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## The Mediterranean states commit to reduce their generation of hazardous waste

A major milestone was set for combating industrial pollution at source in the Mediterranean when the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, during the second week in November, undertook to reduce 20% of the generation of industrial hazardous waste by the year 2010.



XIII Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols  
Catania, 11-14 November 2003

At their last meeting (13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, 11-14 November, Catania) the Mediterranean countries approved the approach presented in the regional plan carried out by RAC/CP to reduce the generation of hazardous waste by applying cleaner production in industrial installations.

During the meeting, Mr Lucien Chabason, Co-ordinator of The Mediterranean Action Plan, acknowledged the quality of the Plan and reminded the attendants of the vital importance it represented since it provides specific measures for the application of the vast concept of sustainable development in the Mediterranean.



Mr Chabason recalled the importance of the plan to the Contracting Parties

The *Regional plan for the reduction of the generation of hazardous waste from industrial installations* presents the situation in the Region, identifies priorities to address according to industrial sectors and types of waste, and proposes an approach for reducing the "hazardous waste generation factor" (quantity of industrial hazardous waste generated / industrial GDP in euros). The plan also provides, among others, several technical options of reduction at source and on-site recycling aimed at reducing priority flows of identified hazardous waste.

The plan was carried out by RAC/CP within the Mediterranean GEF project for the application of the SAP through an extensive consultation process involving experts from various parts of the Region and different actors working within the framework of The Mediterranean Action Plan. It was also discussed by the national focal points on cleaner production and presented for information to the MED POL focal points. Finally, it was presented to the MAP focal points, who decided to submit it to the Contracting Parties for them to consider its adoption.

## RAC/CP broadens its field of action

Following the proposals made by The Mediterranean Action Plan to the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (RAC/CP), the Centre worked on a project to broaden its field of action in order to better meet its final goal, i.e. sustainability of the Mediterranean industry.

The aim of this is helping to spread principles, advantages, opportunities and tools for the introduction of sustainability in corporate management, among the economic sectors of the Mediterranean countries.

Better integration with other MAP components, especially with the MED POL programme in the implementation of the SAP, will be enhanced. Thus, a proposal was put to the MAP focal points in September, and later to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their last meeting in Catania, to readapt the role of RAC/CP as a tool for the achievement of sustainable development by the Mediterranean industry, within the framework of the SAP implementation.



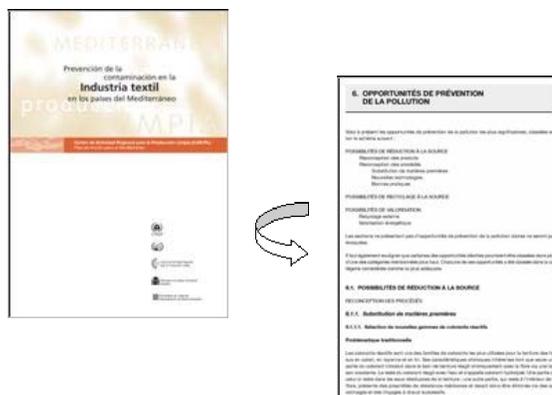
MED POL and RAC/CP

This proposal was approved by the Contracting Parties, as was the proposal to carry out joint MED POL - RAC/CP focal point meetings.

When the proposal to readapt the role of RAC/CP was presented to the Contracting Parties, the Spanish Delegation suggested that the Centre should not be excluded from the evaluation process, as carried out in other Regional Activity Centres, since it was important to give visibility to the added value provided by the RAC/CP to attaining the goals set in The Mediterranean Action Plan. Therefore, the Contracting Parties agreed to launch an external evaluation of RAC/CP during the next biennium.

## Spreading eco-efficiency in the French textile ennobling industries

By mid-October 2003, two hundred leaflets containing the study carried out by RAC/CP on *Pollution prevention in the textile industry within the Mediterranean region*, focusing on textile ennobling (dyeing, printing and finishing), were sent to the French companies involved in this activity, upon request by the sector itself.



Hard copy of the textile study carried out by RAC/CP

In France, companies involved in ennobling activities are grouped in a separate Federation within the Textile Industry Union, i.e. the Textile Ennobling Federation. The Textile Ennobling Federation includes more than 150 members that perform ennobling activities, a subsector particularly affected by the new European chemicals policy in the textile industry (REACH). In France, the aforementioned sector has around 60 employees per company, although there are also a large number of enterprises that employ less than 20 workers.



Leaflet and CD containing the textile study, sent to the French enterprises

The Textile Ennobling Federation notified RAC/CP of its interest in distributing the study to the entire ennobling subsector in France, including the "integrated" workshops that also carry out dyeing, and with that aim, requested from the Centre 200 copies of the study.

This is just one example of success of approaching the Mediterranean industries directly to spread eco-efficient measures in the region. RAC/CP is open to similar initiatives from any Mediterranean country, not only in the textile sector but in other industrial sectors (such as surface treatment, tanning, food canning, dairy products, olive oil, used oils, etc.).

Please contact us for a complete list of publications: [cleanpro@cema-sa.org](mailto:cleanpro@cema-sa.org), tel.: +34 934151112, fax: +34 932370286.

