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Malta, 16-19 June 2015

Joint Session MED POL and REMPEC Focal Points Meetings
Malta, 17 June 2015

**Report of the regional meeting on PRTR and pollution indicators,
Ankara, June 2014**

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Report of the meeting

Introduction

The regional meeting on PRTR and pollution indicators was held on 16-17 June 2014 at the kind invitation of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation of Turkey, in Ankara, at the Bera Hotel.

The regional meeting addressed two main agenda items focusing on PRTR and pollution indicators with the main objective to agree on a number of recommendations for the consideration in the future meeting of MED POL Focal Points as well as to the SEIS project Steering Committee as appropriate.

Participation

The meeting was attended by the following Contracting Parties: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, and the following observers: Jordan and Palestine. The UNEP/MAP Secretariat was represented by the Coordinating Unit, MED POL Programme, EEA, INFO/RAC and RAC/Blue Plan.

The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting

Mr Habib El Habr, UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator and MED POL OIC opened the meeting with stressing the importance of the progress made by PRTR initiatives in the MED region with the Secretariat support, as recommended during the 4th meeting of Barcelona Convention. He also highlighted the need for data generation, collection and sharing at national and regional levels for the purpose of both reporting in the framework of SEIS initiative and H2020 reporting, among other MEAs, and tracking the progress on pollution reduction.

Mr. Murat Turan, representative of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation of Turkey, welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of working towards the consolidation of PRTR and pollution indicators in the region and wished the participants a successful meeting.

Agenda item 2. Election of officers

In accordance with Rules of procedures for meetings and conferences of the Contracting parties, the meeting elected a chair person, three vice-chair persons and one rapporteur as follows:

Chair: Murat Turan (Turkey)
Vice-Chair: Mr. Khalid Lalami (Morocco)
Vice-Chair: Mr Hassan Hoteit (Lebanon)
Vice-Chair: Iñigo de Vicente (Spain)
Rapporteur: Ms. Mateja Poje (Slovenia)

Agenda item 3. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

(a) Adoption of the Agenda

The Provisional agenda contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 399/1 was adopted and appears as Annex II to the present report.

(b) Organization of work

It was agreed that the meeting would be held in plenary with English and French simultaneous interpretation, with the consideration of smaller working groups for reviewing in depth, completing and discussing the table related to pollution indicators.

Agenda item 4. PRTR in the Mediterranean: Progress of Pilot projects in 6 countries in the framework of ENPI SEIS project (Egypt, Israel, Palestine, Morocco, Lebanon, and Tunisia)

- (a) Regional presentation on progress and lessons learnt**
- (b) National presentations by PRTR country experts**

The Secretariat presented the document UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG. 399/Inf.3) that addresses the progress achieved and the lessons learned regarding the implementation of the PRTR component of the SEIS project.

The presentation introduced the institutional framework for PRTR and pointed out the importance of emission inventories, and PRTR in particular, to build any environmental quality plan. The typical implementation structure of a PRTR pilot project and the common PRTR activities to SEIS projects 2013-2014 were described and the status of the projects in Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine were also summarized.

To conclude the presentation, main lessons learned and proposed next steps were raised for latter discussion by the meeting.

Afterwards, national representatives presented their respective PRTR pilots: Turkey, Lebanon, Morocco, Egypt and Palestine, and national representatives from consolidated PRTR systems also presented their experiences (Israel and Spain).

The meeting embarked a discussion on the difficulties faced so far and showed concern on future steps for the consolidation of PRTR systems. The main challenges generally agreed by the meeting were the following:

- Longer time required to consolidate a PRTR system at national level.
- Legal framework generally missing in pilot countries need to be established.
- Participation of industries is on voluntary basis. Efforts should be made to encourage industries from different sectors to participate in the process.
- Different mechanisms, e.g. economic instruments, should be further studied to motivate and engage industry in PRTR projects.
- The different lists of pollutants and activities obtained by the pilots depending on the involved sectors need to be checked against Barcelona Convention and NBB substances and sectors.
- A correct use of emission factors should be ensured and validated, taking into account that a number of countries have developed or will develop their own national emission factors based on information available at national level.
- Capacity building needs to be enhanced. The training workshops in the countries should be longer; considerations should be given to the training of trainers.
- There is a need to strengthen the institutional framework with regards to data flow and their quality assurance/validation.

Agenda item 5. Review of draft PRTR guidelines

The Secretariat presented the document UNEP DEPI (MED WG399.3) on the review of the PRTR draft guidelines. The presentation entailed the different parts of the document and a brief description of each section.

