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Regional Meeting of Experts to review the Draft Desalination and Dumping Protocol Guidelines

Loutraki, Greece, 4-6 April 2017

Report of the Regional Meeting of Experts to review the Draft Desalination and Dumping Protocol Guidelines

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2017

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Introduction

1. In accordance with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2016-2017 adopted by COP 19, Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016, the Secretariat organized the Regional Meeting of Experts to review the Draft Desalination and Dumping Protocol Guidelines from 4 to 6 April 2017 in Greece.

2. The main objectives of the meeting were:

a) to review the proposed draft updated Desalination Guidelines
b) to review the proposed draft updated Guidelines under the Dumping Protocol of the Barcelona Convention related to Dredged Materials and Artificial Reefs.
c) to undertake a discussion on the status of implementation of the Dumping Protocol by the Contracting Parties and issues at stake

Participation

3. The meeting was attended by representatives from the following Contracting Parties: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey and the State of Palestine. The UNEP/MAP Secretariat was represented by the MAP Coordinating Unit and MED POL Programme. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

4. The meeting was opened by Ms. Tatjana Hema, Deputy-Coordinator of MAP - Barcelona Convention Secretariat.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

a) Adoption of the Agenda

5. The proposed Provisional agenda appearing in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.435/1, was adopted and appears as Annex II to the present report.

b) Election of officers

6. In accordance with the Rules of procedures for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties, the meeting elected one (1Chair, three (3) Vice-Chairs and one (1) Rapporteur from among the participants, as follows:

Chair: Mr Jose Luis Bucetta Miller, Spain
Vice-Chair : Mrs. Ivana Bulatovic, Montenegro
Vice-Chair : Mr. Khalid Margaa, Morocco,
Vice-Chair : Mr Ran Amir, Israel
Rapporteur: Mr Georgios Melekis, Greece

Agenda item 3: Review of Proposed Updated Dumping Protocol Guidelines

a) Updated Guidelines on Dredged Materials
b) Updated Guidelines on Artificial Reefs

7. Ms. Hema presented, with the technical support of Mr. Fouad Abousamra, regional expert, the updated draft guidelines related to the Dumping Protocol of the Barcelona Convention.

8. The meeting embarked on discussions on the proposed updated guidelines and reviewed them section by section. A number of revisions were agreed upon for some issues, the meeting requested the Secretariat to further work and share the guidelines with the MED POL Focal Points for their additional comments.

9. The meeting agreed to submit the Updated Guidelines, further revised as appropriate, to the MED POL Focal Points meeting in May 2017 for review and approval. In particular, the meeting requested to include in the updated version two technical annexes from the previous version of the Guidelines on the dredged materials and agreed to introduce a new Annex addressing the Action List and related thresholds. For both updated draft guidelines, the meeting requested the Secretariat to prepare and submit a legal analysis in relation to both proposed updated guidelines.

10. The meeting final conclusions related to this agenda item and the latest version of the draft guidelines after the consultation with the MED POL Focal points and meeting participants are presented in Annex III to this report and its Appendixes 1 and 2.

Agenda item 4: Review of Proposed Updated Desalination Guidelines

11. Ms. Hema presented, with the technical support of Ms. Nurit Krest, regional expert, the proposed updated guidelines related to Desalination Activities in the Mediterranean under the Land based Sources and Activities Protocol of the Barcelona Convention.

12. The meeting reviewed the proposed updated Guidelines section by section and agreed some revisions. The meeting agreed to submit the updated Guidelines, to the MED POL Focal Points meeting in May 2017 for review and approval.

13. The meeting final conclusions related to this agenda item and the latest version of the draft guidelines are presented in Annex III to this report and its Appendixes 3.

Agenda item 5: Updated Assessments of Dumping and Desalination Activities in the Mediterranean

14. The Secretariat presented the main findings of the draft assessment reports and questionnaires prepared through research and with inputs from the MED POL Focal Points as well as from the information provided by the Contracting Parties in their available reports on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, Dumping and LBS Protocols since 2005.

15. The Secretariat also referred at the meeting an issue paper prepared as information document on the management of dredged materials in the Mediterranean highlighting a number of actions related to an Action lists and related thresholds that if agreed by the MED POL Focal Points can further enhance the environmental performance of this sector. (Reference paragraph 9 above)

16. The meeting provided feedback and inputs on the follow up of these discussions. It highlighted the need and requested the Contracting Parties to complete the desalination activities questionnaires prefilled by the Secretariat and completed by few of them, as well as to provide additional information and data on dumping activities by 5 May 2017 with the view to allow the Secretariat to finalize the first assessment drafts for their submission to the Meeting of MED POL Focal Points in May 2017.

Agenda item 6: Conclusions and Recommendations

17. The participants reviewed, commented and approved, the draft Conclusions and Recommendations prepared by the Rapporteur, based on discussions held, highlighting key actions needed to finalise the proposed updated Guidelines and the updated assessments of dumping and desalination activities with the view to submit them to the MED POL Focal Points Meeting. The final

Conclusions and Recommendations are attached as Annex III to the present report including the three draft guidelines.

Agenda item 7: Any Other Business

18. No issue was raised under this Agenda item.

Agenda item 8: Closure of the Meeting

19. The Chair in its closing remarks thanked the participants for their constructive contribution to the meeting which resulted in the very good consensus about the next steps towards the finalization and approval of the updated Guidelines by the MED POL Focal Points Meeting and thanked the Secretariat and its MED POL team for all efforts made to organize this effective and very useful meeting.

20. After the expression of usual courtesies, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 13:30 p.m. on Thursday, 6 April 2017.

