

Conventions, such as Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, Israel, Montenegro, Algeria, Lebanon, Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, Turkey, Bosnia, Serbia and Spain. The Secretariats of the Stockholm, Basel, and Rotterdam Conventions, UNITAR and Global Environmental Facilities (GEF), also participated in the event. And finally, investigation centres such as RECETOX, CSIC or the CIEMAT, also took part in the event, playing an active role.

Among other items, the CP/RAC presented the “Study on the implementation and synergies among Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management) within the Barcelona Convention signatories”, which showed disparities in the results from different countries of the Mediterranean Region. This study, based on the information provided by each one of the countries, will be updated when new information is available.

The conclusions of the workshop focused on the request for more active implementation on the part of the countries



and on the importance of the awareness of non-deliberate generation of POPs. Difficulties in obtaining financial support for the implementation of the Convention were emphasized and the simultaneous implantation of the three conventions—for the sake of greater efficiency—was recommended. Monitoring was also emphasized as being of the utmost importance, with the recommendation of the implementation of the Global Monitoring Plan. Finally, the importance of cooperation with other programmes dedicated to chemical substances, like SAICM or REACH, was remarked on. ■

4. GRECO Initiative



4.1. Presentation of GRECO INITIATIVE in Egypt and first GRECO AWARD to green competitiveness

GRECO INITIATIVE was introduced on 28th May during the Global Forum on Green Industry organized by UNIDO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in collaboration with the CP/RAC, Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production, the Egyptian National Cleaner Production Centre and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Egypt. The presentation was done by Dr. Virginia Alzina, director of the CP/RAC in Spain, by the Spanish Ambassador, by Dr. Azza Morssy, from UNIDO Environment & Cleaner Production Unit and by Mrs. Luisa García Valdecasas, the manager of GRECO INITIATIVE. GRECO INITIATIVE was one of the key participants in the Forum.



GRECO INITIATIVE presents the first GRECO AWARD to SILA EDIBLE OIL

In the Global Forum on Green Industry framework, GRECO INITIATIVE delivered the first GRECO AWARD to Sila Edible Oil, an Egyptian oil



company, during the Global Forum on Green Industry. Prof. Anton Pizzuto, chairman of the scientific committee & Mrs. Luisa García Valdecasas, GRECO Manager, were the responsables to present SILA EDIBLE OIL with the award. The winner had been selected among 100 companies after a screening process, and having obtained the best results on reducing the environmental impact of its industrial process at a minimum cost and maximum savings. Other finalists companies are First Textile (Turkey), Masa Décor (Spain), Herbos (Croatia), Zica Sarajevo (Bosnia & Hercegovina), Batteries Nour (Tunisia), Hotel Caravan Serail (Tunisia), Baxter (Malta), Water & Sewage Utility (Bosnia & Hercegovina) and Croatian Electric Utility Company (Croatia).

Every successful case of cleaner production is part of the “Med



Cleans” published by the CP/RAC, Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production.

SILA EDIBLE OIL

Sila Edible Oil is a soap and oil sector company which has used cleaner production processes obtaining from them not only environmental benefits but economic profitability. Sila Edible Oil has put into practice different measures of “green competitiveness” achieving high benefits and reducing

maintenance costs that have supposed around 445.000 € savings/per year with only an investment of 21.450 €. The pay back period has been in a 75% of the cases around a month. Maintenance costs were reduced by 10%, water consumption was reduced by 46%, wastewater treatment requirements were reduced by 66%, and boiler fuel consumption was reduced by 48%. With these measures the company achieved discharge compliance. ■

4.2. Presentation of the Partnership Agreement of GRECO Initiative in Morocco

The GRECO Initiative project was held at the Tulip Hotel in Casablanca in april 2009. This event hosted the participation of Mrs. Luisa García Valdecasas, GRECO INITIATIVE manager (Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre, CP/RAC), Mr. Bousselham Hilia, general secretary of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and New Technologies, Mr. Mohamed Benyahia, director of Partnership, Communication & Cooperation, and Assistant Secretary of State for Environment of the Ministry of Energy, Mining, Water & Environment, Mr. Saïd Mouline, president of the Moroccan Employer's Association (Confédération Générale des Entreprises du Maroc - CGEM) Environment Commission, Mrs. Hana Hanzaz, director of the Moroccan



Cleaner Production Centre, and Mr. Juan Antonio de Castro, international

expert of the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC).

Partnership Agreement

This event has been the occasion to introduce the Understanding Protocol between the Ministry of Trade, Industry and New Technologies, the Secretary of State in Charge of Water & Environment, the Moroccan Employer's Association and the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC), that was signed on April 15th, during the “GRECO INITIATIVE FORUM IN Morocco”. The methods to put it into practice will be the purpose of an agreement signature between the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) and the Moroccan Cleaner Production Centre

(CMPP). This agreement was signed on April 15th within the “GRECO FORUM in Morocco”. The Collaboration is supported by the Moroccan Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment.

Report on successful cases of Green Competitiveness application

On the other hand, Luisa García Valdecasas introduced the GRECO INITIATIVE project (*Green Competitiveness*), a Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) relevant project, which is part of the Mediterranean Action Plan promoted by the United Nations Environment Programme. The aim of this initiative is to foster green

competitiveness, increase profitability by taking environmental protection measures in the Mediterranean region, through analysis and by spreading the economic benefit of applying such a concept for companies.

100 cases of Green Competitiveness

García Valdecasas has analysed the need of green competitiveness through the “*Green Competitiveness in the Mediterranean - Finding business opportunities through Cleaner Production*” Report, which analyses 100 cases of Green Competitiveness of many companies in the Mediterranean region, that have

put cleaner production solutions into practice.

The application of cleaner production techniques —changes in production and organisation processes to reduce environmental impact— leads to savings of 14M euros a year for the total of these companies, while the accumulated net profit, after 5 years, would be around 57M euros within these small and medium sized companies. Throughout the first year, for every 100 euros invested on the total of theses analysed cases, they would have an additional profit of 100 Euros, and this amount would be multiplied by 5 after five years. ■

5. The “Study on the implementation and synergies among Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the SAICM within the Barcelona Convention signatories” is available

The “Study on the implementation and synergies among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the SAICM within the Barcelona Convention signatories” was published at the end of March of 2009, and was presented at the Regional Seminar for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention, celebrated on the 7th and 8th of April in Barcelona. The study was based on information provided by the countries which answered an exhaustive survey about the implementation of the three Conventions in each one of them, as well as about the necessities detected in the field of chemical substances. Other data provided for the Study included the National Implementation Plan (NIPs), the reports of the Stockholm,



Rotterdam and Basel Conventions, the UNITAR Agency and the Africa Stockpile Programme.

The study analyzes the situation of the three Conventions and SAICM in each one of the countries and the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the NIPs. Also, it analyzes the measures taken in each country about the Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) and the reduction of the non-deliberate POPs and makes an inventory of the dioxins and furans, among other data.

The study was published in English, and its French version is expected soon. At this moment, it can be found on the web page of the centre: www.cprac.org. ■