

# CP NEWS [29]

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR CLEANER PRODUCTION

Newsletter from the RAC/CP and its National Focal Points

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## 1. Preventing pollution, the key to sustainable development

The importance of pollution prevention and control in industrial processes (IPPC) became clear in the Seminar on Integrating Pollution Prevention and Control into the Industrial Permit Systems in Mediterranean countries in Africa and the Middle East, held in Seville on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of June. Forty-five participants from more than 18 countries, institutions and companies from both Europe and the Mediterranean shared their experiences and concerns with respect to the application of the Best Available Techniques at an event organised by CP/RAC.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of June, the Expo building, headquarters of the IPPC European Bureau, hosted the Seminar on Integrating Pollution

Prevention and Control into the Industrial Permit Systems in Mediterranean countries in Africa and the Middle East. Esperanza

Caro, the leader of the Secretariat General of Climate Change and Environmental Quality in the Department of the Environment of the government of Andalusia,





welcomed the participants and officially opened the seminar with a sketch of the status of industrial permits in Andalusia, highlighting that 90% of Andalusian companies have them. After her talk, Carmen Falkenberg and Christian Wimmer from the European Commission, along with Enrique de Villamore from CP/RAC, offered a sweeping vision of the situation of pollution and sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

Throughout the entire seminar, different participants delivered their speeches, which were divided into thematic areas of discussion. They dealt with issues on identifying the selecting Best Available Techniques (BATs), applying the IPPC in permit systems for industrial activities, the ceilings on emissions based on

the BATs, inventories of national pollution, and finally BATs as a tool for relating industrial development with environmental protection.

The CP/RAC organised the gathering in conjunction with the IPPC Bureau, the European Commission, Med Pol and VITO.

#### Active participation

The participants in the seminar, 45 individuals from Algeria, Germany, Belgium, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Turkey, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Spain, expressed particular interest in the existing prevention systems, the possibilities of standardising the permits requested for each of the countries, and the availability of reference documents on BATs (BREFs). Med Pol stressed the importance of having an open

information system which enables anyone interested in the information to access it easily. This proposal won widespread support, although the difficulty of gathering enough reliable data was mentioned. In this sense, participants were reminded that it is a good idea to get the local authorities involved.

#### Conclusions

After the seminar a list of conclusions was drawn up, including the importance of pollution prevention and control in order to make industrial development more sustainable, which pointed out that economic benefits are not at odds with environmental improvements.



In terms of the BREF documents, despite the fact that they were drawn up based on European needs, it was agreed that they may be useful for non-European countries as well, and these countries asked to be included as observers at the forthcoming revisions. ■

## 2. CP/RAC and Blue Plan at the Expo Zaragoza 2008

Water, the main subject at the Expo Zaragoza 2008, is the focus of many initiatives, studies and seminars that have been conducted by CP/RAC during its 12 years of history. Taking advantage of this cumulative experience and knowledge, CP/RAC was invited to hold a presentation as part of the Water Exhibition.

The talk was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July in the Espacio Encuentros inside the El Faro pavilion, and it was divided into two different lectures. The first one, entitled “Trends in Water Consumption in the Mediterranean”, was delivered by two experts from Blue Plan, who began by talking about the amount of water used by each of the





countries in the Mediterranean. They highlighted the high consumption levels in Spain, France, Italy, Turkey and Egypt, and the amount of water thrown away, a realm in which France stands out from the other countries, as its use of water is much more rational. They said that in general, the demand for water has risen to an alarming degree in the countries in the southeast Mediterranean, while in the northern Mediterranean consumption has levelled off since the mid-1990s. Figures were provided on the exploitation of natural resources, showing that Libya and Egypt have dangerously surpassed 75% of exploited resources. For this reason, the conclusions of the presentation focused on the need to properly manage natural resources, especially water, by working on the demand side.