Annex I
List of Participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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AND COMPONENTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN
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Annex II
Agenda of the Meeting

Agenda of the Meeting

Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting

Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Agenda and Election of Officers

Agenda item 3. Review of Proposed updated Dumping Protocol Guidelines

a) Updated Guidelines on Dredged Materials
b) Updated Guidelines on Artificial Reefs

Agenda item 4. Review of proposed updated Desalination Guidelines

Agenda item 5. Updated Assessments of Dumping and Desalination Activities in the Mediterranean

Agenda item 6. Conclusions and Recommendations

Agenda item 7. Any other Business

Agenda item 8. Closure of the Meeting

Annex III
Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Meeting of the Regional Meeting of Experts to review the Draft Desalination and Dumping Protocol Guidelines was held on 4-6 April 2017, at the Club Hotel Casino Loutraki, Loutraki, Greece.

Following review and discussions of all agenda items, the meeting agreed on the following deliberations, conclusions and recommendations:

Review of Proposed Updated Desalination Guidelines (*UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.435/3)*

1. The meeting reviewed in depth the proposed updated guidelines and suggested some changes to ensure further clarifications on some aspects.

2. The meeting recommended to include the questionnaire template on desalination activities contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.435/Inf.3 as a tool to facilitate the collection of information and data from desalination activities for assessment purposes.

3. The meeting agreed to recommend the proposed draft guidelines as contained in Appendix I to these conclusions and recommendations, to the meeting of MED POL Focal Points in May 2017 for consideration and approval.

4. At the request of some representatives, the meeting agreed to provide additional time, for comments by 14 April 2017 at the latest. The meeting highlighted the necessity to comply with this deadline, in order to finalize the document with the view of its submission in line with the rules of procedure, to the meeting of the MED POL Focal Points.

Review of Proposed Updated Dumping Protocol Guidelines
(*UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.435/4, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.435/5)*

a) Updated Guidelines on Dredged Materials

5. The meeting reviewed in depth the proposed updated guidelines, suggested further details and specifications to be added in a number of sections. The meeting also recommended the reorganization of some sections and annexes in order to ensure a better clarification of flow of work in the decision making process addressing different aspects of management of dredged materials.

6. The meeting recommended to include in the proposed updated guidelines a number of sections addressing the characterization of dumping sites as well as two annexes contained in the current version of the Guidelines adopted in 1999. Due to time constraints to review both newly introduced Annexes, and noting the need for updating their content, it was agreed the Secretariat would circulate them as soon as possible in English and French to the meeting participants and/or MED POL Focal Points for comments by 20 April 2017 for any adjustment required as appropriate.

7. The meeting requested the Secretariat to complete the section on BEP with new dredging technologies for consideration by the MED POL FP meeting.

8. The meeting agreed with the proposed content of the paragraph on confinement and cleared it from the technical point of view. It decided to leave this paragraph in square brackets for further discussion by the MED POL Focal Points meeting in May 2017 following the submission by the Secretariat of a legal analysis whether a permit should be issued for this activity and whether it is a

placement or a dumping related activity. The meeting recommended to the Secretariat to take into consideration best relevant global, regional and national practices on this matter.

9. The meeting recommended the inclusion of an action list of contaminants and threshold levels in the updated Guidelines and its Annex III with the view to guide, as appropriate, the national competent authorities in the process of developing their national threshold and levels.

10. The meeting encouraged all Contracting Parties to provide information on related national regulation and legislation related to existing action lists and relevant threshold levels.

11. The meeting agreed to recommend the proposed draft guidelines as contained in Appendix II to this conclusions, to the meeting of MED POL Focal Points in May 2017 taking also into account the outcome of the written procedure provided for in paragraph 6 of these conclusions and recommendations.

12. The meeting highlighted the necessity to comply with this deadline, in order to finalize the document with the view of its submission in line with the rules of procedure, to the meeting of the MED POL Focal Points.

b) Updated Guidelines on Artificial Reefs

13. The meeting reviewed in depth the proposed updated guidelines, suggested further details and specifications to be added in a number of sections. The meeting also recommended the reorganization of some sections and added new elements in several paragraphs to emphasize the need for better practices for the protection of ecosystems.

14. The meeting requested clarifications on the legal aspects referred to in the updated Guidelines deriving from the current version of the guidelines and recommended their deletion in most cases as not in line with the Protocol.

15. The meeting requested the Secretariat to undertake a legal analysis for further discussion by the MED POL Focal Points meeting in May 2017 whether placement should be subject to permitting and provide advice on the respective legal basis. The meeting recommended to the Secretariat to take into consideration best relevant global, regional and national practices on this matter.

16. The meeting agreed to recommend the proposed draft guidelines as contained in Appendix III to these conclusions, to the meeting of MED POL Focal Points in May 2017 considering the outcome of the written procedure by 20 April 2017 at the latest.

17. The meeting highlighted the necessity to comply with this deadline, in order to finalize the document with the view of its submission in line with the rules of procedure, to the meeting of the MED POL Focal Points for consideration and approval.

Updated Assessments of Dumping and Desalination Activities in the Mediterranean
(UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.435/Inf.3, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.435/Inf.4, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.435/Inf.5,)

18. The meeting highlighted the need and requested Contracting Parties to complete the desalination activities questionnaires prefilled by the Secretariat and completed by few of them, as well as to provide additional information and data on dumping activities by 5 May 2017 at the latest.

This would allow the Secretariat to finalize the first assessment drafts for their submission, as information documents, to the Meeting of MED POL Focal Points in May 2017.