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**Report of the Regional joint meeting on environmental sound management and illegal traffic of chemicals and hazardous waste in the Mediterranean, Istanbul, April 2015**

For environmental and economic reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.





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Regional joint meeting on environmental sound management and  
illegal traffic of chemicals and hazardous waste in the Mediterranean.

Istanbul, Turkey, 7- 9 April 2015

## **Report of the Meeting**

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2015



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## Introduction

1. The Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its related Protocols (Land-based Sources and Activities Protocol, and the Hazardous Waste Protocol) and in particular the Strategic Programme to combat pollution from Land Based Sources addressed the PCB phasing out and their environmental sound disposal.
2. The international conventions such as Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) counts PCBs among the substances targeted for worldwide elimination. The existing PCBs and all equipment contaminated with PCBs have to be eliminated in an environmentally sound manner without producing hazards for humans or the environment by 2028. PCB treatment or disposal technology must comply with the highest safety and environmental standards and must be capable of reducing the PCB contamination level of those pieces of equipment suitable for re-classification below the legally permitted level of 50 ppm as well as assure that the PCB level remains below that limit. Other global and regional conventions regulate the management of dangerous chemicals and hazardous wastes addressing PCB such as the Basel Convention, as well as the Rotterdam Convention.
3. The Regional joint meeting on environmental sound management and illegal traffic of chemicals and hazardous waste in the Mediterranean was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 7- 9 April. The meeting was co-organized by UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention, Basel Convention Secretariat and the Horizon 2020 Initiative capacity building component through the SWIM project, and took place at the Central Palace hotel, Istanbul, Turkey on 7- 9 April 2015.
4. The **objectives of this Regional Meeting** were:
  - a) Review of Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) ESM guidelines and fact sheets prepared by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat.
  - b) Round table on lessons learnt, challenges and ways and means to enhance PCB and HW ESM, including their disposal.
  - c) Strengthening Mediterranean countries capacities to combat illegal trafficking of chemicals and hazardous waste (training sessions).

## Participation

5. The meeting was attended by 40 participants from the following Contracting Parties: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco and Turkey. Palestine also attended the meeting as an observer.
6. The Secretariat of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), was represented by MED POL Programme (MED POL). Representatives of the Joint Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC), as well as of MIO-ECSDE Greece and Turkish Marine Research Foundation, were also present at the meeting.
7. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

### **Agenda items 1, 2 & 3:                    Opening of the meeting, election of Officers, and Adaption of the Agenda and organization of work**

8. The Meeting was opened at 9.00 a.m. on 7 April 2015 by Mr. Sabahattin Dokmeci, Deputy General Manager - Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation followed by Mrs. Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP – MED POL Programme Officer and Mr. Tarcisio Hardman Reis, UNEP/Secretariat of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Programme Officer. Mr. Sabahattin Dokmeci in his speech welcomed all participants and wished them fruitful outcomes for this

meeting and a pleasant stay in Istanbul. He pointed out the work done by UNEP/MAP to support Turkey in PCB awareness and strengthening capacity for PCB inventory and disposal. Mrs. Tatjana Hema in her speech welcomed all participants and briefed about UNEP/MAP-MED POL work and MedPartnership project to support PCB awareness, capacity building, inventory and disposal in the Mediterranean countries. Mr. Tarcisio Hardman Reis in his opening speech focused on the role of Basel Rotterdam Stockholm Conventions Secretariat (BRSCS) and the cooperation with UNEP/MAP Secretariat in the field of hazardous waste transboundary movement. control.

9. Following the opening speeches the meeting elected its officers as follows:

**Chairperson:** Ms. Refet Sinem Atgin, Turkey

**Vice-Chairperson:** Ms. Elham Refat, Egypt

**Rapporteur:** Mr. Redi Baduni, Albania.

10. The meeting adopted the agenda (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.409/1 presented in Annex II of the present report and annotated agenda presented in UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.409/2.
11. Interpretation in English and French was provided at the meeting.

