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Second Meeting of the Working Group for
Scientific and Technical Co-operation for MED POL

Athens, 21-25 November 1983

ANNOTATED AGENDA

The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, by adopting the Long-term Programme for Pollution Monitoring and Research in the Mediterranean (MED POL - PHASE II) at their Second Meeting in Cannes, 2-7 March 1981, agreed that:

" A standing Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation will be established by the Contracting Parties to assist them in their review of the progress of the programme and the evaluation of the results. It will advise UNEP on technical and policy matters related to the programme and prepare recommendations for submission through UNEP, as the secretariat of the Convention, to the meetings of the Contracting Parties. The Group will consist of national MED POL co-ordinators designated by the relevant national authorities and will meet at least once a year ". (UNEP/IG.23/11, annex V, paragraph 51)

and envisaged that the Working Group should be one of the "mechanisms which will be used, as appropriate, for the analysis of (MED POL) data and their initial evaluation". (UNEP/IG.23/11, annex V, paragraph 10(1).

The First Meeting of the Working Group was held in Athens, 28 September - 2 October 1981, to review the steps proposed by the secretariat for the launching of MED POL - PHASE II, and to advise the secretariat on technical and policy matters related to MED POL (UNEP/WG.62/7).

The present Second Meeting of the Working Group is convened by the Executive Director of UNEP to review the progress made in the implementation of MED POL - PHASE II since the First Meeting of the Working Group, as well as the planned activities for 1984-1985 period. In addition the Working Group is invited to review the assessment of the present state of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by mercury and micro-organisms, and to review the reports on the implementation of the two protocols associated with the Convention. The recommendations of the Working Group will be transmitted by the secretariat to the forthcoming Meeting of the Contracting Parties (April, 1984) in order to assist them in the evaluation of the progress made in the implementation of activities related to MED POL, and in deciding on their future development.

The following annotations of the proposed agenda for the meeting were prepared by the secretariat to assist the deliberation of the Working Group.

Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting.

The meeting will be opened at 10.00 hours on Monday, 21 November 1983, in the Conference Room of the Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan, Athens, by the representative(s) of the Executive Director of UNEP. All National Co-ordinators for MED POL have been invited to attend the meeting as members of the Working Group for Scientific and Technical Co-operation. Representatives of FAO, UNESCO, IOC, WHO, WMO, IAEA and IMO have also been invited to attend the meeting.

Agenda item 2. Rules of procedure.

The rules of procedure adopted for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols will apply for the meeting. (UNEP/IG.43/6, annex XI).

Agenda item 3. Election of officers.

The meeting will be invited to elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

Agenda item 4. Adoption of the agenda.

The Agenda, as proposed in document UNEP/WG.91/1 and elaborated in UNEP/WG.91/2 (this document) will be proposed for adoption by the meeting.

Agenda item 5. Organization of work.

In view of the work expected to be accomplished, it is proposed that the Working Group works only in plenary sessions. Ad hoc discussion groups or drafting committees may be formed by the Bureau of the meeting, in consultation with the secretariat. Simultaneous English - French interpretation will be available for the plenary sessions of the meeting, and the meeting's documents will be available in these two languages.

Agenda item 6. Progress report on the implementation of the MED POL monitoring activities during 1981-1983 and proposals for 1983-1985.

The secretariat will introduce document UNEP/WG.91/3, prepared by the secretariat in close collaboration with the relevant Co-operating Agencies. It contains information on the progress achieved in the implementation of the monitoring activities of the Long-term Programme for Pollution Monitoring and Research in the Mediterranean Sea (MED POL - PHASE II) since it began in 1981 and proposals.

The Working Group is invited to take note of the contents of the document and provide UNEP with comments on its contents and on the proposed workplan and timetable for 1983-1985 in particular. The Group may also wish to make recommendations for the 1983-1985 workplan and timetable to the Executive Director of UNEP with a view of their transmission to the forthcoming Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (April 1984).

