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Meeting of Experts on the Technical Implementation
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Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from
Land-based Sources

Athens, 9-13. December 1985

GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE PROGRESSIVE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL

In collaboration with:



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

1. Article 8 of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, adopted by the Coastal States of the region in Barcelona in February 1976, states:

"The Contracting Parties shall take all appropriate measures to prevent, abate and combat pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area caused by discharges from rivers, coastal establishments or outfalls, or emanating from any other land-based sources within their territories."

2. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States of the Mediterranean Region on the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea (Barcelona, 2 - 16 February 1976) also, in its Resolution No.2 on interim arrangements, called on the Executive Director of UNEP, in co-operation with the International Organisations concerned, to continue the preparatory work for such a Protocol.
3. In accordance with this resolution, apart from the preparatory work necessary for the draft articles and annexes of the Protocol, a pilot project on Pollutants from Land-based Sources in the Mediterranean (MED X) was conducted within the framework of the Joint Co-ordinated Mediterranean Pollution Monitoring and Research Programme (MED POL Phase 1). The ultimate objective of this pilot project was to provide the Governments of the region with appropriate information on the type and quantity of pollutant inputs from major land-based sources and rivers, and on the present status of water pollution management practices. The pilot project was a joint undertaking between WHO (which assumed overall responsibility for its co-ordination), ECE, UNIDO, FAO, UNESCO, IAEA and UNEP, and was completed in 1977. Its report was issued as one of the background documents during negotiations by Mediterranean Governments on the draft Protocol and its annexes. For the same purpose, WHO and UNEP jointly carried out a survey of existing national legislation in Mediterranean States on the control of pollution from land-based sources. This survey has recently been updated.
4. Following a series of intergovernmental consultations and expert meetings between 1977 and 1979, the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources was adopted and signed at a Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in Athens from 12 to 17 May 1980. The Protocol entered into force on 17 June 1983, following adoption of the sixth instrument of ratification, accession or approval.

5. The Present status of the Protocol is as follows:

	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Ratification</u>	<u>Accession</u>
Albania	-	-	-
Algeria	-	-	2 May 1983
Cyprus	17 May 1980	-	-
EEC	17 May 1980	7 Oct. 1983	- a/
Egypt	-	-	18 May 1983
France	17 May 1980	13 July 1982	-
Greece	17 May 1980	-	-
Israel	18 May 1980	-	-
Italy	17 May 1980	15 April 1985	-
Lebanon	17 May 1980	-	-
Libya	17 May 1980	-	-
Malta	17 May 1980	-	-
Monaco	17 May 1980	12 Jan. 1983	-
Morocco	17 May 1980	-	-
Spain	17 May 1980	6 June 1984	-
Syria	-	-	-
Tunisia	17 May 1980	29 Oct. 1981	-
Turkey	-	-	21 Feb.1983
Yugoslavia	-	-	-

a/ Approved

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

6. The Secretariat, taking into account the relevant provisions of the Barcelona Convention and of the Land-based Sources Protocol as well as the various decisions of the Contracting Parties and the experience gained until now in the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan, proposes the following general principles for the implementation of the Protocol (elaborated in paragraphs 7 - 15):

- (a) The Protocol should be implemented progressively, through a step-by-step process, according to a long-term workplan and timetable agreed by the Contracting Parties.
- (b) The existing level of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea and the severity of its effects on the Mediterranean ecosystem, human health and amenities should be used as indications guiding the timetable for the formulation of measures.
- (c) The best available information on scientific and technical matters should be used in formulating proposals for measures to be taken under the Protocol.
- (d) The ecological, geographical and physical characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zone, including the absorptive capacity of the marine environment, should be taken into account in formulating the measures.

- (e) The implementation of the Protocol should be linked with and reinforced by the other components of the Action Plan, MED POL in particular.
- (f) The implementation of the Protocol should be based on common guidelines, standards or criteria, which should be applicable to the Mediterranean as a whole.
- (g) The measures adopted individually or jointly under the Protocol should take into account the economic capacity of the Contracting Parties.
- (h) Assistance should be made available to developing countries in the implementation of the Protocol. Such assistance should include exchange of information in the fields of services and technology, training in pollution control methodologies as well as acquisition of appropriate pollution control technologies on advantageous terms.
- (i) Annex IV to the Protocol concerning pollution from land-based sources transported by the atmosphere, should be prepared in accordance with the provision of Article 4 of the Protocol.

