

# CP NEWS [31]

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR CLEANER PRODUCTION

Newsletter from the RAC/CP and its National Focal Points

March 2009

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## 1. The CP/RAC plots the course for 2009

**This is a key year for concluding projects established in the 2008-2009 biannual work plan, approved at the COP-15 in Almeria. Sustainable Production and Consumption and Rational Management of Chemical Substances have become established as the centre's main focuses of action under the umbrella of the Barcelona and Stockholm conventions.**

On February 9, 10 and 11, the CP/RAC held in its offices its annual meeting for defining lines to be followed during the year. These will be concentrated around the centre's two thematic pillars: Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and the Rational Management of Chemical Substances.

SCP promotion in the Mediterranean region is the basis of the Centre's specific mission, approved by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention at the COP-15. Based on this assumption, the CP/RAC highlighted priority activities as the completion of SPC

area-related work started in 2009. This work includes studies on consumption and climate change, development of the GRECO initiative and tools designed to promote SPC amongst companies and civil society.

The Rational Management of Chemical Substances area took on a new dimension in 2008 with the Centre's nomination for the Stockholm Convention. That is why in 2009 the CP/RAC decided to concentrate its efforts on fulfilling its obligations as a nominated centre for the convention, without forgetting its other activities, such as the implementation of REACH, a European regulation on chemicals, or the development of the GEF project through which the centre must help certain countries with achieving their National Implementation Plans (NIPs).

Apart from the two main areas, the CP/RAC divided up its work plan so that its relationship with the MAP became more visible. Specific people were appointed to fulfil the centre's obligations as an active part of the plan, giving it the appropriate level of prominence.

Finally, there was an emphasis on the need to maintain and promote current communication tools, such as CP News or the Annual Technical Journal.

### **Didactic structure**

To achieve greater team cohesion and introduce new workers to the Centre's reality, the meeting also

provided a summary of the institutional context of the CP/RAC and presented the different initiatives to which it is connected. Thanks to the budget increase at the beginning of 2008, the centre was able to increase its activities and team of personnel last year, helping to improve its performance and raise expectations for 2009. ■

## **2. Successful conclusion of GEZDI Project in Tunisia**

**The CP/RAC, in collaboration with GTZ, publicly presented the results of the GEZDI project on January 21 in Tunisia, bringing to a close a cycle of**

**4 training sessions in which 4 Tunisian consultants and 5 managers from industrial estates have been trained.**



The Sustainable Management of Industrial Estates project (known by the French acronym GEZDI) has satisfactorily managed to train, over the past year, 4 Tunisian consultants and 5 managers of industrial estates located in the outskirts of the city of Tunis. These results were presented publicly on January 21 in Tunisia at the project's new "life centre" situated in the Soukra-Aéroport industrial estate.

The event was attended by public sector (CITET, Ministry of Industry) and private sector representatives, plus representatives of the Tunisian press. Consultants and managers from the industrial estates presented the main results and conclusions. At the end, they were awarded diplomas.

The GEDZI training project, co-financed by the CP/RAC and GTZ (German Agency for Technical

Cooperation) began at the end of 2007 and was carried out during 2008. The project aimed to strengthen the skills, capabilities and service of managers of Tunisian industrial estates for the sustainable management of these estates.

### **Knowing GEZDI**

The project was based on a specific methodology, known as GEDZI, developed in a pilot project by UNEP and GTZ, together with other important players in 2007 in Tunisia.

Over a cycle of 4 interactive training sessions, each lasting on average 3 days, the managers discovered innovative and effective methods for improving economic, organisational, social and environmental



efficiency for managing industrial estates and their companies.

At the end of each training session, the participants implemented action plans for their respective industrial estates. These action plans have been strengthened each time follow-up and support meetings have been organised. In each training session, the managers were also accompanied in their organisational development processes by Tunisian consultants who carried out visits and work meetings in the field.

The application of action plans implemented during GEDZI training enabled the adoption of various measures compiled in around 40 case studies to be published shortly.

The replication of this training method has been planned for managers of industrial estates in other European countries over the next few years. ■

## 3. 111 arguments for Green Competitiveness

The CP/RAC surpasses the figure of 100 MedCleans with 11 new inclusions that provide examples of the application of BATs, BEPs and CP in mainly Spanish companies. The records can be viewed on the Centre's website.

Fulfilling its objective of publishing at least 10 new MedClean records a year, the CP/RAC finished 2008 with a palindrome, 111, successfully surpassing the goal of 100, reached in 2007. This achievement was produced in a special edition of the 100 successful cases that the centre compiled during 12 years of work in the Cleaner Production field.

The 11 new records show the desire to continue working to promote the application of Best Available Techniques (BATs), Best Environmental Practices (BEPs) and Cleaner Technologies (CTs) in Mediterranean countries by providing real case studies. The incorporation of the GRECO Initiative, launched by CP/RAC in 2008 to promote Green competitiveness as a way of obtaining economic benefits, offers new arguments for encouraging companies to invest in BATs, BEPs and CTs. That is why these 11 new companies will be eligible for the GRECO award in 2010.

