

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY IN THE REDUCTION OF RELEASES FROM LAND BASED SOURCES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

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ABSTRACT

The paper addresses the issue of burden sharing in the context of the Barcelona Convention. The line of reasoning relies heavily on the existing literature concerning the BS controversies within the FCCC and its Kyoto Protocol. The objective of this study is therefore to explore the possibility of transferring and/or adapting existing knowledge regarding burden sharing to the issue of Mediterranean marine pollution. To this purpose, a number of relevant tasks are accomplished, such as: a) Systematize existing knowledge referring to burden sharing in international environmental agreements. b) Draw conclusions as to the nature of the link between burden sharing patterns and stability of international agreements. c) Assess the suitability and desirability of burden sharing in the Mediterranean within the framework of the Barcelona Convention. d) Design possible burden sharing schemes applicable to the Mediterranean context. e) Assess their efficiency and effectiveness and draw conclusions for future research. The scope of the study is delimited by the geographical extend of the problem area and the number of the signatories countries to the Barcelona Convention. For reasons of data availability and comparability with existing work, we have decided to focus on BOD discharges at the hot spots by industrial point sources. On this basis, a number of specific cases illustrate the consequences for Mediterranean countries of burden sharing under different rules.