**Agenda item 4: Review of ESM Guidance and Fact sheets on PCB**

12. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat invited Mr. Urs Wagner, MED POL PCB consultant, to present:
  - a) PCB ESM Guidelines (document UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG. 409/3) containing information on maintenance of equipment, PCB wastes, safety and emergency actions, phase out and storage of PCB, treatment and disposal options, risk assessment, and draft template of PCB phase out plan.
  - b) PCB Fact sheets (document UNEP (DEPI)/MED 409.4) addressing identification of PCB transformers, PCB Awareness raising, identification of PCB capacitors, PCB open applications, and PCB handling, packing, and transport.
13. The meeting reviewed the proposed Guide, suggested and agreed on a number of changes that are summarized in Annex III of the present report.
14. The participants worked in three groups with the support of the experts to complete the fact sheets with information as appropriate on the state of play of PCB management at the national level.. Some countries completed their information requested in the fact sheets. The other countries will continue working and submit the final fact sheets after the meeting.

**Agenda item 5: PCB Management and disposal, lessons learned and challenges in the framework of MedPartnership project implementation.**

15. The four countries participating in the MedPartnership project (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, and Turkey) made presentations on their experiences related to management and disposal of PCB, as well as on lessons learned and challenges faced during the project implementation. In addition, Lebanon also made a presentation on their national PCB management system and related projects. The Secretariat also made a presentation on the overall project implementation and lessons learned from the regional perspective. Annex IV includes all presentations.

**Agenda item 6: Strengthening Mediterranean Countries Capacities to efficiently combat illegal trafficking of chemicals and hazardous waste (focus on PCB).**

16. The representative of the Joint Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Secretariat made a number of

presentations and provided training on the following topics:

- a) An overview of Export/Import/Transit controls under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.
- b) Practical aspects of enforcement of chemicals and hazardous waste with particular focus on precaution aspects and related tools on the regional and national levels.
- c) Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions tools and materials.

**Agenda item 7: Round table on the Mediterranean priorities with regards to ESM of chemicals and hazardous waste illegal trafficking (focus on PCB).**

17. Under this agenda item, Ms. Gehan El Sakka, Task manager consultant for UNEP/MAP – MED POL – MedPartnership made a presentation on UNEP/MAP legal framework addressing hazardous waste, including the first draft of the general framework of the regional strategy for combating illegal trade and dumping of hazardous chemical and wastes in the Arab region prepared in 2007 – 2008.
18. Ms. Nancy Isarin, H2020 consultant made two presentations addressing illegal trafficking of hazardous waste presented in Annex IV of the present report.
19. The participants were separated into three smaller groups to carry out some exercises related to shipment of hazardous waste. Each group reported back to plenary the results of the exercise.

**Agenda item 8: Conclusions and recommendations**

20. Under this agenda item the Secretariat presented a set of draft conclusions and recommendations that were agreed upon as amended and contained in Annex III of this report.

**Agenda item 9: Closure of the Meeting**

21. Mr. Sabahattin Dokmeci, Deputy General Manager, making some final remarks thanked the Secretariat and the participants for their constructive contribution and wished them a safe trip back home. The Chairperson closed the meeting at 17:00 pm on 9 April 2015.



**Annex I**  
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## **Annex II Agenda**

**Agenda item 1:** Opening of the Meeting

**Agenda item 2:** Election of Officers of the Bureau

**Agenda item 3:** Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

**Agenda item 4:** Review of Polychlorinated Biphenyl Environmental Sound Management (PCB - ESM) guidelines and fact sheets.

**Agenda item 5:** Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) management and disposal, lesson learnt and challenges in the framework of UNEP/MAP GEF MedPartnership project.

**Agenda item 6:** Strengthening Mediterranean countries capacities to efficiently combat illegal trafficking of chemicals and hazardous waste (focus on PCB).

- a) An overview of Export/Import/Transit controls under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.
- b) Practical aspects of enforcement with particular focus on precaution aspects and related tools on the regional and national levels.
- c) Group exercise.

**Agenda item 7:** Round table on the Mediterranean priorities with regard to ESM of chemicals and Hazardous waste illegal traffic.

**Agenda item 8:** Conclusions and recommendations

**Agenda item 9:** Closure of the Meeting



## **Annex III: Conclusions and recommendations**

### **Introduction:**

In the framework of UNEP/MAP and the H2020 Programme of work (PoW), under the MedPartnership project, the UNEP/MAP Secretariat (MED POL) in collaboration with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Secretariat, organised a regional joint meeting on environmental sound management and illegal traffic of chemicals and hazardous waste in the Mediterranean held in Istanbul, Turkey 7, 8 and 9 April 2015 at the kind invitation of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of Turkey.