### Different ways of making respect for the environment profitable

The 11 new MedClean records show there are very different ways of achieving green competitiveness:

—*Waste reduction.* A graphic arts company (MedClean 101) and a furniture factory (MedClean 103) channel their investment into reducing waste from their

production processes. In both cases a better accepted product by consumers, less environmental impact and return on investment was achieved.

—*Modification of processes.* The food sector is the biggest beneficiary of process modifications, as shown in MedCleans 102 (vine growing) and 111 (olive oil extraction industry). In both cases, the modifications resulted in less environmental impact, higher production and, particularly for record 111, a rapid return on investment.

—*Reuse of waste.* The three “R” phenomenon (Reuse, Recycle, Reduce) reminds us that something traditionally considered waste can be reused with appropriate management. This is the case of an eco-design company (MedClean 105), a plastics manufacturer (Medclean 106) and a chemical industry (MedClean 110). In two of these cases, the return on investment is immediate, while in the other it is only 5 months. This extremely positive data shows the importance of always valuing the possible subsequent uses of waste.

—*Reduction in water consumption.* Many of the best results of the first 100 MedClean records are related to water use. For example, the new MedClean 104 and 108 records show two different cases of streamlining this valuable resource.

—*Alternative energy.* The use of alternative energy can in some cases be the best option for respecting the environment and also achieving profitability. This is shown by MedClean records 107 and 109, with the installation of solar panels in the first and use of biogas in the second.

The 111 MedClean records can be viewed on the CP/RAC website [www.cprac.org](http://www.cprac.org). ■



## 4. Climate Change applied to the company

**The CP/RAC signs an agreement with the Fundació Empresa & Clima (Business and Climate Foundation) on alternatives for mitigating climate change in different business sectors in the Mediterranean Basin. The results of this work will be presented at the 13th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development, which will be held in Cairo from June 22-24 with the subheading “Climate Change, adaptation and mitigation - experiences and strategies in the Mediterranean”.**

On January 9, the CP/RAC signed an agreement with the Fundació Empresa & Clima through which both parties agreed to work jointly in the preparation of a report on alternatives for mitigating climate change for different representative business sectors of the Mediterranean. The chosen sectors are paper, ceramics, offices, hotel, dairy and preserves.

Greenhouse gas emission trends will be analysed for each sector as well as existing studies on the matter. Successful case studies will be selected from Mediterranean countries where greenhouse gas reduction measures are implemented. A final report will then be produced with all this information with data on the emissions of each sector in Mediterranean

countries. A differentiation will also be made between mitigation alternatives related to improving the production process and those related to the use of alternative energy.

This report will be used to provide a context for the climate change impact of each of the sectors, providing data on their emissions, whether by countries, regions, total emissions or number of facilities. It will also be indicated which part of each production process generates greater climate impact. The report will explain which are the best practices and technologies for pollution prevention from a climate change point of view. Finally, case studies will be provided which show that the proposed pollution prevention alternatives are possible, distinguishing between companies from the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean.

This report will be presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development, which will be held in Cairo from June 22-24 with the subheading “Climate change, adaptation and mitigation - experiences and strategies in the Mediterranean”. Climate change is one of the priority work areas for the CP/RAC during 2008-2009, with its most traditional sphere of activity now linked to sustainable production through this report. ■

## 5. First seminar on Stockholm Convention after nomination

**As a Nominated Centre for the Stockholm Convention, the CP/RAC will hold the “Regional Seminar on Positive Experiences in the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention and its synergies with the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions” on April 7 and 8 in Barcelona. The seminar will be supported by the Recetox Centre which signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the CP/RAC in January.**

On April 7 and 8, the CP/RAC will act as the host of a Regional Seminar on the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in Mediterranean countries. This meeting will help to share the experiences of the different countries when implementing the guidelines established by the Convention and in developing the National Implementation Plans.

Between 40 and 50 participants are expected at the seminar which will introduce and debate subject matters such as the status of the implementation of the convention in the Mediterranean Arch, the different experiences in eliminating Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), existing collaborations and synergies with the Rotterdam and Basel conventions and, finally, lines to follow in the future.

The information provided by the countries through an extensive questionnaire which CP/RAC sent at the end of 2008 has been used as the basis for defining the contents. This questionnaire has enabled the compilation of data on the status of implementing each of the conventions and difficulties encountered during the process. Sections on financing, technical assistance and cooperation were included in the three conventions



to identify existing or possible synergies for working together.

The seminar is supported by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and the Research Centre for Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology - Recetox, of the University of Masaryk and Nominated Centre for the Stockholm Convention, with which CP/RAC signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on January 26, 2009.