The presentation and the contents of the proposed PRTR guidelines were divided into the 3 following parts that were also structured in the respective subsections:

PART I INTRODUCTION TO PRTR
PART II FACILITY IDENTIFICATION – INFORMATION
PART III CHEMICAL SPECIFIC INFORMATION

The meeting generally acknowledged the work done on the PRTR guidelines and a general review was carried out embarking a discussion regarding the potential weaknesses/lacks identified, particularly regarding a set of minimum common references at regional level which would simplify the adoption of the guidelines by countries. The meeting also requested as a priority issue a PRTR road map defining next steps from a policy point of view.

Regarding the PRTR guidelines, it was agreed for the countries to provide written feedback and comments on the guidelines by 15 July 2014 to the Secretariat. In addition, the Secretariat was requested to complement the guidelines through additional annexes to take into account the following issues:

- List of chemicals,
- List of potential activities,
- Simple table of emission factors,
- Simple table of content of a PRTR regulatory act/law taking into account the reporting requirements under the Barcelona Convention and LBS Protocol as well as to consider for this purpose the model provided by the Aarhus Convention and its the Kiev Protocol as appropriate.

With the view to support countries in the long run, the Secretariat was requested, in the framework of MAP and H2020 Programme of work, to work further on the following topics:

- Develop PRTR legal framework based on a review of gaps, limitations and options among Mediterranean countries.
- Agree on a common priority list of chemicals, activities and emission factors among all the countries as appropriate.
- Provide assistance to countries to validate the emission factors based on local conditions as appropriate.
- Develop a PRTR regional road map based on the legislation framework and priorities identified above tackling SMEs.
- Undertake capacity building for multi-stakeholders including industrial establishments, ministry of industry and ministry of environment.

Finally, the Secretariat was requested to hold another expert meeting to review the revised PRTR guidelines as well as the next steps and PRTR road map to produce a final version for further consideration by the future MED POL FP meeting in 2015 and its approval.

Agenda item 6. H2020 Indicators

The EEA and the Secretariat introduced the document UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG. 399/4 on H2020 indicators factsheets. The presentation entailed the context of the Horizon 2020 initiative and structure, existing information and networks, the fact sheets for the six H2020 indicators and the way forward.

The meeting welcomed the work done on H2020 indicators and several countries shared their experiences and difficulties for data generation, collection and sharing at national and regional levels for the purpose of reporting. The following barriers were pointed out:

- a) *in applying those indicators at a functional (river basin) rather than administrative level*
- b) *availability of time series*
- c) *estimation versus measurements*
- d) *quality assurance and data validation*
- e) *access to data*

Agenda item 7. MEDPOL (ECAP-Marine pollution Indicators/Regional Plans/NAP) Indicators

The Secretariat introduced the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED.WG.399/5 on the list of MED POL indicators that was submitted to the MED POL FP meeting in March 2014 (Annex E of the NAP update guidelines), for the purpose of following up the implementation of the National Action Plans in the framework of the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention.

The document contained the first review of the list of the potential NAP follow up and reporting indicators; proposed a methodology based on criteria developed by UNE/MAP Plan Bleu, as well as some criteria suggested by the MED POL FP in March 2014; and a scoring system to prioritize the indicators. Only the mandatory nature criteria was scored by the Secretariat, the rest of scores were to be discussed during the meeting.

For this purpose, the list of indicators ordered by topic was split into three lists and the participants of the meeting were split into three working groups to address each of them. The three groups addressed the following topics:

- a) Waste (MW and HW);
- b) Air and industrial emissions and
- c) WW, ECAP and NAP indicators.

The working groups reviewed the proposed list of indicators, and used the proposed matrix to score the indicators. For a number of indicators the participants suggested that further work was required (title, description, unit) to be in a position to score them in the future.

The meeting agreed that for some indicators they would like to get specific feedback from their national experts. Therefore it was agreed for the countries to provide additional feedback and scoring as appropriate by 15 July 2014 to the Secretariat.

Based on the feedback and tentative scoring received by the meeting, The Secretariat will work on the proposed list of indicators to further develop different elements and scoring.

This list will be submitted to the MED POL FP meeting in late autumn 2014 for their prioritization and final selection.

Agenda item 8. Mutual potential synergies on indicators and reporting of MEDPOL (ECAP-Marine pollution/Regional Plans/NAP) and H2020 indicators

The meeting appreciated the work done to ensure synergies with regards to indicators and reporting among UNEP MAP and H2020 and encouraged further cooperation on this matter.

