

The **Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)** strives to protect the environment and to foster development in the Mediterranean Basin. It was adopted in Barcelona (Spain) in 1975 by Mediterranean States and the EC, under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Its legal framework is made up of the Barcelona Convention (1976, revised in 1995) and seven Protocols covering certain specific aspects of environmental protection. The Action Plan is built up around an Athens-based Coordinating Unit, the MED POL Programme and six Regional Activity Centres.

The **Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC)**, based in Barcelona-Spain, was established in 1996. Its mission is to promote mechanisms leading to sustainable consumption and production patterns in Mediterranean countries. The CP/RAC activities are financed by the Spanish Government once they have been submitted and approved by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and by the Bilateral Monitoring Commission made up of representatives from the Spanish and Catalan Governments.

Nominated STOCKHOLM CONVENTION Centre



For further information please refer to:



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THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

Over the last decades there has been an increasing concern about the adverse effect that Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) can cause on human health and the environment.

These compounds have been identified by the international community as a group of substances that shares four properties, which are:

- High toxicity
- Persistence
- Volatility
- They accumulate in fatty tissues

The Stockholm Convention arises from United Nations' objective to rid the world of POPs by restricting and ultimately eliminating their production, use, release and storage. It was signed, within the framework of United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), in May 2001 and entered into force on 17 May of 2004, thus becoming international law.

The Convention classifies Persistent Organic Pollutants in three annexes and it establishes the prohibition of the intentional use of POPs listed in Annex A, restrictions on the use of POPs listed in Annex B and a series of measures with the aim of minimizing unintentional releases of substances listed in Annex C.

Since its adoption, many countries have joined as Parties and they have been called to meet in three occasions in order to establish a framework of action and periodically review the implementation of the Convention.



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CP/RAC in its new role

During the third Conference of the Parties held in Dakar in 2007, the Government of Spain presented the candidature of CP/RAC for Regional Centre for the Stockholm Convention. Following this presentation, the CP/RAC was given the status of Nominated Centre for the Stockholm Convention in February 2008 with the support of the WEOG Countries (Western European and Other Groups), which comprise the EU, Japan, the USA, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand. Regional Centres are willing to assist developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to fulfil their obligations under the Convention by providing capacity building assistance and transferring technology.

Being aware of the increasing concern about the impacts of some chemicals on the environment and human health and at the same time fulfilling its new task as centre for Stockholm Convention, CP/RAC has developed a specific work plan to address sound management of chemicals for the biennium 2008 / 2009 with the following objectives:

- To put the Stockholm Convention into practice.
- To encourage the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants.
- To disseminate the use of cleaner production technologies.
- To encourage the sound management of chemicals and waste to foster pollution prevention.



Thanks to its previous experience working with chemicals, the CP/RAC has been recognized as "Nominated Centre for the Stockholm Convention"

SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES THAT CP/RAC IS IMPLEMENTING, DIRECTLY RELATED THE CONVENTION, ARE:

- 1 **NIPs** "Advising Mediterranean countries in the carrying out of their National Implementation Plans" identifying its national priorities and assisting in the implementation on actions needed.
- 2 **Resources** "Preparing a strategy document on mobilising financial resources and instruments" to assist countries in putting their National Plans into action.
- 3 **Synergies** Regional seminars to share experiences regarding the implementation of the Stockholm Convention.
- 4 **BFRs** Preparation of a report on Brominated Flame Retardants in the Mediterranean.
- 5 **PCBs** Environmental sound management of equipments, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries.
- 6 **Programme** Preparation of a work programme 2020-2011 specific in POPs under Convention