12mm 65,000	12mm 67,000
- WHO Senior Scientist, P-5	12mm 78,000	12mm 80,000
- IAEA Maintenance Engineer, P-3	12mm 60,000	12mm 62,000
<u>Administrative Support</u>		
- FAO Secretary, Athens, Local G-4	12mm 12,000	12mm 14,000
- WHO Secretary, Athens, Local G-4	12mm 14,000	12mm 15,000
- WHO Secretary, Copenhag., Loc.G-4	6mm 8,000	6mm 9,000
- IAEA Lab. Assist., Monaco, Local G-5	12mm 25,000	12mm 27,000
Component Total	262,000	274,000
<u>2. TRAVEL ^{B/}</u>		
- WHO	10,000	10,000
- FAO	10,000	10,000
- IOC/UNESCO	5,000	5,000
- WMO	5,000	5,000
- IAEA	20,000	20,000
Component Total	50,000	50,000

A/ Cost of UNEP staff involved in MED POL covered through Chapter I (Co-ordination) of MAP budget.

B/ Cost of travel of UNEP staff related to MED POL covered through Chapter I (Co-ordination) of MAP budget.

	1986	1987
3. SUBCONTRACTS		
- Intercalibration of petroleum hydrocarbon analytical methods (through IOC)	12,000	-
- Intercalibration of microbiological reference methods (through WHO)	12,000	-
- Printing of VIII ICSEM/IOC/UNEP proceedings (ICSEM through the secretariat)	-	25,000
- Assistance through agreements	316,600	431,000
Component Total	340,600	456,000
4. MEETINGS/TRAINING/WORKSHOPS/FELLOWSHIPS		
<u>Meetings:</u>		
- Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation	45,000	50,000
<u>Training:</u>		
- On-job training (through the secretariat)	80,000	80,000
<u>Fellowships:</u>		
- Fellowships for attendance at meetings:		
- VIII ICSEM/IOC/UNEP Workshops	45,000	-
- Consultation meeting to assess results of monitoring activities	-	40,000
- Consultation meeting on LBS monitoring (WHO)	-	15,000
- Other meetings	30,000	30,000
Component Total	200,000	215,000

	1986	1987
5. EQUIPMENT <u>C/</u>		
<u>Expendable</u>		
- Spare parts for common maintenance service (through IAEA)	25,000	30,000
<u>Non-expendable</u>		
- Laboratory equipment (to ILMR)	18,000	20,000
Component Total	43,000	50,000
6. RENTAL AND MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES^{D/}	-	-
Component Total	-	-
7. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT <u>E/</u>		
- IAEA	1,800	2,000
Component Total	1,800	2,000
8. REPORTING COSTS <u>F/</u>		
- IAEA	1,300	1,500
Component Total	1,300	1,500
9. SUNDRY <u>G/</u>		
- IAEA	1,300	1,500
Component Total	1,300	1,500
GRAND TOTAL	900,000	1,050,000

C/ Equipment committed through Agreements included in Section 3 (Sub-contracts).

D/ No direct costs to MED POL.

E/ This item covers only the cost of operation and maintenance of equipment used by ILMR for common maintenance service

F/ Costs of translation and printing of UNEP documents related to MED POL covered through Chapter I (Co-ordination) of MAP budget.

G/ Cost of sundry items related to MED POL incurred by UNEP covered through Chapter I (Co-ordination) of MAP budget.

MED POL - RESEARCH

	1986	1987
SUBCONTRACTS		
Activity A	35,000	36,000
B	16,000	18,000
C	16,000	18,000
D	25,000	36,000
E	16,000	18,000
F	20,000	26,000
G	20,000	26,000
H	25,000	26,000
I	12,000	20,000
J	15,000	16,000
K	25,000	30,000
L	25,000	30,000
Sub-total	250,000	300,000
MEETINGS		
Activity A	12,500	12,500
D	12,500	12,500
H	12,500	-
K	12,500	-
L (two meetings)	-	25,000
Sub-total	50,000	50,000
GRAND TOTAL	300,000	350,000

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Athens, 27-31 May 1985

Troisième réunion du Groupe de travail
sur la coopération scientifique et technique
pour le programme MED POL

Athènes, 27-31 mai 1985

REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP
FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION
FOR MED POL

RAPPORT DE LA TROISIEME REUNION DU GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
SUR LA COOPERATION SCIENTIFIQUE ET TECHNIQUE
POUR LE PROGRAMME MED POL

Annexe V

Recommandations concernant le mercure

Selon tous les éléments dont on dispose sur la base de concentrations actuelles de mercure présent dans les produits de la mer Méditerranée, il apparaît que la consommation de ces produits ne présente pas actuellement de risque pour la population en général.

Au stade actuel l'adoption de valeurs maximales pour les concentrations de mercure dans les produits de la mer, sur une base régionale commune, ne serait donc pas a priori justifiée.

Sur la base de l'évaluation de la qualité des produits de la mer Méditerranée par référence à leur teneur en mercure décrite dans le document UNEP/WG.118/5 le Groupe de travail soumet aux Parties contractantes les recommandations suivantes:

a), b), c), d), e), f) et g) pas de changements.

Annexe VI

Recommandations concernant les eaux de baignade

La réunion extraordinaire des Parties contractantes (Athènes, 10-13 avril 1984) avait recommandé que soit mise en oeuvre l'adoption de critères provisoires OMS/PNUÉ de qualité du milieu proposés pour les eaux à usage récréatif, des coquillages et des eaux conchylicoles de la Méditerranée, et les appliquer autant que faire se peut par des mesures nationales juridiques et/ou administratives appropriées.

Sur la base des résultats du MED POL VII (y compris l'évaluation de la qualité des eaux à usage récréatif, des coquillages et des eaux conchylicoles de la Méditerranée) et de l'analyse des réglementations actuelles nationales ou internationales relatives aux critères de qualité du milieu des eaux à usage récréatif, des propositions ont été soumises au Groupe de travail pour les examiner, en vue de leur transmission aux Parties contractantes. Le Groupe de travail sur la coopération scientifique et technique recommande aux Parties contractantes de:

a), b), c), d) et e) pas de changements.

Annex V

Recommendations concerning mercury

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.

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.

On the basis of the assessment of the quality of Mediterranean seafood with regard to its mercury content as described in document UNEP/WG.118/5, the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation submits to the Contracting Parties the following recommendations:

a), b), c), d), e), f) and g) no changes.

Annex VI

Recommendations concerning bathing waters

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 recreational waters, shellfish and shellfish-growing waters and implement them to the extent possible by appropriate national legal and/or administrative measures.

On the basis of the results of MED POL VII (including the assessment of the quality of Mediterranean recreational waters, shellfish and shellfish growing waters) and the analysis of the present national and international regulations related to the environmental quality criteria of the Mediterranean recreational waters, proposals were submitted for the consideration of the Working Group, with a view to their transmission by UNEP to the Contracting Parties.

The Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation recommends to the Contracting Parties to:

a), b), c), d) and e) no changes.