

Decision IG.21/10

Development of an Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean

The 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling that, at the Rio+20 Summit, Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that promoting sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns was an overarching objective of, and essential requirement for, sustainable development and that, accordingly they strengthened their commitment to accelerate the shift towards SCP patterns with the adoption of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns,

Recalling Article 4 of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zone as well as relevant chapters of the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II,

Recalling that the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), adopted by the 14th Conference of Parties in November 2005 (Portoroz, Slovenia), identifies changing “unsustainable production and consumption patterns” and ensuring “the sustainable management of natural resources” as a main objective to attain sustainable development in the region,

Noting that the 16th Conference of the Parties of the Barcelona Convention (Marrakech, November 2009) identified sustainable consumption and production (SCP) as one of the six thematic priorities of MAP’s Strategic Five-Year Programme 2010-2014,

Recalling that the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Paris, February 2012) reaffirmed the commitment of the Barcelona Convention to support, at Mediterranean level, capacity building and other activities associated with green economy as means to achieve sustainable development, such as the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns,

Fully aware that the SCP tools are well anchored in the articles of the LBS Protocol, such as Article 5.4, which provides for the implementation of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) whose definition in Annex IV of the Protocol provides for SCP tools to phase out inputs of the substances that are toxic, persistent and bioaccumulate; as well as Article 9.(c) according to which countries shall promote access to and transfer of cleaner production technology, a term that now includes Resource Efficiency according to UNEP,

Acknowledging that SCP provides relevant tools for the implementation of Article 5.2 of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol according to which Parties shall take all appropriate measures to reduce to a minimum, and where possible eliminate, the generation of hazardous wastes,

Acknowledging that the SCP instruments are central to the implementation of Article 9 of the IZCM Protocol on the sustainable development of economic activities in the immediate proximity to, or within, the coastal zones (e.g., agriculture, aquaculture, fishing, infrastructure, industry, mineral exploitation, recreational activities, seawater for desalination, tourism), for which planning and management require an appropriate mix of regulatory, technical, economic, and market oriented measures,

Conscious that the state of the marine and coastal Mediterranean ecosystems is impacted by human activities and, therefore, by the models of consumption and production on which those activities are based; and that the use of the appropriate SCP tools constitute important means for the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems,

Taking note of the work made by the Secretariat, with the support of SCP/RAC, in preparing a draft document on SCP, which was reviewed by the MCSD members and the SCP/RAC Focal Points during their respective meetings in June 2013,

Noting the support granted by the European Union, through the SWITCH-Med programme, to the promotion of SCP in the Mediterranean,

Aware of the fact that a broad participatory process, with active involvement of all key SCP stakeholders and partners, is central to the development of an SCP Action Plan adapted to the reality of the Mediterranean region,

Decides to:

Request the Secretariat to prepare, according to the timeline presented in Annex I, with the support of the SCP/RAC and timely and constant involvement of relevant National Focal Points, a Mediterranean SCP Action Plan including the corresponding Roadmap, addressing the Region's common priorities for sustainable development, including pollution reduction; and identifying SCP actions and tools to effectively implement the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;

Further request that the Action Plan be designed as a dynamic and forward-looking framework, integrating the potential of the different policy instruments and measures addressing targeted human activities which have a particular impact on the marine and coastal environment and related transversal/cross-cutting issues;

Urge the Secretariat to ensure that the Action Plan proposes a set of actions to work in synergy with and complement existing regional and national policy frameworks addressing the shift to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and in particular the MSSD.

Annex

Timeline for the development of a SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean

2014

January 2014

1. First Draft of the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean incorporating the comments from the 15th MCSD Meeting and the last Meeting of SCP/RAC National Focal Points.
2. Set up of an online community within the SWITCH-Med platform facilitating the involvement and participation of all relevant stakeholders and partners.
3. Design of a questionnaire for the consultation process.

March 2014

4. Launching a regional consultation process involving MCSD members and relevant regional stakeholders (i.e., Policy makers, Business sector, Entrepreneurial organizations, Civil society, Research institutions, Educational bodies, Local governments and other relevant bodies active on SCP in the Mediterranean Region), using the online community of the SWITCH-Med platform.

April 2014

5. Launching an in-situ consultation process to ensure that the experience and input of key Mediterranean SCP stakeholders, particularly the Business sector, Economic leaders and other relevant bodies active on SCP in the Mediterranean Region, are reflected in the final document.

November 2014

6. Updated SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean according to the outcomes of the consultation process.

December 2014

7. Circulation of the second Draft of the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean to MCSD members and MAP National Focal Points, as well as relevant RAC Focal Points, for initial written comments and input (online).

2015

January 2015

8. MCSD Meeting to discuss the second Draft of the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean (***back to back to the MCSD Meeting planned for the review of MSSD 2.0***).

March 2015

9. Updated SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean according to the outcomes of the formal consultation of the MCSD and MAP National Focal Points, as well as relevant RAC Focal Points.

May/June 2015

10. Submission of the third Draft of the SCP Action Plan to the MCSD meeting.
11. Submission of the third Draft of the SCP Action Plan to the SCP/RAC National Focal Points Meeting.

July 2015

12. Updated SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean according to MCSD and SCP/RAC National Focal Points Meetings.

September 2015

13. SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean submitted to MAP Focal Points meeting.

End 2015

14. SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean submitted to the 19th CoP for endorsement.