Agenda item 9. Any other business

Under this agenda item no other issues were addressed.

Agenda item 10. Conclusions and recommendations

The participants reviewed the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting prepared by the Secretariat and proposed a number of amendments which were introduced at the same time. The definitive conclusions and recommendations were adopted as amended and are attached as Annex III to the present report.

Agenda item 11. Closure of the meeting

The Chair in his closing remarks thanked the participants for their great contribution to the meeting, which resulted very constructive in view of the follow-up work and its submission to the MED POL FP meeting in late autumn 2014.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 4 p.m. on Tuesday 17 June 2014.

Annex I**List of Participants**

<p>ALBANIA ALBANIE</p>	<p>Ms. Ornela Shoshi Head of Sea, EIA, Industrial Pollution Ministry of Environment Rruga e Durrës, Nr. 27 Tirana Albania</p> <p>Tel: +355 42256113 Fax: +355 42270627 Email: ornela.shoshi@moe.gov.al</p> <p>Ms. Etleva Canaj NBB Expert Tirana Email: canaj.ettleva@yahoo.com</p>
<p>ALGERIE ALGERIA</p>	<p>Ms. Bettayeb Karima Deputy Director</p> <p>Tel: +213 21 432860 Fax: +213 21 432860 Email: Bettayebkarima@yahoo.fr</p> <p>Mr. Hamid Daoui Office Chief</p> <p>Tel: +213 21 432850 Fax: +213 21 432850 Email: daouihamid@hotmail.fr</p> <p>Ministry of Land Planning and Environment 3 Rue Tagore Algiers Algeria</p> <p>Ms. Sofia Azouani Director of Regional Laboratory LRC-ONEDD 11 Rue Mohamed Tazairt Bab El Oued Algiers Algeria</p> <p>Tel: +213 21 967601 Fax: +213 21 967601 Email: azouanisophia@hotmail.fr</p>
<p>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE</p>	<p>Ms. Melina Dzajic-Valjevac MSc leading researcher Hydro Engineering Institute Bosnia</p>

	<p>Tel: +387 33 212466 Fax: +387 33 212466 Email: Melina.dzajic-valjevac@heis.com.ba</p>
CYPRUS CHYPRE	<p>Mr. Neoklis Antoniou Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment 101 Bethleem Street, Strovolos 1416 Nicosia, Cyprus</p> <p>Tel: +357 22 807852-4 Fax: +357 22 775955 E-mail: nantoniou@environment.moa.gov.cy</p>
EGYPT ÉGYPTE	<p>Ms. Ghada Abd Elmonaim RBO Alexandria</p> <p>Email : ghada_am@yahoo.com</p> <p>Ms. Nadia Edris Director of Environment Department Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS) Salah Salem Street Nasr City Egypt</p> <p>Tel: +202 24024068 Fax: +202 24024099 Email: nadiaedrees@yahoo.com</p> <p>Ms. Mona Kamal Head of Env. Quality Sector Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) 30 Misr-Helwan El-Zyrae Road P.O Box 11728 Maadi, Cairo Egypt</p> <p>Tel: +201 006091353 Fax: +202 25246394 Email: yamanoon@hotmail.com</p>
ISRAEL ISRAEL	<p>Ms. Lihie Iucleas Environmental Engineer DHV Med Tel Aviv Israel</p> <p>Tel: +972 9 8852312 ext 249 Fax: 972 9 8853901 Email: lihie@dhvmed.com</p> <p>Mr. Uriel Moshe Shilhav PRTR Coordinator Ministry of Environmental Protection Pal-Yam 15a P.O Box 811</p>

	<p>31333 Haifa Israel</p> <p>Tel: +972 3 7634511 Fax: +972 3 7634500 Email: uris.sviva.gov.il</p> <p>Ms. Galia Pasternak Marine Pollution Inspector and marine debris specialist Ministry of Environmental Protection Pal-Yam 15a P.O Box 811 31333 Haifa Israel</p> <p>Tel: +972 4 8633510 Fax: 972 4 8633520 Email: gailap@environment.gov.il</p> <p>Mr. Yavin Sharabi Coordinator, Agriculture Environment and Energy Sector Kanfei Nesharim St. 66 P.O Box 34525 Jerusalem Israel</p> <p>Tel: +972 2 6592189 Fax: + 972 2 6592173 Email: yanivs@cbs.gov.il</p>
<p>ITALY ITALIE</p>	<p>Mr. Andrea Gagna ISPRA – National Institute for Research and Development Protection Via Brancati 48 Rome 00144 Italy</p> <p>Tel: +3906 50074095 Email: andrea.gagna@isprambiente.it</p>
<p>LEBANON LIBAN</p>	<p>Mr Hassan Hoteit Acting Head</p> <p>Tel: +961 1 976 555 ext. 448 Fax: +961 1 976 530 E-mail: hhoteit@moe.gov.lb</p> <p>Mr. Olfat Hamdan Head of Department of Urban Environmental Protection</p> <p>Service of Urban Environment Ministry of Environment Lazarieh Building, 7th Floor Room 7-16</p> <p>Tel: +961 1 976555 Ext. 448 Fax: 961 1 976530</p>