7. The step-by-step implementation of the Protocol is considered to be the only logical approach to the complex problem posed by pollution from land-based sources, because the preparatory work involved to elaborate common emission standards and standards for use (collection of information, exchange of data, formulation of scientific rationale for control measures, identification of available options and analysis of their advantages and disadvantages, etc.) requires time, usually years.

The first step is, therefore, to adopt a clearly defined long-term workplan and timetable.

8. Information on the sources and amounts of pollutants reaching the Mediterranean Sea, as well as on the effects of those pollutants on marine ecosystems, human health, amenities and other legitimate uses of the sea and the coastal zone is essential in order to assess the real magnitude of the problem, and to decide on the types of measures to be taken.
9. It is essential to acquire all relevant information on technological processes causing significant pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, as well as on alternative processes not causing such pollution. The latter information could be obtained from sources both within and outside the Mediterranean region, in order to provide a realistic approach, and avoid overlap and duplication of effort.
10. The Mediterranean Sea, and its coastal zone, has many specific ecological, geographical and physical characteristics. Any measure taken under the terms of the Protocol would have to take such characteristics fully into account.

11. All the relevant components of the Mediterranean Action Plan - the Blue Plan, Priority Actions Programme, Specially Protected Areas - and, in particular MED POL, should contribute to the fullest extent possible to the scientific/technical rationale of proposed measures, as well as to implementation of the Protocol.
12. All guidelines, standards and criteria developed as measures for the implementation of the Protocol should be common for, and applicable to, the whole of the Mediterranean. This would not preclude any Contracting Party from applying stricter measures if national or local circumstances so demand.
13. The common measures proposed will take into account the economic capacity of the Parties and their need for development. Parties not able to accept the common programmes or measures may temporarily make use of the provision of Article 15.2 of the Protocol.
14. To ensure the effective implementation of the Protocol, it is necessary that relevant national infrastructures are available at the appropriate level required to implement the necessary measures and control their effectiveness. It is therefore essential that developing countries use their existing infrastructure efficiently and, where necessary, obtain the fullest possible assistance required to enable them to develop such infrastructures. This assistance should include exchange of information in the fields of services and technology, training of appropriate personnel, and acquisition of appropriate pollution control technologies at advantageous terms.
15. In accordance with the provision of Article 4 of the Protocol, draft of Annex IV to the Protocol, concerning pollution from land-based sources transported by the atmosphere, will be prepared in close collaboration with relevant national authorities and with the co-operation of the relevant UN Agencies.

ACTIONS PROPOSED

16. On the basis of the general principles presented in paragraphs 6 - 15 above, a proposed Summary Workplan and Timetable for the formulation of programmes and measures in terms of Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 and 13 of the Protocol is presented in an Annex to this document.
17. Proposed workplans and timetables for programmes and measures to be taken in terms of the implementation of the individual articles of the Protocol are presented in documents UNEP/WG.125/4 (for Article 5), UNEP/WG.125/5 (for Article 6) and UNEP/WG.125/6 (for Article 7)
18. The actions proposed will be undertaken in close collaboration with relevant national authorities and with the co-operation of the relevant UN Agencies. In each case the particular Agency expected to assume responsibility for the technical organisation and co-ordination of the work is specified.

19. Documents prepared as a result of actions listed in the Annex to this document, will be presented (target date) to Meetings of Experts on the Technical Implementation of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources, with a view to their submission to the Contracting Parties for adoption of measures proposed. The Meetings of Experts on the Technical Implementation of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources should be held annually. The Working Group on Scientific and Technical Co-operation for MED POL should be kept informed at every meeting of progress made.

