



**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE  
UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**



**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER**

**- Draft report –**

## **Waste Management in the Coastal Regions of the Mediterranean**

tabled by the co-rapporteurs  
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## I. DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

*The Committee on Energy, Environment and Water,*

1. Invites for reduction and elimination of pollution from the land-based sources into the marine environment in accordance with the Strategic Action Programme for the Reduction of Pollution of the Mediterranean from Land-Based Sources (SAP MED) and adopted National Action Plans in the framework of Barcelona Convention.
2. Considers that institutional and administrative reforms in the waste sectors of the countries belonging to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership should be based on the following principles:
  - respecting the waste hierarchy (prevention; preparing for re-use; recycling; other recovery; disposal ),
  - waste management principles: polluter pays; producer's responsibility; proximity,
  - respecting other general environmental protection principles (sustainable development; precautionary principle; preservation of natural assets; biological diversity and landscape; substitution and/or compensation principle; removal and remediation of environmental damage at the source; integrated approach principle; cooperation; information access and public participation; promotion principle; right to access to justice).
3. Considers that waste management system requires existence of good applicable legislation as well as adequate facilities for sustainable waste management, rehabilitation of landfills and "dump-sites".
4. Considers that trans-boundary movements of waste have to be strictly controlled and trans-boundary movements of hazardous waste have to follow the Basel Convention.
5. Invites all countries of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership to undertake the following efforts:
  - promoting research and development related to waste management
  - launching awareness raising and communication campaigns targeting producers and general public concerning waste management, especially on waste prevention
  - encouraging investments into "environmentally friendly" waste management technologies according to the waste hierarchy
  - development of infrastructure for an integrated waste management system
  - organization of separate waste collection systems
  - discouraging illegal trans-boundary waste traffic
  - reduction of biodegradable waste landfilling
  - strict control of hazardous waste management.

## II. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In the framework of Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP – United Nations Environmental Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan) and the Strategic Action Programme for the Reduction of Pollution of the Mediterranean from Land-Based Sources (SAP MED) in 2005 countries of the Mediterranean prepared National Action Plans (NAP) based on the earlier prepared documents: National Diagnostic Analysis (NDA), 2003 Baseline Budget, Sectoral Plans for different types of pollutants (SPs) and Economic Instruments for Protection of Sea Against Pollution from the Land-based Sources Current Status and Possible Solutions (EI).

The main task of the NAPs was to propose environmental priorities in the coastal territory through national projects like the “Coastal Cities Water Pollution Control Project” and enforcement of the monitoring networks.

Waste management is a highly complex activity that exerts a considerable influence on almost all branches of economy, manufacture and consumption. It contains a wide array of procedures and technologies as preventing the generation of waste, reducing the quantity of waste and/or its adverse effects on the environment, performing collection, transportation, recovery, disposal and other activities related to waste, as well as supervision over these activities and after-care for closed landfills.

The first objective of any waste policy should be minimization of the negative effects of the generation and management of waste on human health and the environment. Waste policy should also aim at reducing the use of resources, and favour the practical application of the waste hierarchy.

The waste hierarchy generally lays down a priority order of what constitutes the best overall environmental option in waste legislation and policy, while departing from such hierarchy may be necessary for specific waste streams when justified for reasons of, inter alia, technical feasibility, economic viability and environmental protection.

Waste prevention should be the first priority of waste management, and re-use and material recycling should be preferred to energy recovery from waste, since they are the best ecological options. Furthermore, the recovery of waste and the use of recovered materials should be encouraged in order to conserve natural resources.

The waste generation prevention, like other waste minimization measures too, is certainly the most convenient method to solve waste problems. These measures apply to the process or the point of waste generation and include the prevention of generation by modifying the production or utilization process, reduction at the source itself and the product reuse. The recycling or material recovery procedures also receive high marks regarding environmental impacts that mainly relate to separately collected fractions of waste that may be used as secondary raw materials.

Primary recycling and separate waste collection is carried out for those waste substances whose return into the cycle is technically and financially feasible. The main task of separate waste collection is to reduce the potentials of municipal waste which is intended for landfilling, that is, to treat and use the municipal waste for energy purposes prior to landfilling.

With the aim to reduce amounts of waste to be deposited and/or with the aim to eliminate or at least reduce harmful effect of waste on environment (e.g. emission of gaseous effluents arising from decomposition of waste, leachate, etc.), contemporary waste disposal systems include various waste treatment and utilization technologies.

It is important, in accordance with the waste hierarchy, and for the purpose of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions originating from waste disposal on landfills, to facilitate the separate collection and proper treatment of bio-waste in order to produce environmentally safe compost and other bio-waste based materials.

Industrial waste minimization and prevention fall under the major national objectives of waste management that necessitate complex changes in the mindset and management of processes from the production to final disposal in relation to the conventional method of industrial waste management.

The selection of a waste treatment technology should be based on the cost-effectiveness analysis, taking into account measures for waste management in line with the best available technology not involving excessive costs.

Facilities intended for the storage, recovery and/or disposal of waste must be planned in such a way to meet the needs at least at the national level.

No integrated waste management system can be implemented if viewed from the techno-economical aspect only and if the dimension and role of environmental education are neglected. Environmental education is an unavoidable segment of each integrated waste management system. Eco-education and eco-culture are interrelated and have a cause-and-effect relationship. An eco-education will facilitate acquisition of ecological knowledge and skills with the aim to raise public awareness of an effective participation in implementation of the waste management system. Ecological education is intended to help an individual develop new perceptions and build up new values that will induce him to change the behaviour. Therefore, in order to attain development objectives and carry out the tasks as set, substantial changes in terms of welfare, economy, education and culture are to be made, and a spiritual, intellectual, creative and efficient rehabilitation of individuals is to be brought into focus of interest.