	<p>Email: o.hamdan@moe.gov.lb</p> <p>Mr. Capricia Chabarekh Environmental Specialist/PRTR Specialist ECODIT Liban</p> <p>Scare Coeur Hospital Street Ghaleb Center First Floor, Baabda Lebanon</p> <p>Tel: +961 5 458012 Fax: +961 5 458013 Email: cchabarekh@ecodit.com</p>
LIBYA	<p>Mr. Abdulbaset Almiri Chemist labs Email: Elmeri2@yahoo.com</p> <p>Mr. Mustafa Soliman Mustafa Environmental General Authority, Alghalan Tripoli GEF OPF & PFP Tel: +218 926698284 Email: Mustafa.ega@gmail.com</p> <p>Mr. Shaima Awidat Head of Unit Hazardous Waste Management Waste Management Section Airport Road Tripoli</p> <p>Tel: +218 91 4601711 Fax: +218 91 5157671 Email: shaimaawidat@gmail.com</p>
MONTENEGRO	<p>Mr. Pavle Djuraskovic Head Department for Environmental Protection Hydrometeorological Institute Proleterska 19 81000 Podgorica Montenegro Tel: +382 81 655182 Fax: +382 81 655102 E-mail: pavle.djuraskovic@meteo.co.me</p>
MOROCCO	<p>Mr. Khalid Lalami Chef de la Division Prévention et Stratégies d'Intervention Direction de la Surveillance et de la Prévention des Risques Département de l'Environnement Secrétariat d'Etat chargé de l'Eau et de l'Environnement</p> <p>Tel : + 212 5 37 57 05 94 Fax : +212 5 37 57 05 88 Email : lalami@environnement.gov.ma</p> <p>Mr. Tarik Bouchoutrouch</p>

	<p>Hydroprotec Consultant Morocco</p> <p>Tel: +212 537683639 Fax: +212 537776190 Email: tbouchoutrouch@gmail.com</p> <p>Ms. Amina Halim Chef de Service Sante et Environnement</p> <p>Tel : +212 537570658 Fax : +212 537576645 Email : Halim_zora@yahoo.fr</p> <p>Mr. Mohammed El Bouch Service responsible for the National Observatory of Environment</p> <p>Ministère Chargé de l'Environnement 9 avenue Al Araar Secteur 16 Hay Riad Rabat, Maroc</p> <p>Tel: +212 537 570644 Fax: +212 67 082936 Email: elbouch21@yahoo.fr</p>
SLOVENIA SLOVENIE	<p>Ms. Mateja Poje Slovenian Environment Agency</p> <p>Tel: +386 59 232916 Email: mateja.poje@gov.si</p>
SPAIN ESPAGNE	<p>Mr. Inigo de Vicente Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment Plaza de San Juan de la Cruz s/n 28047 Madrid, Spain</p> <p>Tel: +34 91 7499121 Fax: +34 91 7499140 Email: info@prtr-es.es</p>
TUNISIA TUNISIE	<p>Ms. Rim Chabbeh Rim CHABBEH Ingénieur principal Chef service Répertoire National des Entreprises Institut National de la Statistique 70 Rue Ech Chem 1002 Tunis</p> <p>Email : rimchabbeh@gmail.com</p>
TURKEY TURQUIE	<p>Mr. Recep Akdeniz</p> <p>Mr. Recep Akdeniz</p> <p>Mr. Mehmet Emin Birpinar</p>

