



**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)**

11th Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional
Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre
for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.37/16
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REPORT
OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINTS OF THE
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)

Malta, 15–17 June 2015

INTRODUCTION

1 The Eleventh Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) was held in Attard, Malta, from 15 to 17 June 2015, pursuant to the decision of the Eighteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (“the Barcelona Convention”) and its Protocols which agreed that a meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC be organised during the 2014/2015 biennium (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.21/9, Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013).

2 The principal objectives of the Meeting were:

- .1 to examine the implementation of the programme of work of REMPEC since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC; and
- .2 to discuss and agree upon the Revised Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) (“the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021)”) as well as the proposed programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2016/2017, prior to their submission for approval by the next Meeting of the Focal Points of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP, scheduled in October 2015, and for adoption by the Nineteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, to be tentatively convened in February 2016 in Greece.

3 The Meeting held a joint session with the meeting of MED POL Focal Points on 17 June 2015 with a view to reviewing the draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (“the Offshore Protocol”) (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.417/5/Corr.1) as well as the main elements of a draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme with regard to the Ecological Objectives (EOs) of the pollution and litter cluster (EO 5 – Eutrophication, EO 9 – Contaminants, and EO 10 – Marine Litter) within the framework of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.417/6). The outcome of the discussions held during the joint session was reflected in the report of the Meeting of MED POL Focal Points, as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.417/17.

4 All REMPEC Governmental Focal Points were invited to nominate jointly and in consultation with all national authorities concerned their representatives in the Meeting. The participation of observers representing the oil, chemical, port and shipping industries in national delegations was strongly encouraged. The invitation to attend the Meeting was also extended to the Organisations of the United Nations (UN), other inter-governmental organisations, MAP Partners/non-governmental organisations, other regional organisations, as well as to the international professional organisations and associations whose activities are relevant for the work of REMPEC.

5 The Meeting was attended by delegations from the following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention:

ALBANIA	LEBANON
ALGERIA	LIBYA
CROATIA	MALTA
CYPRUS	MONTENEGRO
EGYPT	MOROCCO
EUROPEAN UNION	SLOVENIA
GREECE	SPAIN
ISRAEL	SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
ITALY	TUNISIA

by representatives from the following UN organisations:

- INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)
- UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME / MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP)

by a representative from the following inter-governmental organisation:

- INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION COMPENSATION FUNDS (IOPC FUNDS)

by representatives from the following MAP Partners/non-governmental organisations:

- INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE (IOI)
- IPIECA – THE GLOBAL OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES
- MEDITERRANEAN OPERATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE GLOBAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM (MONGOOS)

by representatives from other regional organisations:

- MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP (MOIG)
- PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)

by representatives from other organisations:

- CENTRE OF DOCUMENTATION, RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTATION ON ACCIDENTAL WATER POLLUTION (CEDRE)
- INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION LIMITED (ITOPF)

6 A complete list of participants appears in **Annex I** to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

7 The Meeting was opened by the Head of Office of REMPEC on Monday, 15 June 2015 at 09:00 hours. Mr Gonzalez welcomed the participants to the Eleventh Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC. He highlighted that next year would mark the 40th Anniversary of REMPEC and recalled the extension of the Centre's mandate since its establishment, including responsibilities on prevention of marine pollution from ships and on offshore oil and gas exploitation, following the entry into force of the Offshore Protocol. He also underpinned the integrated approach of the Centre's activities within the MAP System. The Head of Office stressed that, despite the ongoing restructuring of the Centre, REMPEC would be delivering the expected results for the current biennium. He concluded by expressing his appreciation to the Contracting Parties, the Government of Malta as host country, and other partners.

8 The Honourable Mr Joseph Mizzi, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure of Malta, welcomed the participants in the Meeting and conveyed his profound gratitude to the Centre for its dedication and to UNEP/MAP, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Focal Points of REMPEC and representatives from the oil industry and other organisations. Referring to the celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of REMPEC next year, the Minister highlighted the importance of the Centre in bringing together all nations bordering the Mediterranean Sea under one forum and with one clear objective, to save and protect the Mediterranean Sea. The Honourable Mr Mizzi acknowledged the vision and foresight that our predecessors had at the time when the MAP was first launched, which left a legacy to be re-instated, kept and reinforced. The Minister highlighted that the Government of Malta would continue to engage and play the mediating role in order to bring together all stakeholders and decision-makers. The Minister concluded by stressing on the required collective effort and commitment of the Contracting Parties, international and regional organisations as well as the industry to protect the Mediterranean environment.

9 Mr Habib El-Habr, Deputy Coordinator of MAP, welcomed the participants in the Meeting on behalf of the MAP Coordinator. He acknowledged the involvement of REMPEC in the preparation of the draft UNEP/MAP's Integrated Six-Year Programme of Work for the period 2016 to 2021 ("the draft UNEP/MAP's Mid-Term Strategy"), which integrated the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021). He recalled the recent launch of the 40th Anniversary of MAP with the theme "*Together for a sustainable Mediterranean*" and highlighted the upcoming 40th Anniversary of REMPEC. He underlined the paramount importance of optimising knowledge, expertise and financial resources available in the Mediterranean coastal States and within the European Union (EU) to ensure a cooperative approach at a national, sub-regional or regional level. He expressed UNEP/MAP's

gratitude to the Government of Malta for its continuous support to REMPEC in its activities since its inception.