The meeting reviewed and took note of the following documents and developments:

- a) The draft guide on the environmentally sound management of PCBs in the Mediterranean as well as the related fact sheets;
- b) The progress of implementation of the PCB Component of the MedPartnership project by the participating countries and at the regional level;
- c) The PCB management country profile fact sheets
- d) Exchange of views on ways forward and next steps to also ensure MedPartnership's project results sustainability beyond 2015.
- e) The overall framework of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on hazardous chemicals and wastes, their transboundary procedures, monitoring, detecting illegal waste traffic, customs collaboration, and tools developed to support the law enforcement agencies.

A training session was dedicated on combating illegal trafficking of waste, carried out by the Basel Convention representative.

Finally the meeting had a round table discussion on ways forward and means to strengthen the POPs ESM and combat illegal trafficking of waste in the Mediterranean.

### **The meeting agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:**

- I. Guide on the environmentally sound management of PCBs in the Mediterranean region UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.404.3 (hereafter referred to as the Guide) and related fact sheets UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.404.4**
  - a) The meeting appreciated the very good quality of the proposed guide and fact sheets and approved its content, provided that the following changes are made to the document and sent to the participants by 18 April 2015 the latest for final validation 5 May at the latest:**

#### **Title**

To change the title of the document to: "Guide on the environmentally sound management of PCBs in the Mediterranean"

#### **○ Chapter 0**

To revise the list of Abbreviations, in order to also include the abbreviations used in the annexes to the Guide.

#### **○ Chapter 2**

1. To add the following footnote on page 20 in relation to step one 'Year of manufacture' in paragraph 2.2.3: "It is recommended to choose the year of manufacturing of the capacitors in line with national legislation. In case a reference year is missing in national legislation it is recommended to use 1993 as reference year."

2. To add to paragraph 2.2.7 the following sentence: “Sampling of soil and ground water is to be carried according to protocols, whose description is beyond the scope of this guide. “
3. To mention under sub chapter 2.4 that the database should also include data related to PCB contaminated hotspots, including sites and groundwater.
4. To add to sub chapter 2.5 a sentence recommending that the contracting Parties use the proposed labels, presented in picture 32 to 34 for the purpose of maintenance and while in service. For the export purposes countries shall use the labels as referred to in chapter 8.2.2 in line with the Basel Convention requirements.
5. To shift paragraph 2.2.3 to after paragraph 2.2.5.
6. To add under paragraph 2.2.2 reference to a more detailed description on the sampling procedures to be provided in annex 12.15 of this guide.
7. To clarify that in relation to the Density test and the Beilstein screening methods as mentioned in the current sub chapter 2.3, they may only be used as an emergency method, or in case of severe lack of resources and under certain circumstances.

○ **Chapter 3**

1. To slightly revise paragraph 3.1.1 by clarifying that the company has to assign to one or several people, depending of the size of the company, the responsibilities of implementing the procedures as described below.
2. To add a sentence to sub chapter 3.3 that ‘Particular importance should be given to get better insight in unknown sources, equipment or hotspots.’
3. To amend the title of paragraph 3.1.7 into “Disposal and site decontamination plan” and to add a text on decontamination of PCB polluted sites.
4. To amend the title of paragraph 3.3.3 into ‘Priorities for disposal and site decontamination’ and add a text on site decontamination.
5. To add to sub chapter 3.1 the sentence: “The management plan should be based on the polluter pays principle and should be in line with national law, regulations and priorities.”

○ **Chapter 4**

1. To shift paragraph 7.2.4 to a new section under 4.1.
2. [To amend the title of sub chapter 4.2 from ‘Maintenance’ into ‘Inspection of PCB containing transformers’].
3. To add under the new sub chapter 4.2 an additional bullet point highlighting the role of universities, NGOs and related stakeholders in promoting the dissemination of PCB management’s best practices.
4. To slightly revise the sub chapter 4.4 in order to clarify what can be decontaminated and re-used, and what should be disposed of.
5. To amend the title of paragraph 4.3 from ‘Maintenance’ into ‘Evaluation’.

○ **Chapter 5**

1. To add to sub chapter 5.1 the fact that people handling PCBs or people that can be potentially exposed to PCBs use adequate protective equipment. The level of protection and the choice of protective equipment depends highly on the tasks carried out.
2. To include in table 11 and table 12 only filters relevant to PCBs.