	<p>Mr. Murat Turan</p> <p>Ms. Huri Eyuboglu</p> <p>Ms. Nazli Yenil</p> <p>Ms. Bahar Ozogut</p> <p>Mr. Erol Cavus</p> <p>Ms. Eda Bayar</p> <p>Mr. Ahmet Rifat Ilhan</p> <p>Ms. Aybala Kos Orhon</p> <p>Ms. Zerrin Leblebici</p> <p>Mr. Tahsin Serkan Kocaemre</p> <p>Ms. Betul Keskin Catal</p> <p>Ms. Hacer Selamoglu Caglayan</p> <p>Ms. Gulsen Avaz</p> <p>Ms. Pembe Ozer</p> <p>Ms. Hacer Selamoglu Caglayan</p> <p>Ms. Gulsen Avaz</p> <p>Ms. Pembe Ozer</p> <p>Ms. Dr. Leyla Tolun</p> <p>Ms. Refet Sinem Atgin</p> <p>Mr. Ahmet Varir Ms. Fatma Nur Cebecioglu</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation General Directorate of Environmental Management Marine and Coastal Management Department Ehlibeyt Mah. 1231. Sk. No:13 Ankara TURKEY</p> <p>Tel: +903125863126 Fax: +903124740335</p>
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OBSERVERS

JORDAN	Mr. Samir Al-Kilani
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	<p>Email: samir.kilani@MOENV.GOV.JO</p> <p>Mr. Khaled Al Shatarat Email: khaled.Alshatarat@DOS.GOV.JO</p> <p>Ms. Enas Al-Arabyat Email: enasjo@DOS.GOV.JO</p> <p>Department of Statistics Jordan Tel: 962 6 5300700</p>
PALESTINE	<p>Mr. Mohammed Eila MED POL national Focal Point Deputy Director General Ministry of Environment State of Palestine Tel: +0970 599254767 Email:mohdeila@gmail.com</p> <p>Mr. Taleb Hamid Water Authority Email: ihmied@gmail.com</p> <p>Mr. Sami Hamdan Director of Wastewater planning Palestinian Water Authority Wehda St Shaath Building Rimal, Gaza Palestine</p> <p>Tel: +972 8 2833609 Fax: +972 8 2826630 Dr.samihamdan@yahoo.com</p>

MAP PARTNERS

European Environment Agency (EEA)	<p>Ms. Cecile Roddier-Quefelec Mediterranean Area Cooperation Partnerships and Networks European Environment Agency</p> <p>Tel: +45 33435940 Email: Cecile.Roddier-Quefelec@eea.europa.eu</p>
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**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

<p>UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME COORDINATING UNIT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT UNITE DE COORDINATION DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE</p>	<p>Mr. Habib El Habr Deputy Coordinator Tel : +30 210 7273126 Fax : +30210 7253196 Email : habib.elhabr@unepmap.gr</p> <p>Ms. Tatjana Hema MED POL Programme Officer Tel : +30 210 7273115 Fax : +30 210 7253196 Email : thema@unepmap.gr</p> <p>Mr. Panagiotis Kalogiriou Budget Assistant Tel: +30 210 7273119 Fax : +30 210 7253196 Email: panos.kalogirou@unepmap.gr</p> <p>Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan P.O. Box 18019 48 Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue 116 10 Athens, Greece http://www.unepmap.org</p>
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REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRES

<p>BLUE PLAN PLAN BLEU</p>	<p>Mr. Jean Pierre Giraud Indicators and information systems Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre 15 Rue Beethoven Sophia Antipolis 06560 Valbonne France</p> <p>Tel: +33 4 92387144 Email: jpgiraud@planbleu.org</p>
---------------------------------------	--

CONSULTANTS

<p>UNEP Consultants</p>	<p>Mr. Maurizio Fermeglia Email: Maurizio.fermeglia@units.it</p> <p>Ms. Susanna Casanovas</p>
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	<p>Email: susanna.casanovas@amphos21.com</p> <p>Mr. Marco Montuori Email: marco.montuori@gmail.com</p>
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Annex II

Agenda of the meeting

Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting

Agenda item 2. Election of Officers

Agenda item 3. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

Agenda item 4. PRTR in the Mediterranean: Progress of Pilot projects in 6 countries in the framework of ENPI SEIS project (Egypt, Israel, Palestine, Morocco, Lebanon, and Tunisia)

- Regional presentation on progress and lessons learnt
- National presentations by PRTR country experts

Agenda item 5. Review of draft PRTR guidelines

Agenda item 6. H2020 Indicators

Agenda item 7. MEDPOL (ECAP-Marine pollution Indicators/Regional Plans/NAP) Indicators

Agenda item 8. Mutual potential synergies on indicators and reporting of MEDPOL (ECAP-Marine pollution/Regional Plans/NAP) and H2020 indicators