In this agreement, both centres agreed to cooperate in activities that support the implementation of the Stockholm Convention throughout the European continent.



This cooperation agreement is the first to be signed by the CP/RAC within the framework of the Stockholm Convention and is another step forward in its consolidation as a Nominated Centre. Recetox covers the north and east of Europe, while CP/RAC concentrates on the Mediterranean area. Both centres therefore united geographical and specialisation areas, creating new and promising synergies, of which the “Regional Seminar on Positive Experiences in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and its synergies with the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions” is the first tangible example. ■

## 6. GRECO Initiative begins 2009 across borders



**After its first seminar, held in Barcelona in November 2008, the GRECO Initiative comes to Mediterranean countries with two conferences and the GRECO Award. Morocco and Egypt will be the first venues for the project's presentation.**

### Morocco hosts the first GRECO conference

The GRECO initiative will hold its first conference in Morocco in the middle of April 2009 to communicate the project and its many applications in southern Mediterranean countries. The event will count on the presence and support of the Ministries of Industry and the Environment, as well as important private sector figures, BusinessMed members and the President of CGEM (General Confederation of Moroccan Companies).

Mr Ahmed CHAMI, Minister of Trade, Industry and New Technologies in Morocco, Mr Abdelkebir ZAHOU, Secretary of State for Water and the Environment, Mr. Moulay Hafid EIALAMY, President of the General Confederation of Moroccan Companies and, finally, a representative from the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) will be responsible for opening the conference.

The conference will gather together more than 100 private sector companies, which will be presented with the GRECO Initiative and the economic and environmental advantages of cleaner production, with case studies and real data on how companies that invest in the environment increase their profitability and become more competitive.

During the conference a memorandum of understanding will be signed between the parties involved: CMPP/, BusinessMed, CGEM and CP/RAC as a collaboration agreement for implementing the GRECO Initiative in Morocco over the next 5 years.

### Green Industry Global Forum, Egypt

The Green Industry Global Forum will take place in Egypt the last week of May: 26, 27th and 28th. The main subject of the Forum is: “Competitiveness and Innovation through Green Products and Processes”, where GRECO has an important role. Private and public sector will take part of the FORUM and important companies like BASF will exchange their experiences in implementing Green Competitiveness.

The 27<sup>th</sup> of May GRECO Initiative will be presented. Dr. Rene Van Berkel will be in charge of the welcoming and opening statements and Luisa García-Valdecasas, from the CP/RAC, will launch GRECO Initiative. A plenary session will be held by a company that have already applied CP techniques and will share their successful experience with the audience, followed by an open discussion and three working groups' sessions.

An agreement has been reached with the organisation of the Green Industry Global Forum for the awarding of the GRECO prize during the GRECO INITIATIVE session. Prof. Anton Pizzuto will lead the GRECO Award and will give the prize to the winner, a company that has been selected out of 100 companies by a Scientific Committee in Malta.

## GRECO Award

A biannual competition will be held for awarding a prize to the company with the greatest economic and environmental benefits from implementing one or cleaner production techniques. The winning company's results will be published in the GRECO annual report to showcase a successful example, so that other companies can access this information and be encouraged to implement cleaner production mechanisms.

To recognise the effort of all those companies that have invested in cleaner production, the CP/RAC will provide them with visibility in their countries of origin and nominate the 10 best companies for the GRECO prize.

An agreement has been reached with the organisation of the Green Industry Global Forum for the awarding of the GRECO prize during this event. ■

## 7. Croatia will be the setting for the CP/RAC National Focal Points meeting

**The biannual CP/RAC National Focal Points meeting will be held on June 17, 18 and 19 in Dubrovnik. The meeting will analyse the activities of 2007, 2008 and the first half of 2009, and define priorities for 2010-2011.**

After June 19 the CP/RAC will know its new strategy for 2010 and 2011. This will be defined in the Centre's National Focal Points meeting on June 17, 18 and 19 in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The meeting will gather together all Centre members and the 21 National focal points of the CP/RAC, belonging to each of the countries of the Mediterranean Arch, Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. It will also include the presence of Paul Mifsud, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), making a total of 34 participants.

The meeting will review the achievements and failings of the centre's activity during 2007, 2008 and the first half of 2009, since the work plan for this period was stopped at the last National Focal Points meeting held in Barcelona in February 2007. So it will be determined to what extent the guidelines established have been followed. Subsequently, and in line with the objective of



the meeting, there will be a discussion of the priority areas on which to focus the centre's future efforts in order to produce a document that establishes the lines to follow for 2010-2011.

The meeting will also help strengthen the interpersonal relationship between CP/RAC workers and the National Focal Points, and improve communications between them. Indeed, one of the novelties of this meeting is the inclusion of a space so that the National Focal Points can share their individual experiences, which will enable synergies between the parties in favour of sustainable production and consumption in the Mediterranean. ■