CP/RAC delivered the second talk, which opened with statistics on the distribution of the use of water by sectors, showing that the ones that consume the most water are agriculture in developing countries and industry in developed countries. Precisely it stressed the need for water in industry and food, pointing out that our survival does not solely depend on the water we drink. Immediately thereafter, it underscored the fact that the food sector is far and away the one that dumps the most pollutants into water. Based on that, CP/RAC outlined several of the sound environmental practices that can

be implemented in agriculture, industry and companies in general. These tips were illustrated with success stories from companies in the Mediterranean which have applied cleaner manufacturing techniques with positive results in terms of water consumption. The examples shared had been chosen from among the 100 success stories in the GRECO (Green Competitiveness) project which have been compiled over more than ten years by the centre. The majority of these 100 cases tell the experiences of companies that have managed to lower their water use with simple yet effective techniques, achieving economic and environmental savings at the same time.

The week on «Uses and Abuses of Water» was the context of the contributions by the both centres belonging to the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). All the activities related to the thematic weeks were held in the El Faro pavilion, which was devoted to citizen initiatives. This meant the first opportunities that non governmental organisations had to be responsible for the content and design of a pavilion in an international exposition. ■



### 3. Consumption: the pathway of achieving sustainability

**In November, CP/RAC will hold a Seminar on Consumption and Climate Change and a Round Table on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean. Both events aim to contribute to inverting the current production and consumption trends, which are wreaking true environmental devastation.**

After the approval of CP/RAC's new mission, which includes sustainable consumption as one of the points on which to focus its efforts, the centre has worked tirelessly to prove that consumption is one of the most important factors needing attention in order to prevent environmental degradation and climate change. For this reason, CP/RAC has recently published a study entitled



«Emissions of greenhouse gases from the standpoint of consumption in a global economy – Pilot experiment in the Mediterranean – Case study: Spain». This study is the first in a series of future technical publications that are being prepared on this subject.

Socially, the centre will also contribute to the dissemination of materials that encourage the public to consume conscientiously. The goal is to make consumers aware of their power when choosing which products to buy depending on their social and environmental values.

#### **Round Table on Sustainable Consumption and Production**

Convinced that the efforts to protect the environment and mitigate climate change are ineffective if we do not combat unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, CP/RAC is organising the First Round Table on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Resource Efficiency. This event will be held in Barcelona on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of November, and it will bring together experts from relevant public administrations, representatives of civil society and the business and industrial sectors in the Mediterranean countries, members of the MAP and international stakeholders, with the goal of identifying challenges and specific measures to make headway towards SCP in the region. Special consideration will be given to the thematic areas identified



by the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), including climate change, one of the top priority fields of action for sustainable development in the Mediterranean, and recently approved by the Contracting Parties to the Almería Declaration.

#### **Seminar on Consumption and Climate Change**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of November, CP/RAC will hold a Seminar on Consumption and Climate Change in Barcelona focused on analysing the methodological challenges and strategic opportunities of greenhouse gases from the standpoint of consumption. This gathering is targeted to international experts, who will debate issues such as the method used by CP/RAC in its study to calculate the carbon footprint associated with Spanish consumption, or the potential of the consumption perspective in international policies on climate change. ■

## **4. CP/RAC, formally recognised as Nominated Stockholm Convention Centre**

On the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of June a seminar was held in Switzerland addressed to the Nominated Stockholm Convention Centres. CP/RAC was invited to the event thanks to its candidacy presented by the government of Spain, and there it was formally recognised as a Nominated Convention Centre. This ratification means acknowledgement of the work that CP/RAC has been undertaking for several years in the area of handling chemicals, and it provides the centre with a major motivation to continue working along these lines. This was the conclusion of Virginia Alzina, director of CP/RAC, in her presentation at the centre.



Dr Alzina explained the jobs that CP/RAC is already performing in line with the guidelines of the Stockholm Convention. They include providing assistance to the Mediterranean countries for appropriate handling of PCBs, as well as implementing the top priority actions contained in their National Implementation Plans (NIPs).

