

CHARTER OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES GREEN CHEMISTRY NETWORK (MEGREC)

Preamble

The attainment of sustainable development goals of initiatives such as the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) requires political commitment to the application of viable tools for a systems approach. Green chemistry is a newly emerging subject that bestows a significant momentum to sustainability and allied concepts. The application of green chemistry is most likely to make a positive impact in the Mediterranean countries if it is incorporated in selected development programs targeting key areas such as industrial processing, energy development, food production, waste management, etc. It can also play a pivotal role to improving the quality of life of the sea, bearing in mind the impact of green chemistry practice on the effluent discharge from the vast number of rivers and other water courses that end up in the Mediterranean. Mediterranean rim include a large number of countries in Europe, Asia and Africa, with a total population of about 500.000.000 inhabitants. MEGREC is a regional effort to support the research process, teaching and training activities and public understanding of green chemistry and green chemistry adoption by industry.

Article 1: Establishment

MEGREC is a voluntary association of green chemistry institutions, allied institution and practitioners in Mediterranean countries hereinafter also referred to as “the network”. It is a knowledge network with seat in Italy and consequently established under Italian law. Core countries founder of the network are:
Egypt, Italy, Morocco, Serbia and Montenegro, Greece and Spain.

Article 2-Mission, Rationale, Objectives and Guiding Principles

2.1 Mission and Aim

The mission of MEGREC is manifold and would include among others:

- To promote awareness of green chemistry between Mediterranean countries.
- To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the research process, teaching and training activities of green chemistry in the Mediterranean countries region.
- To communicate with public and private institutes in and outside Mediterranean region for a wider dissemination of green chemistry principles and applications.
- To promote the creation of laboratories and centers of excellence oriented to the application of green chemistry.

- To promote organizing workshops, seminars, publication of books and other possible dissemination tools that help to spread the concept of green chemistry.
- To promote the industrial application of green chemistry principles.
- To encourage and promote establishing new centers of excellence and specialized laboratories in green chemistry in Mediterranean countries institutes.
- To incorporate green chemistry in higher education curricula.
- To strive for providing the appropriate green chemistry enriching media that help researchers and interested parties involved in the field.

MEGREC complements the work of other organizations and networks in the area of green chemistry.

2.2 Topics

Topics of special interest for the Network would include research and application in the following topics, among others:

- Renewable natural resources
- Waste minimization and recycling
- Use of safe and environmentally friendly chemicals
- Energy alternatives
- Analytical methods used to monitor environmental quality and pollutants dynamics

2.3 Rationale

By combining their efforts, network members are able to have a greater impact on policy and practice than they would have alone.

2.4 Objectives

- Initiate collaboration among various green chemistry groups in Mediterranean countries and abroad
- Raise awareness of policy makers through presentation of local case studies and development of appropriate training material;
- Carry out capacity building activities and develop training curricula at local universities;
- Strengthen collaboration with other knowledge networks and institutions such as Centers of Cleaner Production, UNESCO, IUPAC, UNDP and UNEP, UNIDO and other pertinent bodies;
- Diffuse and disseminate information between member countries, including technology transfer from more industrialized countries of the network to other countries
- Promote projects to be financed by European Union
- Promote establishment and managing of centers of excellence in green chemistry within existing Mediterranean countries institutions.

2.5 Guiding Principles

2.5.1 Network Independence

As a loose network of persons and institutions, MEGREC ensures freedom of discussion. No single member, individual or organization, must be able to dominate the development and operations of the network.

2.5.2 Network Neutrality

The network does not advocate specific scientific points of view. Documents issued by the network must be rigorous and adhere to principles of scholarship.

2.5.3 Distributed Responsibility

Members of the network are responsible for developing and maintaining the network facilities and services. All members are accountable to the network for their network activities.

2.5.4 Professional behavior

Members must interact with mutual respect and present discussion in a scholarly fashion.

2.5.5 Accessibility of Network Services and Facilities

The Network continuously strives for optimum accessibility of its services and facilities by minimizing financial, political and other barriers that inhibit participation. Information offered by MEGREC is free to access for anyone.

Article 3-Membership Eligibility

The membership is open to institutions involved in the green chemistry process in the Mediterranean region. To become a member it will be necessary to contact by e-mail the Network Chairman who will then inform all other members.

Article 4-Organization

4.1 The organization is to reflect the aim of the network: little centralization, flexible, unbiased, not-for-profit, distributed. Development of the network will be pragmatic and on a step by step basis.

Members of the Network are: University of Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro; Institut Univ Ciencia i Tecnologia, IUCT, Barcelona, Spain, University of Fez, Morocco; University of Athens, Greece; and Consorzio Interuniversitario Nazionale "La Chimica per l'Ambiente" (Italian Interuniversity Consortium, Chemistry for the Environment), INCA.

4.2 The Network is managed by a Board where all the member countries are represented by a member of the first affiliated institution.

The Members nominate as their representatives in the Board the following:

Professor Teodor Ast, University of Belgrade, Serbia.

Professor Carles Estévez, Institut Univ Ciència i Tecnologia, IUCT, Barcelona, Spain

Professor Abdelhak Kherbeche, University of Fez, Morocco

Professor Panayotis Siskos, University of Athens, Greece

Professor Pietro Tundo, Chairman, Italian Interuniversity Consortium, Chemistry for the Environment, INCA, Italy.

Professor Tundo is nominated by the Members as the Chairman of the board.

The term of office of the board is five years, during which general guidelines, directives, and code of conducts of the Network would be established.

Each of these institutes is to secure the provision of seed funding and approve the charter within a year starting from the day the charter is approved and signed.

The Board is to plan and organize the management of the network through contacts with eligible members from Mediterranean countries. Each Member would bear the responsibility of addressing candidate members in his relevant regions.

4.3 The Network will open branches in the states of Mediterranean region to manage the centres of excellence in green chemistry to be established in the future.

The branches will be established under the law of the countries seat of the centres of excellence.

4.4 The Network bourse is to be kept in one of the Italian banks.

Budget endorsement and approval is based on majority decision (75% of board members).

4.5 Managerial meetings that include the board members are to be held twice a year in one of the members countries, based on the selection of the majority of the members.

4.6 English is the official language of the Network meetings, correspondence and others.

4.7 If a board member is unable to attend the board meeting, he/she may delegate another colleague to replace him (her).

Article 5-Decision Making

5.1 Group decisions must be based on consensus as much as possible.

5.2 All proposals made by members or groups that affect the network as a whole must be sent for comments to all members.

5.3 Electronic mail shall be the main mode of communication, with occasional physical meetings as opportunity may allow.

Article 6- Subscription Fees and Finance.

A one time fee of 3000 Euro should be paid to the Network fund within one year from joining the Network. As a non-profit organization, the Network is eligible to accept donation from different organizations, including, united nations bodies, regional organizations, multi national organizations, government, universities and research institutes.

Article 7- Amendments

The provisions of this Charter may be amended upon request of any member through the Network Chairman of the Board . Any amendment to this Charter shall be made by consensus of all the members.

Made in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, on December 9th, 2005.

Signatories

Professor Pietro Tundo, Chairman, Consorzio Interuniversitario Nazionale “La Chimica per l’Ambiente” (Italian Interuniversity Consortium, Chemistry for the Environment)

Professor Teodor Ast, University of Belgrade, Serbia.

Professor Carles Estévez, on behalf of Professor Josep Castells , University Institute of Science and Technology, IUCT, Barcelona, Spain

Professor Abdelhak Kherbeche, University of Fez, Morocco

Professor Panayotis Siskos, University of Athens, Greece