○ **Chapter 6**

To add to the introductory part of chapter 6 that, in case of incidents, accidents or spills in line with national regulation and environmental permit standards the company should notify all competent authorities.

- **Chapter 7**

Add a paragraph on decontamination of hot spots.

- **Chapter 9**

To add a new sub chapter 9.3 on 'Authorization and Control', and delete the box on 'Control' in sub chapter 9.1. Under the new sub chapter 9.3 it should be mentioned that the establishment of an interim storage facility or central storage area is only possible after submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment study and is subject to authorization. An extension of temporary storage beyond the period of 12 months as recommended, is subject to authorization by the competent authorities.

- **Chapter 10**

1. To add to sub chapter 10.3 a text that stresses the need to develop national legislation to regulate criteria for transport hazardous wastes, such insurance, registration, and license and safety aspects.
2. To mention that under sub chapter 10.4 direct reference should be made to the provisions of the Basel Convention.

- **Chapter 11**

1. To add to the introductory part that among the criteria to be used to select the treatment and disposal options, BAT/BEP and already approved technologies shall be considered, as well as the need to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment study.
2. To clarify in sub chapter 11.1 that the co-processing technologies, if not prohibited by national legislation, shall be implemented according to the Basel Convention Technical Guidelines on the environmentally sound co-processing of hazardous wastes in cement kilns as well as the relevant national legislation and regulations.
3. To change the title of chapter 11 into 'Pre-treatment, treatment and disposal' and revise table 21 accordingly. Also to this table the de-chlorination treatment option will be added.

**b) The meeting requested the Secretariat to consider future work and provide support and guidance to the countries with regards to groundwater and soil sampling and their PCB decontamination as well as providing official information on the list of international disposal companies and accredited PCB laboratories.**

**c) Appreciating the work done in advance of and at the meeting for the preparation of the national country profile of the PCBs fact sheets, the meeting invited the participants to send by e-mail to the Secretariat their final version at the latest 30 April 2015.**

## **II. Country experiences, lessons learned and challenges in PCB management and disposal**

**a) Following four country's presentations on their national experiences with the PCB management project, the meeting highly appreciates the progress achieved and the added value of the Medpartnership project. Thanking the project teams (countries and the Secretariat), the meeting took note of the following lessons learned and challenges faced during project implementation:**

1. The clear and continuous need for comprehensive awareness raising and education campaigns and training targeting all involved various stakeholders, including national guidance on identification and ESM of PCBs.

2. The need for ongoing coordination and cooperation between the national involved entities and the need to reconsider and improve the institutional set up by establishing an effective and reliable mechanisms of coordination
3. Lack of or outdated specific national regulations addressing PCBs hinder an effective PCB management approach and limit the options of the involved authorities. Development or updating of regulations dealing with PCBs was strongly recommended, therefore the preparation of the Guide was appreciated as a tool to support the countries in developing and implementing PCB specific regulations.
4. The need to improve the link with Customs and establish criteria and mechanisms for the customs control of import, export and transit of equipment and products potentially containing PCBs.
5. The recognition that collecting good quality data for national PCBs inventories is essential for an adequate management plan. Communication with the companies is important aspect in this, as well as onsite sampling and analysing. Also facilitating easy filling of the database should be promoted, e.g. online.

**b) Following a presentation by the Secretariat, which provided an overview of the project, the meeting acknowledged the added value the project, in particular the opportunity for the participating countries to exchange their experiences at the regional level, and highlighted the following lessons learned:**

1. Ownership and leadership of the project by the individual countries is a must, including dedicated human resources, budget and time. The use of local consultants added to the success of the project in supporting national PCB teams.
2. Phase out plans for replacing in-use PCB transformers should be developed by the responsible government authorities in order to promote the replacement of contaminated transformers.
3. Cross-contamination is a very sensitive issue, and measures to control and prevent cross-contamination should be given high priority. In this respect national regulation should provide for a. screening before transformer or a capacitor draining, to make sure they are PCB free, b. further import and export of new or refurbished transformer and capacitors is allowed only with a certificate and analysis to proof that the dielectric oil is PCB free.
4. Dedicated customs codes should be developed to differentiate between new, refurbished and waste equipment containing PCBs.
5. Soil contamination was also identified a critical area during the project. Solutions to prevent soil contamination should be further developed in the future including remediation measures.
6. Future work should focus on supporting *inter alia* developing and implementing PCB specific regulations, implementing the Guide, updating the PCB inventory database, improve reporting to UNEP MAP and the Stockholm Convention, replicating the experience of the MedPartnership project in other countries in close collaboration with the global and regional partners, in particular the Basel and Stockholm Conventions, and continue with awareness raising activities targeting all stakeholders at national and regional levels.

