

CPNEWS [23]

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR CLEANER PRODUCTION

Newsletter from the RAC/CP and its National Focal Points

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1. The next meeting of SAICM (Strategic approach to international Chemicals Management) to be held in Barcelona, 20-22 november 2006

The Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) will jointly organize, together with the Spanish Ministry of the Environment and the SAICM Secretariat, the next meeting of the SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management) to be held at the Llotja de Mar in Barcelona from 20 to 22 November 2006.

The International Conference on Chemicals Management adopted Resolution I/1 in Dubai in February 2006, in which it requested that regional meetings be organized during the 2006-2009 period. Regional meetings have played a significant role in the development of the international strategy for chemicals management and are useful for developing countries (especially the



least developed among them), countries with economies in transition and developed countries.

The aim of these meetings is to facilitate the implementation of the SAICM by the relevant players, develop plans for the

future, coordinate the application of the SAICM at the regional level and encourage regional organizations to participate.

The meeting will be attended by representatives of the EU and JUSSCANNZ (Japan, USA, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand).

The results of this meeting will be presented to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). ■

2. 3rd Euro-Mediterranean sustainable development forum: ECO-MEDA-FORUM

With the slogan “Common values, shared coastlines: working together for sustainability”, the ECO-MEDA FORUM is presented as an innovative environmental initiative.

The 3rd Mediterranean Forum will be held on 27 and 28 February 2007 in Barcelona and is organized by Ecocity (Barcelona Trade Fair), the Environmental Forum Foundation and the Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Navigation of Barcelona with the collaboration of the Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Mediterranean (ASCAME) and the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC).

In its third edition, the ECO-MEDA FORUM will assume its position as a political and business platform in the Mediterranean region, and will serve as a meeting point for specialists, international organizations, chambers of commerce, industry associations representing the Euro-Mediterranean private sector and entrepreneurs working in industry and services.

The 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Forum aims to raise awareness about the environment among industrial

and services companies so they adapt their systems and processes to legal and social requirements and give priority to environmental balance in the Mediterranean and the cost of the degradation of natural resources.

Furthermore, the Forum will provide a platform for economic cooperation and business alliances by promoting and implementing educational action to raise awareness and inform companies and public administrations in Spain and other countries on the Mediterranean.

The ECO-MEDA FORUM represents a permanent tribune for debate, reflection and the exchange of ideas on topics of interest and perspectives for the future in the Euro-Mediterranean environmental sector. It is also a sounding board for companies to establish alliances through the Business Meetings.

The plenary sessions will address issues related to development and sustainability in Mediterranean countries: changes in production models, sustainable-development policies, the cost and impact of the use of water in Mediterranean economies and solutions for reducing CO₂ emissions, among many others. ■

3. The Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) organizes an international seminar on industrial hazardous waste management at the Technical University of Catalonia

The seminar was held from 2 to 6 October 2006 in Barcelona with the participation of 19 representatives from Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina,

Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Mauritania, the Palestinian Territories, Serbia and Spain. The seminar was held within the framework of the

AZAHAR programme of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation with the

collaboration of the Catalan government's Agency for Cooperation and Development (ACCD).

Given the high priority that toxic waste and industrial hazards represent for Mediterranean countries, these countries formally adopted the commitment and obligation to reduce such waste by 20% by 2010 within the framework of the United Nations Mediterranean Action Plan.

This commitment arose as a result of the publication of the study "Plan for the Reduction by 20% by 2010 of the Generation of Hazardous Wastes from Industrial Installations for the Mediterranean Region" prepared by CP/RAC. It was the first Mediterranean study that provided information on trends and activities adopted by Mediterranean countries on pollution prevention. It is an important document that gives an overview of the situation of Cleaner Production centres in Mediterranean countries and provides information



on the progress made in terms of the regulations, agents, plans, programmes and tools used by countries to implement the Plan.

The seminar was divided into five thematic sections: the Mediterranean: priorities and frameworks for action; pollution prevention; tools to promote pollution prevention; toxic industrial waste in the Mediterranean; and

minimizing toxic waste and industrial hazards at source.

The final sessions gave participants a chance to exchange experiences and visit the companies Electrorecycling and Ecocat, which work in the area of toxic waste and industrial hazards in Catalonia. The study can be downloaded for free in English and French at www.cprac.org. ■

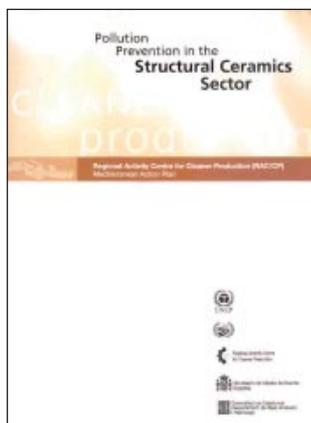


4. New study by CP/RAC: Pollution prevention in the structural ceramics sector

The CP/RAC has published a study on pollution prevention in the structural ceramics industry with the aim of improving the environmental behaviour of companies in this industry.

Due to increased construction in most Mediterranean countries, the structural ceramics sector has become one of the most important production industries. However, its environmental actions have generally been limited to very specific procedures such as treating gas emissions, and little has been done to promote actions that deal with the production process as a whole.

The study “Pollution Prevention in the Structural Ceramics Sector” provides an overview of the economic situation of the construction industry and the structural ceramics industry in different countries in the Mediterranean region, describes the different production processes involved in manufacturing structural ceramics, and indicates the technologies applied and resulting environmental aspects and impacts.



The pollution-prevention opportunities presented in the study are applicable to all the countries in the Mediterranean region, given that actions with a return on investment over the short term have been analysed and priority has been given to those opportunities that make it possible to reduce pollution at source, as opposed to end-of-pipe techniques, which are generally more expensive.