The CP/RAC working plan includes a variety of actions related to the Stockholm Convention, such as preparing national profiles for the SAICM, conducting a study on brominated flame retardants (BFRs) and preparing the contribution to the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) at the Second International Conference on Chemical Management (ICCM-II). Likewise, the centre has also taken on the challenge of implementing the PNUMA plan for mercury and other heavy metals.

CAR/PL asked for the legal support of the secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, and it also asked to be kept in mind for future COPs.

The goal of the rest of the seminar was to debate issues related to the role of regional centres in providing technical assistance and analysing the National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and other subjects that require a regional approach.

It also underscored the importance

of exchanging information of all sorts among centres, especially information related to POPs (persistent organic pollutants).

Likewise, the Nominated Centres were asked to forge synergies with the other conventions related to chemical substances, namely the

Rotterdam Convention and the Basel Convention.

During the month of October, CP/RAC will welcome representatives of the Secretariat to its facilities to continue to make headway in its process of becoming an Official Convention Centre. ■

## 5. CP/RAC signs a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of June, Virginia Alzina, in her capacity as director of CP/RAC, and Charlotte Diez, on behalf of Carlos Lopes, Executive Director of UNITAR, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in Geneva stating that both centres pledge to undertake specific, immediate actions to reinforce cooperation between both entities.

The joint efforts of CP/RAC and UNITAR will focus on the rational management of chemical products in the Mediterranean region, and it will benefit from the previous experience of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) as well as CP/RAC's new role as a Nominated Stockholm Convention Centre. The specific working areas are:

—Developing national chemical management profiles

—Implementing the SAICM

—PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls)

—Mercury

—Implementing the Stockholm Convention

—Strategy and guidelines on mobilising financial resources

The priority goals include optimising the regional resources and developing programmes for specific areas, a goal that will be fulfilled by means of exchanges of information and publications, holding activities and issuing joint publications.

For the time being, a memorandum of agreement (MOA) has been signed to draw up a national profile for the SAICM in Malta as the launch of its activities. ■

## 6. The GEZDI project gains ground with two new training sessions in Tunisia

After the success of the first training project on Sustainable Management in Industrial Areas (SMIA, GEDZI, after its abbreviation in French) which was held in Tunis last February, CAR/PL and GTZ organised two further training sessions in the same country, part of a series of four sessions scheduled as part of the GEDZI project.

The second training session was held in Tunis from the 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of

April. At it participants evaluated the implementation of the first measures defined in the first action plan, and they drew up a new plan.

At the third training session, held from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of June, the five directors of the MMG (Maintenance and Management Groups, associations in charge of the IAs in Tunis) defined new more in-depth action plans with the support of four local consultants.

This training ended with the organisation of a round table to debate the new draft law on the arrangement and maintenance of Tunisian industrial estates.

In both sessions, useful new tools were presented for the sound management of industrial estates. The managers presented the actions carried out in their respective estates, and new ideas were proposed to resolve the problems mentioned.



The GEZDI system includes personalised follow-up by the local consultants with each of the managers, as well as regular visits to their respective industrial estates. Plus, Action Support Groups are also organised, meetings with the goal of solving very specific problems that block implementation of the different action plans.

### GEZDI in Tunisia

The GEZDI project is co-financed by CP/RAC and the Germany Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) of Tunisia. It also has the support of the Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies



(CITET). Its goal is to improve the management of five industrial zones around Tunisia by creating a cycle of change, all of this to strengthen the country's capacities in the sustainable development of industrial estates. The system used is the training of six managers of industrial estates using the GEZDI methodology, which emerged from an innovative combination of three internationally renowned methods and tools: PREMA, Ecomapping and APELL.

At the end of this training, the local consultants should be capable of replicating the GEZDI method in other industrial estates



in Tunisia. As part of the project, there are plans to create a network of managers of industrial estates in Tunisia and to publish at least 30 practical case studies that compile the actions conducted in each of the participating estates. Plus, the goal is to repeat this experience in other Mediterranean countries such as Algeria and Morocco.