SUMMARY WORKPLAN AND TIMETABLE FOR THE FORMULATION OF PROGRAMMES AND MEASURES IN TERMS OF ARTICLES 4, 5, 6, 7 AND 13 OF THE PROTOCOL

ACTIONS	RELEVANCE TO THE PROTOCOL	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	TARGET DATE
1. Assessment of the present state of microbial pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and proposed control measures for bathing waters	Article 6; Annex II	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Sept. 1985
2. Assessment of the present state of pollution by mercury in the Mediterranean Sea and proposed measures for mercury in sea food	Article 5; Annex I	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Sept. 1985
3. Glossary of terms appearing in Annexes I, II and III to the Protocol	Annexes I, II and III	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1985
4. Draft guidelines for the issue of authorisations for the discharge of liquid wastes into the Mediterranean	Article 6	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1985
5. Draft guidelines for the computations concerning marine outfall systems for liquid effluents	Article 7	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1985
6. Completion and Revision of the Glossary	Annexes I, II and III	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1986

ACTIONS	RELEVANCE TO THE PROTOCOL	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	TARGET DATE
7. List of substances falling within each of the Groups in Annex I to the Protocol	Annex I	UNEP/MEDU, IRPTC	Dec. 1986
8. List of substances falling within each of the Groups in Annex II to the Protocol	Annex II	UNEP/MEDU, IRPTC	Dec. 1986
9. Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by used lubricating oils and proposed measures	Article 5; Annex I	UNEP/MEDU, UNIDO	Dec. 1986
10. Survey of land-based sources and amounts of pollutants reaching the Mediterranean Sea	Article 5; Annexes I and II	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1986
11. Assessment of the state of microbial pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and proposed measures for shell-fish and shell-fish growing waters	Article 6; Annex II	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1986
12. A critical review of existing literature on the role of pipelines/outfalls in the sanitation system, including experimental evidence on benefits and limitations, and evaluation of applicability or otherwise to the different parts of the Mediterranean area	Article 7	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1986
13. Formulation of the procedure for the collection and submission of information from the Parties on measures taken, results achieved and difficulties encountered in the application of the Protocol	Article 13	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1986

ACTIONS	RELEVANCE TO THE PROTOCOL	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	TARGET DATE
14. Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by cadmium and proposed measures	Article 5; Annex I	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1987
15. Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by organohalogen compounds and proposed measures	Article 5; Annex I	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1987
16. Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by persistent synthetic materials which may float, sink or remain in suspension and proposed measures	Article 5; Annex I	UNEP/MEDU, UNIDO	Dec. 1987
17. Recording the main types of sanitation systems existing in the Mediterranean area, together with their reported efficiency, with particular reference to submarine outfalls	Article 7	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1987
18. Identification and categorization of effluents requiring special and/or separate treatment	Article 7	UNEP/MEDU, WHO, UNIDO	Dec. 1987
19. Listing of the special treatment and/or other requirements normally associated with or advisable for such effluents	Article 7	UNEP/MEDU, WHO, UNIDO	Dec. 1987
20. Compilation of detailed information on existing legislative measures regarding the discharge of wastes through submarine outfalls in Mediterranean countries, together with similar information from selected countries outside the region, to enable comparison and evaluation of applicability	Article 7	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1987

ACTIONS	RELEVANCE TO THE PROTOCOL	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	TARGET DATE
21. Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by mercury and mercury compounds and proposed measures	Article 5; Annex I	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1988
22. Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by organophosphorous compounds and proposed measures	Article 5; Annex I	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1988
23. Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by organotin compounds and proposed measures		UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1988
24. Completion and revision of the list of substances contained in annexes to the Protocol	Annexes I, II and III	UNEP/MEDU, IRPTC	Dec. 1988
25. Identification and categorisation of those products, installations and other processes within the region actually or potentially causing significant pollution of the marine environment	Article 7	UNEP/MEDU, WHO, UNIDO	Dec. 1988
26. Compilation and evaluation of already existing international experience of available control measures, including the use of alternative products and processes wherever possible involving waste recycling and re-use and adjustment in the Mediterranean	Article 7	UNEP/MEDU, WHO, UNIDO	Dec. 1989
27. Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by radioactive substances and proposed measures	Article 5; Annex I	UNEP/MEDU, IAEA	Dec. 1989

