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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SURVEY
OF LAND-BASED SOURCES AND AMOUNTS OF POLLUTANTS REACHING
THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (MED POL X BIS)

In co-operation with



WHO

UNEP
Athens, 1986

INTRODUCTION

1. During the course of the Co-ordinated Mediterranean Pollution Monitoring and Research Programme (MED POL-PHASE I), one of the pilot projects (MED POL X) dealt with the identification of the sources and amounts of pollutants entering the Mediterranean Sea from land-based sources. It was carried out under the co-ordination of WHO by ECE, UNIDO, FAO, UNESCO and IAEA. The project resulted in a publication issued as document UNEP/IG.11/Inf.5, subsequently reprinted as UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No 32.
2. This first review of the pollutants from Land-based sources was an essential contribution of MED POL to the negotiation of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources.
3. Following the entry into force of the Protocol in June 1983, and the decision of the Contracting Parties to convene a meeting of experts to discuss its technical implementation, it was agreed that an updated version of the original project on sources and amounts of pollutants was necessary, both to enable a comparative picture of the actual situation since 1976, and to provide more concrete basic data towards the progressive implementation of the Protocol. At their Fourth Ordinary Meeting (Genoa, 9-13 September 1985), the Contracting Parties recommended that for the implementation of the Protocol, it was essential that this survey of land-based sources and amounts of pollutants reaching the Mediterranean be made by the end of 1986 (UNEP/IG.56/5, III, F.3f).
4. The Meeting of Experts on the Technical Implementation of the Protocol (Athens, 9-13 December 1985) approved a list of activities to be undertaken during 1986-1987, including the above-mentioned survey (UNEP/WG.125/10, para. 31, Annex VII). Subsequently, at its last Meeting (Madrid, 20 March 1986), the Bureau of the Contracting Parties released the necessary funds from 1985 savings (UNEP/BUR/26, para. 13a).

Review of progress

5. As in the case of the original project, the new version will be an inter-agency undertaking with the technical coordination entrusted to WHO, with the participation of FAO, UNIDO, WMO and IAEA.
6. A detailed document is currently in preparation, and is designed not only to provide the information required for the present project, but to form the basis for enabling countries of the region to continue to make assessments on a regular basis in terms of the article 8 of the Land-based Sources Protocol. The document, which is expected to be completed by 31 May 1986 will contain detailed questionnaires for the acquisition of country information on the following aspects:
 - Municipal sources (including waste management and disposal)
 - Industrial and other sources (including waste management and disposal)
 - Agricultural run-off
 - River discharges
 - Radioactive discharges
 - Atmospheric fall-out

7. The document will also contain instructions on the mode of reply to the questionnaires. The questionnaires themselves are being designed to cater for both the direct and indirect ways of assessment (i.e. by actual measurement, or by calculation from relevant data). While the former method is considered more reliable, it cannot be used in several instances, either because of technical or of practical difficulties.

8. The questionnaires will be submitted to countries for completion. Limited funds are available for assistance to countries, in the form of short visits by selected technical experts.

Follow-up to questionnaires

9. The document and questionnaires will be sent to the Contracting Parties in June 1986. The secretariat would expect a reply by 31 October 1986.

10. In order to enable the organization of expert missions, requests for assistance required for the completion of any of the questionnaires should reach the secretariat at the earliest possible date, and in any case not later than 15 August 1986.

11. On the basis of replies received and their evaluation, a comprehensive report will be drawn up and submitted to the next Meeting of the Working Group in 1987.