The fourth and last training session as part of the project is scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of October, and a public meeting to present the final results of the project is planned for the month of December. ■

## 7. Horizon 2020 underscores the importance of capacity building in all countries

**The Second Meeting of the Horizon 2020 Steering Group, held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June in Tunisia, gave special importance to training activities that help countries in the southern and eastern Mediterranean to adopt sustainable measures and policies. One of the most relevant actions was the seminar on Integration of Pollution Control and Prevention, organised by CP/RAC, which was held nine days later in Seville.**

Nadhir Hamada, Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development, officially opened the Second Meeting of the Horizon 2020 Steering Group, along with the welcome speeches of representatives of the European Commission and the same ministry. The message shared by all three was encouragement for the participants to continue working elbow-to-elbow in favour of the environment, the goal that lay at the core of the debates and talks held during the workshop.

### Southern perspective

The role of the southern countries was stressed at both the beginning and the end of the meeting, pointing to the need to present the projects in a positive fashion for the economy of the country in order to gain political support. Thus, according to spokespersons from the sub-group on pollution reduction, «*we have to overcome the erroneous idea that environmental projects are an economic burden*». In this way, the goal is to ensure that the ministers of the environment are not the only ones involved in respect for the environment, rather that this idea also be included in general proposals.

Despite these intentions, Professor Najeh Dali from Tunisia and Mr Ruba Al-Zoubi from Jordan provided the keys for understanding the real perspective from these countries. As they explained, first there is a feeling that the North is mainly responsible for the existing pollution and that for this reason it must invest greater efforts in cleaning up the environment. Likewise, the poorer

countries are facing a series of hurdles when placing the environment among the top priority policies, as they also have to grapple with other more pressing problems like health and unemployment. In any case, they showed a positive attitude towards Horizon 2020 and claimed that they are willing to work together.

### **In the right direction**

Horizon 2020 has already served as the framework for many training actions performed during 2008, such as the conference on municipal waste management, the draft of the top priority needs in the private sector in the Mediterranean, and the seminar on Integration of Pollution Prevention and Control in the System of Industrial Permits, organised by CP/RAC.

The forthcoming training actions within Horizon 2020 will continue in the spirit of these initial activities, keeping the need to complement other initiatives in the Mediterranean region that might be addressing similar or related issues. According to the leaders of Horizon 2020, it is crucial that the activities proposed have an added value on regional level and that they be based on the strong and weak points in the zone.

As a container for these avenues of action, a two-year working plan is being drawn up with the goals of identifying the different social groups for training and outlining the top priority needs in each of them, as well as identifying possible sources of support for each need. ■

## **8. Sustainable events**

In its mission to promote sustainable consumption and production, CP/RAC is aware of its important role as a social and institutional model. Oftentimes, the best bet is to preach by example, and for this reason the centre continues in its efforts to include environmental improvements in its everyday actions.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of July the entire staff of CP/RAC attended a two-hour training course on holding sustainable events, taught by an Environmental Expert from the Office of the Environment at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB).

The training session addressed all types of details related to organising festivals, congresses or meetings. The impact of any event, according to the experts, can be classified into three categories: space, waste and mobility.

The space or venue where the event is held usually does not belong to the entity organising the event; it is often rented or lent by an institution. The organisers

must be sure that the venue is sustainable, in particular by noting the lighting and heating/air conditioning.

All the materials used during the event generate waste, so it is important to choose reusable materials (glass cups instead of plastic, USB ports instead of CDs, etc.), in addition to providing access to special recycling bins. In order for the people attending the event to also feel like they are participants in these pro-environmental efforts, you can encourage them to use less water in the bathrooms by hanging posters, or to use public transport to move around the city.

Finally, mobility is the trickiest part in that it generates greenhouse gases. For this reason, it is important to offer participants the possibility getting to the event by train or bus, and not just by airplane.

CP/RAC took careful notes of all these and other advice, which will undoubtedly prove useful in its forthcoming events. ■