Agenda item 9. Any other business

Agenda item 10 Conclusions and recommendations

Agenda item 11. Closure of the Meeting

Proposed Timetable:

16 June

930-1300 Agenda item 1, 2, 3, 4

1430-1730 Agenda item 4 (cont), and 5

17 June

930 -1300 Agenda items 6, 7, 8

1430-1730 Agenda item 8 (cont.), 9, 10

Annex III

Conclusions and recommendations

1. The regional meeting on PRTR and Pollution indicators was held on 16-17 June 2014 at the kind invitation of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation of Turkey, in Ankara, Turkey, at the Bera Hotel.
2. The meeting addressed two main agenda items focusing on PRTR and Pollution indicators.

PRTR

3. After the presentation of progress achieved on PRTR pilots in the framework of SEIS project (UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG. 399/Inf.3) as well as the presentations made by the countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Morocco, Egypt and Palestine and representatives from consolidated PRTR systems in Israel and Spain) the meeting acknowledged the very good progress made on this issue in the Mediterranean.
4. The meeting agreed that a sound basis is established in PRTR and confirmed the potential to further consolidate PRTR in the region as a tool to record and report pollutant loads from different sources.
5. The PRTR pilot projects implemented in the countries has faced a number of challenges such as:
 - Longer time required to consolidate a PRTR system at national level
 - Legal framework generally missing in pilot countries needs to be established
 - Participation of industries is on voluntary basis. Efforts should be made to encourage industries from different sectors to participate in the process
 - Different Mechanisms, e.g. economic instruments, should be further studied to motivate and engage industry in PRTR projects.
 - The different lists of pollutants and activities obtained by the pilots depending on the involved sectors need to be checked against Barcelona Convention and NBB substances and sectors.
 - A correct use of emission factors should be ensured and validated, taking into account that a number of countries have developed or will develop their own national emission factors based on information available at national level.
 - Capacity building needs to be enhanced. The training workshops in the countries should be longer; considerations should be given to the training of trainers.
 - There is a need to strengthen the institutional framework with regards to data flow and their quality assurance/validation.
6. With the view to support countries in the long run, in the framework of MAP and H2020 Programme of work the meeting recommended the following directions:
 - Develop PRTR legal framework based on a review of gaps, limitations and options among Mediterranean countries.
 - Agree on a common priority list of chemicals, activities and emission factors among all the countries as appropriate.
 - Provide assistance to countries to validate the emission factors based on local conditions as appropriate
 - Develop a PRTR regional road map based on the legislation framework and priorities identified above tackling SMEs.

- Undertake capacity building for multi-stakeholders including industrial establishments, ministry of industry and ministry of environment.
7. The meeting generally reviewed the proposed PRTR guidelines (UNEP DEPI (MED WG.399/4) and requested the Secretariat to revise them and complement through additional annexes to take into account the following issues:
- list of chemicals
 - list of potential activities
 - simple table of emission factors
 - simple table of content of a PRTR regulatory act/law taking into account the reporting requirements under the Barcelona Convention and LBS Protocol as well as to consider for this purpose the model provided by the Aarhus Convention and its the Kiev Protocol of as appropriate
8. The meeting requested the Secretariat to hold another expert meeting pending funding availability to review the revised PRTR guidelines as well as the next steps and PRTR road map.

H2020 Indicators

9. The meeting welcomed the work done on H2020 indicators and several countries shared their experiences and difficulties
- f) in applying those indicators at a functional (river basin) rather than administrative level*
 - g) availability of time series*
 - h) estimation versus measurements*
 - i) quality assurance and data validation*
 - j) access to data*

Pollution indicators

10. The meeting agreed to split into 3 groups which addressed a) waste (MW and HW); b) air and industrial emissions and c) WW, ECAP and NAP indicators.
11. The working groups reviewed the proposed list of indicators, and used the proposed matrix to score the indicators.
12. For a number of indicators the participants suggested that further work is required (title, description, unit) to be a position to score them in the future
13. The meeting agreed that for some indicators they would like to get specific feedback from their national experts. Therefore it was agreed for the countries to provide additional feedback and scoring as appropriate by 15 July 2014 to the Secretariat
14. Based on the feedback and tentative scoring received by the meeting, The Secretariat will work on the proposed list of indicators to further develop different elements and scoring.

Synergies

15. The meeting appreciated the work done to ensure synergies with regards to indicators and reporting among UNEP MAP and H2020 and encouraged further cooperation on this matter.