**c) The meeting invited the participating countries to consider reporting the success of the PCB component of the MedPartnership project, in collaboration with the UNEP/MAP Secretariat, to the forthcoming Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention in May 2015 as a contribution of Regional Seas Conventions and the Mediterranean region specifically towards global and regional PCBs related targets.**

### **III. Training on illegal trafficking of waste**

1. The meeting followed with high interest the presentations made by the representative of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Secretariat on the overall framework of the three Conventions, and more specifically the procedures for importing and exporting chemicals and wastes covered by the

Conventions and detecting illegal trade and traffic. Some of the tools developed under the coordination of the Secretariat aiming to support law enforcement entities were highlighted. The presentation generated many questions from the audience.

2. The UNEP/MAP Secretariat delivered a presentation on the regulatory and policy framework in the Mediterranean region on hazardous waste and on combating illegal trafficking.

3. The meeting appreciated the further practical training on specifically illegal trafficking of PCBs wastes, in particular an exercise about dealing with a possible illegal shipment of mixed chemicals.

4. Areas identified which pose challenges and risks in relation to illegal trafficking of PCBs include e-waste, cable waste and ships destined for dismantling. Training activities to enhance country capacities to combat illegal trafficking are needed including training on investigation, monitoring, inspection and enforcement as well as environmental prosecution.

#### **IV. Round table discussion and future priorities**

**a) Based on the discussions held during the three-days, the last session was dedicated to highlight the Mediterranean priorities and challenges on proper management of obsolete chemicals as well as combating illegal trafficking.**

**b) Following the exchange of views, the meeting highlighted the need for further coordinated work on:**

##### **General priorities**

1. Further streamlining tools with Basel and Stockholm conventions for national inventories and reporting (HW and POPs including PCB).
2. Jointly developing tools for implementing global/regional guidelines on management of chemicals and wastes, thus taking into account regional specificities and country needs with a strong dimension on prevention and related SCP tools while taking into consideration the most recent technical guidelines of the BRS conventions
3. Coordinating capacity building activities in the region by the specialized Regional Centres established under BRS and UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention working in the Mediterranean.
4. Encouraging further consolidation of the informal compliance and enforcement network established under the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention, and as appropriate the extension of its scope and composition to address illegal trafficking under the HW Protocol of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention and encourage networking and exchange of experience with other enforcement networks in particular with ENFORCE established under the Basel Convention and IMPEL TFS.
5. Considering to work at the national level more closely with NGOs, Universities and other relevant stakeholders in developing knowledge and creating awareness on PCB management and combatting HW illegal trafficking.
6. Better supporting country's efforts in increasing internal and external resource and funds mobilization through project proposals to address their needs on HW and POPs ESM including a regional dimension as well as the implementation of pilot projects at country level taking into account the need to integrate and mainstream climate change and other drivers in POPs and HW management.

##### **Specific priorities related to the ESM of PCB**

Supporting the implementation of the PCB Guide including the development and update of PCB specific regulations.

Providing technical support on inventories of PCB in open applications and address this issue in the updated NIPs as appropriate

Providing support on the development of sampling and monitoring protocols as well as decontamination of soil and groundwater

Supporting countries in the development of customs codes to differentiate between new, refurbished and waste equipment containing PCBs.

Undertaking awareness raising activities for the public and decision makers of all levels on POPs including PCB ESM

- **Specific priorities related to transboundary movement of HW**

Considering the preparation by UNEP/MAP in close consultation with the BRS Conventions Secretariat of a work plan to support the Mediterranean countries to strengthen their capacities with regards to transboundary movement, preventing and combatting illegal trafficking of HW

- Undertaking training activities to enhance country capacities to combat illegal trafficking including on investigation, monitoring, inspection and enforcement as well as environmental prosecution.
- Supporting the establishment of mechanisms to strengthen coordination with customs to obtain data,
- Collaborating with relevant authorities including the links between customs and enforcement authorities such as police, persecutors, inspectors, judges, etc).

**Annex IV: Guide for ESM of PCB**

