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

Athens, 9-13 December 1985

DRAFT GLOSSARY OF TERMS APPEARING IN ANNEXES

I, II AND III TO THE PROTOCOL

In collaboration with:



WHO



FAO



IOC

DRAFT GLOSSARY OF TERMS APPEARING IN ANNEXES I, II AND III TO  
THE PROTOCOL FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA  
AGAINST POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES

ANNEX I

Preamble

1. Substance: Any physical, chemical or biological material or agent.
2. Family of Substances: Any number of substances whose composition and/or properties are related.
3. Group of Substances: Any number of substances whose composition and/or properties are not necessarily related.
4. Toxicity: The capacity to cause injury to a living organism.
5. Persistence: The attribute of a substance that describes the length of time that the substance remains in a particular environment before it is physically removed or chemically transformed.
6. Bioaccumulation: The process by which the amount of a substance in a living organism (or its parts) increases with time.

Item 1

7. Organohalogen compound: Any organic compound containing fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine in any form.

Item 2

8. Organophosphorus compound: Any organic compound containing phosphorus in any form.

Item 3

9. Organotin compound: Any organic compound containing tin in any form.

Item 4

10. Mercury compounds: Any compound containing mercury in any form.

Item 5

11. Cadmium compound: Any compound containing cadmium in any form.

Item 6

12. Lubricating oil: Any compound designed and/or used for lubricating purposes.
13. Used lubricating oil: Any lubricating oil already used for lubricating purposes, irrespective of whether or not it is still fit for such use.

Item 7

14. Synthetic material: Any material synthesized by man.

Item 8

15. Carcinogenic property: The property or potential to act on living tissue in such a way as to cause a malignancy.
16. Teratogenic property: The property or potential to produce malformations or defects, in an embryo or foetus, or abnormalities in the post-natal development of offspring.
17. Mutagenic property: The property or potential to induce any heritable change in genetic material.

Item 9

18. Radioactive substances: Substances possessing the property of spontaneous disintegration due to the unstable nature of atomic nuclei, accompanied by the emission of either alpha-or beta-particles and/or gamma rays.

Footnote

19. Biologically harmless: Incapable of causing injury to a living organism.

ANNEX II

Preamble

20. Source of pollution: Any material or agent capable of causing pollution. Also, any location from where pollution originates.
21. Noxious: Causing harm.
22. Natural processes: Any physical, chemical or biological process occurring naturally in the environment.

CHAPTER A

ITEM 2

23. Biocide: Any substance designed for, or capable of causing the death of a living organism.
24. Derivative of biocide: Any substance derived by any process from a biocide.

Item 3

25. Organosilicon compounds: Any organic compound containing silicon in any form.

Item 4

26. Crude oil: A complex mixture of hydrocarbons together with organic compounds of sulphur, nitrogen and oxygen.
27. Hydrocarbons: Organic compounds containing only the elements carbon and hydrogen.

Item 5

28. Cyanides: Any salts of hydrocyanic acid.
29. Fluorides: Any salts of hydrofluoric acid.

Item 6

30. Non-biodegradable: Not degraded by biological processes.
31. Detergent: A substance used in solution for cleaning a solid surface by action other than simple dissolution.
32. Surface active agent: A substance introduced into a liquid in order to increase its spreading, wetting and similar properties.

Item 8

33. Pathogen: An organism which causes disease.
34. Micro-organism: An organism which can only be seen with the aid of a microscope or other magnifier.

Item 9

35. Thermal discharge: Discharge of water at above ambient temperature.

Item 11

36. Eutrophication: The process of nutrient enrichment of water which leads to enhanced organic growth, but which, if carried too far (hypertrophication) causes undesirable effects.

Item 12

37. Acid compound: A substance which liberates hydrogen ions in solution.
38. Alkaline compound: A soluble hydroxide of a metal, which yields hydroxyl ions if dissolved in water.

ANNEX III

Preamble

39. Authorization for discharge of water: An official authorization by competent authorities for the discharge of specific wastes into the environment.

CHAPTER A

Item 3

40. Sludge: The accumulated solids separated from liquids, such as water or wastewater, during processing, or the precipitate resulting from the chemical treatment, coagulation or sedimentation of water or wastewater.
41. Slurry: A mixture of solids and liquids in a fluid state.

Item 5

42. Continuous discharge: A discharge which is normally uninterrupted in time.
43. Intermittent discharge: A discharge which is normally interrupted in time for appreciable time-periods.
44. Seasonally variable discharge: A discharge which varies on a seasonal time-scale or basis, or which varies with the seasons.

Item 6

45. Concentration: The unit mass of a given substance occurring per unit volume or weight.
46. Major constituent: One of the more abundant of the substances present in the waste.

Item 7

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|--|---|
| 47. Physical properties of a waste:    | Those properties of a waste which determine its reaction to physical processes and forces.        |
| 48. Chemical properties of a waste:    | Those properties of a waste which determine its reaction to chemical process and mechanisms.      |
| 49. Biochemical properties of a waste: | Those properties of a waste which determine its reaction to biochemical processes and mechanisms. |

CHAPTER B

ITEM 1

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|-----------------------------|---|
| 50. Physical persistence:   | The ability to resist degradation by physical processes and forces.                     |
| 51. Chemical persistence:   | The ability to resist degradation by chemical processes and mechanisms.                 |
| 52. Biological persistence: | The ability to resist death or ill-effects through biological processes and mechanisms. |

Item 6

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|---|--|
| 53. Physical changes and interactions:    | Changes and interaction brought about by physical processes.     |
| 54. Chemical changes and interaction:     | Changes and interactions brought about by chemical processes.    |
| 55. Biochemical changes and interactions: | Changes and interactions brought about by biochemical processes. |

CHAPTER C

Item 1

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| 56. Hydrographic characteristics    | Temperature and salinity distributions versus depth; currents (including tidal and wind-driven); depth. |
| 57. Meteorological characteristics: | Air temperatures; wind direction and speed; rainfall.   |

Item 3

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 58. Initial dilution:   | The dilution obtained during the period when the spreading of the discharged material is mainly determined by its own momentum. |
| 59. Point of discharge: | The exact location where discharge is effected.   |

Item 4

60. Dispersion characteristics: The properties or characteristics giving rise to dispersion (dispersion being the combined effect on a concentration level by motion generating a net water transport (advection) and motion generating no net water transport (diffusion).
61. Horizontal transport: The motion of water and material along predominantly horizontal paths.
62. Vertical mixing: The vertical exchange and transfer of material or energy through random motion not generating any net water transfer.

Item 5

63. Discharge area: The area where a discharge is physically made.

Item 6

64. Capacity of the receiving marine environment: The ability of the marine environment to accommodate any particular activity without unacceptable impact.

CHAPTER D

65. Methods of waste reduction: Methods of reducing the amount of waste.
66. Industrial effluents: Wastewater discharges originating from industry.
67. Re-use methods: Methods of using wastes for other purposes.
68. Elimination methods: Methods of eliminating the generation of wastes.
69. On-land disposal: The disposal of wastes on land.
70. Low-waste technologies: Industrial and other technological processes resulting in a relatively low amount of waste material.

CHAPTER E

71. Edible marine organisms: Marine organisms consumed by man.
72. Endangered species: Any species of marine life which is in danger of extinction.
73. Critical habitat: Any part of the marine environment likely to be seriously affected by pollution.