ACTIONS	RELEVANCE TO THE PROTOCOL	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	TARGET DATE
28. Assessment of the present state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by pathogenic micro-organisms and proposed measures	Article 6; Annex II	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1989
29. Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by substances proven carcinogenic, teratogenic or mutagenic and proposed measures	Article 5; Annex I	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1989
30. Annex IV to the Protocol concerning pollution from land-based sources transported by the atmosphere	Article 4	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1989
31. Comprehensive survey of the situation currently existing in the Mediterranean region with regard to products, installations and other processes within the region actually or potentially causing significant pollution of the marine environment	Article 7	UNEP/MEDU, WHO UNIDO	Dec. 1990
32. Assessment of the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by zinc, copper and lead with proposed measures	Article 6; Annex II	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1990
33. Assessment of the state of pollution by crude oils and hydrocarbons of any origin and proposed measures	Article 6; Annex II	UNEP/MEDU	Dec. 1990
34. Assessment of the present state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by thermal discharges and proposed measures	Article 6; Annex II	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1990

ACTIONS	RELEVANCE TO THE PROTOCOL	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	TARGET DATE
35. Organisation of in situ investigations on selected submarine outfalls (in co-operation with local authorities) to determine their technical efficiency and cost-effectiveness (1986-1988)	Article 7	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1990
36. Compilation of a Mediterranean inventory of effluents requiring special and/or separate treatment including type, category, amount, locality and existing treatment, if any, together with, wherever possible, those local characteristics influencing the effects of such effluents on the marine environment, and the feasibility of separate and/or special treatment	Article 7	UNEP/MEDU, WHO, UNIDO	Dec. 1991
37. Assessment of the present state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by non-biodegradable detergents and other surface-active substances and proposed measures	Article 6; Annex II	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1991
38. Assessment of the present state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by organosilicon compounds and substances which may form such compounds in the marine environment, excluding those which are biologically harmless or are rapidly converted into biologically harmless substances and proposed measures	Article 6; Annex II	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1991
39. Assessment of the present state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by inorganic compounds of phosphorous and elemental phosphorous and proposed measures	Article 6; Annex II	UNEP/MEDU, IOC	Dec. 1991

ACTIONS	RELEVANCE TO THE PROTOCOL	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	TARGET DATE
40. Common guidelines for the determination of the length, depth and position of pipelines for coastal outfalls, taking into account, in particular, the methods used for pre-treatment of effluents	Article 7	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1991
41. Formulation of draft common guidelines, standards and criteria for special requirements for effluents necessitating separate treatment	Article 7	UNEP/MEDU, WHO, UNIDO	Dec. 1991
42. Assessment of the present state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by substances which have, directly or indirectly, an adverse effect on the oxygen content of the marine environment, especially those which may cause eutrophication and proposed measures	Article 6; Annex II	UNEP/MEDU, IOC	Dec. 1992
43. Assessment of the present state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by barium, uranium and cobalt with proposed measures	Article 6; Annex II	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1992
44. Assessment of the present state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by acid or alkaline compounds of such composition and in such quantity that they may impair the quality of seawater and proposed measures	Article 6; Annex II	UNEP/MEDU, IOC	Dec. 1992
45. Selection of products, processes and installations which could be efficiently and economically modified or replaced	Article 7	UNEP/MEDU, WHO UNIDO	Dec. 1993

ACTIONS	RELEVANCE TO THE PROTOCOL	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	TARGET DATE
46. Assessment of the present state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by nickel, chromium, selenium and arsenic with proposed measures	Article 6; Annex II	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1993
47. Assessment of the present state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by cyanides and fluorides and proposed measures	Article 6; Annex II	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1993
48. Assessment of the present state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by substances which, though of a non-toxic nature, may become harmful to the marine environment or may interfere with any legitimate use of the sea owing to the quantities in which they are discharged and proposed measures	Article 6; Annex II	UNEP/MEDU, IOC	Dec. 1993
49. Assessment of the present state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by biocides and their derivatives not covered in Annex I and proposed measures		UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1994
50. Assessment of the present state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by substances which have a deleterious effect on the taste and/or smell of products for human consumption derived from the aquatic environment, and compounds liable to give rise to such substances in the marine environment and proposed measures	Article 6; Annex II	UNEP/MEDU, WHO	Dec. 1994
51. Assessment of the present state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by antimony, tin and uranium with proposed measures	Article 6; Annex II	UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1994

ACTIONS	RELEVANCE TO THE PROTOCOL	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	TARGET DATE
52. Assessment of the present state of pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by titanium, boron and silver and proposed measures		UNEP/MEDU, FAO	Dec. 1995