The study was presented to the Guild of Ceramic Tile Makers of Catalonia on 3 October 2006 in Barcelona and will be presented in Casablanca on 4 December 2006 within the framework of a workshop to be attended by businesspeople in the industry and representatives from the Centre for Construction Technology and Materials (CETEMCO).

To obtain the study in paper or CD-ROM format in English, French or Spanish, send an email to cleanpro@cprac.org.

The study will soon be available at www.cprac.org. ■

5. Blue Week in Turkey

The first edition of Blue Week, an initiative of the Information and Communication Centre of the Barcelona Convention (Info/RAC), the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) and the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC), was held in Antalya, Turkey from 17 to 21 September 2006.

The event received support from the Turkish Ministry of the Environment and Forestry and the collaboration of the Bonn Convention, the Bern Convention, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the Underwater Research Society - Mediterranean Monk Seal Research Group (SAD-AFAG).

During Blue Week, each Regional Activity Centre organized different activities:

The RAC/SPA gave a conference on the conservation status of the monk seal in the Mediterranean that was attended by biologists from all the countries in the Mediterranean basin, as well as representatives from different environmental organizations.



El CP/RAC organized the seminar “The Introduction of Eco-management in University Curricula” to present the e-course “Pollution Prevention at Source in Enterprises”.

Moreover, within the framework of Blue Week, the CP/RAC organized a seminar in Istanbul entitled “Best Environmental Practices in the Tanning Industry”, which was attended by Turkish industrialists. The manual “Good Environmental Practices in the Tanning Industry”, which was published by the CP/RAC, was also presented at the seminar.

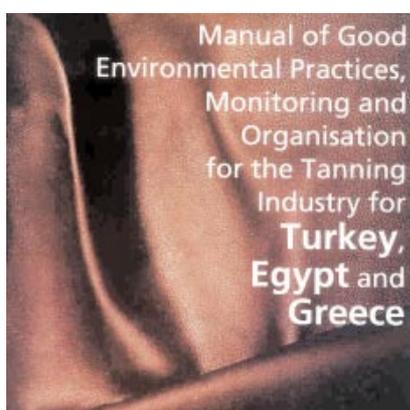
Info/RAC held the third edition of the Mediterranean Environmental Award film festival. Over a period of

several days, the films of the 21 finalists were shown and the photography exhibition “Made in Med” was on display. The jury for the film festival was made up of experts on the environment, communication and film, and first prize was shared by the movies *Delivery* (Till Nowak, Germany) and *Rain Is Falling* (Holger Ernst, Germany-Morocco). Third prize went to *Amal* (Ali Benkirane, Morocco-France). ■

6. Seminar on best environmental practices in the tanning industry in Turkey

After the success of the manual “Good Environmental Practices in the Tanning Industry in the Maghreb”, the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC), in collaboration with the Research Association of the Leather Industries and Annexes of Catalonia (AIICA), decided to adapt it to the situation in Turkey, Egypt and Greece.

The first of the three seminars organized to present the manual and disseminate good environmental practices in the tanning industry to professionals in the industry was held on 21 September 2006 in Istanbul within the framework of Blue Week.



The inaugural session was directed by Turgut Kosar, President of the Turkish Leather Industrialists Association, Onur Görgun, Secretary General of the Turkish Leather

Industrialists Association, Bulent Hazer, Vice President of the International Council of Tanners, Dr. Virginia Alzina, Director of the CP/RAC and Dr. José María Adzet, Director of the AIICA.

The seminar focused on topics such as the composition of waste waters in the tanning industry and different industry processes. The participants also exchanged experiences.

About 40 people from the Turkish tanning industry, chemical industry and public administration attended the seminar.

The next seminars will be held in Greece and Egypt. ■

7. New database for technologies aimed at preventing pollution at source for auxiliary operations in the chemical industry in the Mediterranean

The Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production has created a database of 40 technologies in the batch chemical sector aimed at the chemical industry in Mediterranean countries.

This communicative database contains useful information designed to help prevent, reduce and recycle waste streams generated by the industry. It is structured by sub-sector, process, waste stream, pollutant and kind of technology, thus enabling users to make simple and

combined searches through these and other fields, as well as by key word.

The data files provide technical information on technologies, state of development, minimization alternatives and ways to implement them.

The database is freely accessible and free of charge for any individual, as well as any institutions and centres interested in forming part of it.

The database will soon be available at www.cprac.org. ■

8. 60-hour E-course on Cleaner Production: Pollution Prevention at Source in Enterprises

The Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) has prepared the e-course “Pollution Prevention at Source in Enterprises” in collaboration with the University of Girona. The aim of the course is to help introduce the subjects of Cleaner Production and Pollution Prevention in university training in Mediterranean countries.

The 60-hour course is aimed at university professors and is available in English, French and Spanish. It includes browsing mechanisms, additional information and personalization tools, as well as activities that can be corrected automatically. The course has been designed so it can be printed.

The course was presented in September 2006 during Blue Week at the workshop “Introduction of Eco-management in University Curricula”, which was organized by the CP/RAC and designed for university



professors from Mediterranean countries involved in teaching Cleaner Production.

The workshop was chaired by Dr. Miquel Rigola, an expert in cleaner production, who explained how the course works. The participants were able to exchange their teaching experiences on subjects related to Cleaner Production at their respective universities.

At the end of the seminar, the participants agreed to adapt the course in accordance with their own personal experience with the aim of teaching it as a subject in the university programmes in their own countries.

The course can be provisionally accessed at:

<http://brakali.udg.es/Rigola/>,
but will shortly be available at
www.cprac.org. ■