### New publications available (2003)

The latest publications carried out by RAC/CP are the following:

- **Pollution prevention in the printing and allied industries:** study (CD form) and leaflet containing the study. English, French and Spanish.
- **MOED (Minimisation Opportunities Environmental Diagnosis): training course:** leaflet containing the multimedia course (CD form). English, French and Spanish.
- **Pollution prevention in the tanning sector:** video. English, French and Spanish.
- **3rd issue of RAC/CP Annual Technical Publication - Mediterranean Enterprises and Sustainability.** Articles in English / French as available; abstract in French / English as available, and Spanish.
- **Database of cleaner technologies for the textiles sector:** for consultation on RAC/CP web site ([www.cema-sa.org](http://www.cema-sa.org)). English, French and Spanish.
- **Database of cleaner technologies for the paper sector:** for consultation on RAC/CP web site ([www.cema-sa.org](http://www.cema-sa.org)). English, French and Spanish.
- **Med Clean files 45-56:** 12 new case studies for consultation on RAC/CP web site ([www.cema-sa.org](http://www.cema-sa.org)). English, French and Spanish.



Please contact us for a complete list of publications. Copies may be obtained on request to [cleanpro@cema-sa.org](mailto:cleanpro@cema-sa.org), tel.: +34 93 415 11 12, fax: +34 93 237 02 86.

### Towards the entry into force of the new LBS protocol

Only 4 additional acceptances of amendments among the countries of Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Syria, as well as Serbia and Montenegro are required for the entry into force of the new version of the LBS Protocol (*Protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources*).

The LBS Protocol provides the general framework for implementing the SAP (*Strategic Action Programme to address pollution from land-based activities*), which in turn, sets the priorities for action for the near future in industrial production and thus, for cleaner production.

The status for the acceptance of amendments to the LBS Protocol was reviewed at the last meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention held in Catania, Italy, on 11-14 November 2003 (COP 13). At that point, it was recalled that the acceptance by three-fourths of the Contracting Parties is required for the amendments to enter into force. So far, 13 Parties have accepted the amendments; the last being Greece and Slovenia, which have accepted them during the current year.



The Delegation of Serbia and Montenegro informed that their ratification of the Convention and its Protocols was in its final stage

During COP 13, the NGOs expressed their concern at the lack of progress made by the countries in accepting the amendments of the LBS Protocol. To which, several of the Contracting Parties stated that further progress was being made in the acceptance of amendments, hopefully expected by the end of 2003 or beginning of 2004.



NGOs encouraged the Contracting Parties to ratify the amendments to the LBS Protocol

#### The next step in the application of the SAP: the preparation of National Action Plans

During 2001-2003, the partners involved in the Mediterranean GEF project for the implementation of the SAP carried out a number of capacity building programmes and prepared a series of technical documents to be used as background documents to the National Action Plans (NAPs) that, according to the SAP, the Mediterranean countries have to prepare.

The National Action Plans, that will establish precisely how the countries wish to reach the SAP targets on a national scale, should be ready by the end of 2004.

For this purpose, a limited number of national experts will be elected by and from each country, to prepare the National Action Plans. The experts in charge of drafting the NAPs will then take a course aimed at training the experts on how to integrate all the background documents (regional plans, guidelines, national diagnostic analyses and baseline budgets) to prepare a NAP.

Following the SAP, the National Action Plans will have to address both urban and industrial matters, and it is in the industrial component of the plans where the preventive approaches of avoiding the generation of pollution at source in industrial installations will have to be introduced. Thus, the background documents prepared by RAC/CP presented best available techniques and best environmental practices in various industrial sectors.

All the background documents prepared within the framework of the Mediterranean GEF project for the application of the SAP are expected to be distributed in the Mediterranean countries in several formats, as well as posted on The Mediterranean Action Plan website (<http://www.unepmap.org/>). The documents prepared by RAC/CP will also be posted on the RAC/CP website (<http://www.cema-sa.org/>).

#### Implementing eco-efficiency in Slovenian companies: ECOPROFIT in Maribor

ECOPROFIT, the Ecological Project for Integrated Environmental Technologies, is a program for sustainable economic development, which was established by the City of Graz in 1991. The basis of ECOPROFIT is a win-win model. This model focuses on sustainable economic development in cities that include local industry, local government, universities and non-governmental organisations.

In 2002/03 an ECOPROFIT programme was carried out in Maribor, Slovenia, in the framework of an INTERREG III A project. The programme was developed in co-operation with several partners: the Municipality of Maribor and its Environmental Protection Agency, the Austrian Cleaner Production Centre in Graz and the City of Graz.

20 enterprises participated in the project, which trained 19 consultants (8 from the industry and 11 from municipalities) who were later included in an international network for the exchange of information on cleaner production.



Participants at the ECOPROFIT initiative in Maribor

While carrying out the programme, several internal ECOPROFIT teams were established to search for cleaner production opportunities in their own companies. Several trivial CP and good housekeeping options were introduced already at an early stage of the project. The enterprises drafted and/or upgraded their waste management plans and environmental protection plans or started with the implementation of ISO 14001.

All 20 Slovenian companies participating in the project were awarded ECOPROFIT certificates for the progress achieved in eco-efficiency measures implemented in their companies (areas of process optimisation, waste and energy management). Altogether, the cleaner production options planned and those already implemented should allow for a reduction in environmental and operational costs of around 900,000 euros for the years 2002-2004.

*Information provided by Mr Janez Petek, Steng-national cleaner production centre Ltd., Slovenia (e-mail: stengarm@stp.si). Further information can also be obtained at [www.cpc.at](http://www.cpc.at), Austrian Cleaner Production Centre.*

