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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 10-12 September 2013

**Draft Decision supporting Development of an Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption
and Production in the Mediterranean**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT

In 2011, the 14th Meeting of the MCSD held in Budva, Montenegro, recommended that in order to successfully implement Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) policies, programmes should be developed which include tools and mechanisms for implementation such as strategic guidelines, legislation, environmental accounting and fiscal measures.

Likewise, the development of a methodology, guidelines and toolkit for integration of SCP in the Mediterranean was one of the activities requested by the countries to be developed by MAP under Theme V of the MAP PoW 2012-2013 (Act. 5.1.3.1 of the PoW).

The sustainable consumption and production is enshrined within MAP as a major cross-cutting objective to attain sustainable development; as one of the thematic pillars of the UNEP/MAP 5 year programme and PoW; and as a commitment in the Paris Declaration adopted by CoP 17 (February 2012) to support “other activities associated with green economy as means to achieve sustainable development, such as the promotion of sustainable production and consumption patterns”.

Based on this, as well as on a number of decisions by the Conference of the Parties and recommendations by the MCSD (see Draft Decision), MAP has worked closely with the EC to design SWITCH-Med project. The latter is to support Mediterranean countries in enhancing the implementation of their common priorities under the Barcelona Convention and the Protocols through SCP tools. This is based on the results achieved from the implementation of SCP in other regions such as Asia, in which a SWITCH Programme is being currently implemented.

Accordingly, during the first semester of 2013, the Secretariat with the support of CP/RAC, prepared a first draft document for a “Roadmap” that has been submitted, for review and input, to the MCSD and CP/RAC Focal Points during their respective meetings in Malta (June 2013) and Barcelona (June 2013). The views and comments from the countries’ representatives attending those meetings will be included in the preliminary version of the “Roadmap”. A wider consultation process involving actors and stakeholders from the private sector, civil society and other major groups, as well as relevant regional and international institutions, will be conducted and will form the basis for the first Draft of the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean.

The cost of implementing this process is estimated at 600.000 Euros, and is available through the SWITCH-Med project.

Draft Decision

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,

Noting the report of the UN High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability and its recommendations for “empowering people to make sustainable choices; working toward a sustainable economy; and strengthening institutional governance”, and its call to “make growth inclusive, and production and consumption more sustainable”,

Noting the recommendations of the UN High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, stressing that a “wider change towards sustainable consumption and production patterns is vital” and reminding the “potential of private business to create more value and drive sustainable and inclusive growth”,

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,

Noting that the 15th Meeting of the MCSD (June, 2013) has (i) recognized the need to develop a Roadmap through which Mediterranean countries commit to implementing SCP measures and objectives addressing the regions common priorities for sustainable development, including pollution reduction; (ii) urged that SCP measures and objectives are clearly and concretely identified in the review process of the MSSD; and (iii) recommended that such a Roadmap be developed based on a broad participatory process,

Further noting that the 15th Meeting of the MCSD considered that such a Roadmap (i) will provide the Mediterranean with a unique framework on SCP supporting global initiatives such as the 10-year framework of programmes (10YFP) on sustainable consumption and production, and (ii) will further and more systematically integrate SCP within actions implementing Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, increasing resource efficiency and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation,

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 CP/RAC, in preparing a draft document on SCP, which was reviewed by the MCSD members and the CP/RAC Focal Points during their respective meetings in June 2013,

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 CP/RAC, a Mediterranean SCP Action Plan including the corresponding Roadmap, addressing the Region's common priorities for sustainable development, including pollution reduction; and identifying SCP 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 (i.e., food, housing, manufacturing and tourism) and related transversal/cross-cutting issues (i.e., energy, land use, mobility, pollution, resources use, waste, water);

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 I

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 CP/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), 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 and Economic leaders, 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 CP/RAC National Focal Points Meeting.

July 2015

12. Updated SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean according to MCSD and CP/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.