In particular, the following aspects require the attention of the Working Group:

- Agreement should be reached on the use of the proposed reporting forms (attached as Annex II to document UNEP/WG.91/3);
- The desirable sampling frequencies should be recommended; and
- Advice should be given on the allocation of the financial assistance in the 1983-1985 period to the national research centres participating in monitoring.

Agenda item 7. Progress report on the implementation of the MED POL research activities during 1981-1983 and proposals for 1983-1985.

The secretariat will introduce document UNEP/WG.91/4, prepared by the secretariat in close collaboration with the relevant Co-operating Agencies. It contains information on the implementation of the research activities carried out by national laboratories designated to participate in MED POL - PHASE II, as well as recommendations for the 1983-1984 period.

The Working Group is invited to take note of the contents of the document and provide the secretariat with comments on its contents and on the proposed workplan and timetable for 1983-1985 in particular. The Group may also wish to make recommendations to the Executive Director of UNEP on the future implementation of the research component of MED POL with a view of their transmission to the forthcoming Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (April 1984).

Agenda item 8. Assessment of the present state of pollution by mercury in the Mediterranean Sea and proposed control measures.

The secretariat will introduce document UNEP/WG.91/5, prepared by the secretariat in close collaboration with FAO and WHO, and based mainly on the results reported during the pilot phase of MED POL by laboratories participating in projects MED POL II, MED POL III, and on the results of discussions and recommendations made by various expert meetings convened in the framework of these projects.

The Working Group is invited to comment on the contents of the document, and in particular, on the proposed recommendations prepared by the secretariat for the consideration of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their forthcoming Extraordinary Meeting (April 1984).

Agenda item 9. Assessment of the present state of microbial pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and proposed control measures.

The secretariat will introduce document UNEP/WG.91/6, prepared by the secretariat in close collaboration with WHO, and based mainly on the results reported during the pilot phase of MED POL by laboratories participating in project MED POL VII, and on the results of discussions and recommendations by various expert meetings convened in the framework of this project. The review of the national legislation contained in the document is based on the information previously available to the secretariat and WHO, as well as on new information received from MED POL National Co-ordinators.

The Working Group is invited to comment on the contents of the document, and in particular, on the proposed recommendations prepared by the secretariat for the consideration of the forthcoming Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (April 1984). The Working Group is also invited to provide the secretariat with corrections and additional or updated information on the national legislation reviewed in the document.

Agenda item 10. Review of the report on the implementation of the protocol concerning co-operation in combating pollution of the Mediterranean by oil and other harmful substances in case of emergency.

The secretariat will introduce document UNEP/WG.91/7, prepared by the secretariat on the basis of comments received from the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to the document UNEP/IG.43/INF.10 and INF.10 Add.1 (presented to the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Dubrovnik 28-February - 4 March 1983, and circulated again under cover of a letter in April 1983).

The Working Group is invited to comment on the contents of the document, and in particular, on the proposed recommendations prepared by the secretariat for the forthcoming Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (April 1984).

Agenda item 11. Review of the report on the implementation of the Protocol for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft.

The secretariat will introduce document UNEP/WG.91/8, prepared by the secretariat on the basis of comments received from the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to the document UNEP/IG.42/INF.9 (presented at the Third Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Dubrovnik, 28 February - 4 March, 1983, and circulated again under cover of a letter in April 1983).

The Working Group is invited to comment on the contents of the document, and in particular, on the proposed recommendations prepared by the secretariat for the forthcoming Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (April 1984).

Agenda item 12. Other business.

Other subjects relevant to MED POL which might be brought to the attention of the meeting by its participants or by the secretariat will be discussed under this agenda item.

Agenda item 13. Adoption of the report.

A draft report of the meeting will be submitted to participants for adoption.

Agenda item 14. Closure of the meeting.

The meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairman of the meeting and by the representative(s) of the Executive Director at 18.00 hours on Friday, 25 November 1983.