10 Mr Dandu Pughiuc, Senior Deputy Director, Marine Environment Division, IMO, welcomed all participants on behalf of the Secretary-General of the IMO who extended his appreciation to UNEP for the long and outstanding cooperation, to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for their support to REMPEC and also acknowledged the continuing support of the Centre's host country – the Government of Malta. He highlighted that, through MAP and the creation of the Centre, countries in the Mediterranean illustrated their commitment towards the protection of the marine environment. He acknowledged the tremendous efforts made by the Mediterranean countries in ratifying and implementing some of the IMO's conventions, which have contributed to a steady decrease in marine pollution from ships, and stressed on the need to continue these efforts. Whilst reiterating IMO's commitment to support the Centre, the representative of the IMO reminded the Meeting that the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) depended on the collective effort and commitment of the Contracting Parties, international and regional organisations as well as the industry. He underpinned that constructive solutions had been identified to reduce the financial burden by re-locating a former REMPEC staff to the IMO Headquarters. Mr Pughiuc concluded by underlining that the goodwill as well as the proactive and responsible participation of representatives from the Contracting Parties would guarantee success in preserving our planet for future generations.

11 Ambassador Sergio Piazzì, Secretary-General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) explained the role of PAM, established in 2006, and recalled parliamentary discussions at the Mediterranean level aimed at assessing the Mediterranean response capacity to face major offshore incidents as well as his personal involvement in coordinating the UN operations following the 2006 incident in Lebanon. He stressed the need to keep the readiness of REMPEC at the highest possible level and concurred with the importance to strengthen cooperation in the Mediterranean region. Considering the risk of pollution due to the ongoing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic and Libya, he encouraged the organisation of an exercise with a view to testing the response capacity in the region. He concluded by recalling the successful negotiations between the UN and the EU with regard to the division of responsibilities in the activation, coordination, mobilisation of resources and response to man-made and industrial emergencies at the global level, emphasising the UN leading role in responding to emergency situations. He wished the participants a successful meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Rules of Procedure

12 The Meeting decided to apply, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) to its deliberations.

2.2 Election of Officers

13 Following informal consultations held with the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the Head of Office of REMPEC proposed Lebanon as Chair, Italy as Vice-Chair and Montenegro as Rapporteur. The Meeting unanimously decided to elect the following officers of the Meeting:

Mr Abdel Hafiz EL KAISSI (Lebanon)	Chairperson
Dr Roberto GIANGRECO (Italy)	Vice-Chairperson
Mr Nexhat KAPIDANI (Montenegro)	Rapporteur

2.3 Working Languages

14 The working languages of the Meeting were English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation was provided during the Meeting. All working documents were available in both official languages of the Centre. However, information documents were available in their original language only, except when the document was submitted in both languages.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

15 The Chairperson thanked the Meeting for supporting his election and proposed that the Provisional Agenda, contained in document REMPEC/WG.37/3/1, be adopted.

16 The Meeting adopted the Agenda reproduced in **Annex II** to the present report. The list of documents is presented in **Annex III** thereto.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PROGRESS REPORT ON REMPEC'S ACTIVITIES SINCE THE 10TH MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINTS OF REMPEC

17 At the invitation of the Chairperson, the Head of Office of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.37/4 containing an outline of the activities carried out by the Centre since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC convened in Malta in May 2011.

18 The Head of Office presented the part of the document related to the Report on Institutional Developments and the Report on Administrative and Other Related Issues.

19 The Meeting took note that, during the period under review, Morocco and Israel ratified the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea ("the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol"), on 26 April 2011 and 10 September 2014, respectively and that, following the ratification by the Syrian Arab Republic on 22 February 2011, the Offshore Protocol entered into force on 24 March 2011. The Meeting also noted that the EU ratified the Offshore Protocol on 29 March 2013.

20 The Meeting was informed that there were fourteen (14) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which had, up to now, ratified or acceded to the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, whereas eight (8) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention were only Parties to the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency ("the 1976 Emergency Protocol"), and that seven (7) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention had ratified the Offshore Protocol.

21 The Head of Office highlighted some developments related to MAP and pertaining to the field of activities which fell under the mandate of the Centre, as per the decisions adopted by the Eighteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, which was held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 6 December 2013. In particular, he mentioned the preparation of the draft UNEP/MAP's Mid-Term Strategy as a follow-up to the adoption of the Five-Year Programme of Work in 2009, the revision of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) adopted in 2005, which envisaged the drafting of the MSSD (2016-2025) (MSSD 2.0), the further implementation of the EcAp roadmap in the Mediterranean region as well as the revision of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2005-2015) ("the 2005 Regional Strategy").

22 The Meeting noted that the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021) was integrated in the draft UNEP/MAP's Mid-Term Strategy, taking into account developments related to MSSD 2.0 and EcAp in which the Secretariat had been involved.

23 The Head of Office evoked the restructuring process undergone by REMPEC following the decision of the Eighteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The Meeting praised the services rendered by Mr Frédéric Hébert (former Director) and expressed its appreciation for his valuable work and contribution, and thanked Mrs Francesca Borg (former Clerk/Secretary) and Mr Mario Bonello (former Technical Assistant/Logistics) whose contracts with the Centre were terminated at the end of June 2014 as well as Mr Jonathan Pace (then Senior Programme Officer) who was relocated to the IMO Headquarters in London as from 1 February 2015. The Meeting was also informed of the recruitment of Mr Franck Lauwers who joined REMPEC as Programme Officer (Prevention) on 9 March 2015 as well as that of a new Programme Officer (OPRC) which was ongoing and should be completed by summer 2015.

24 The Head of Office expressed his appreciation to countries and entities which had been supporting the Centre's activities either by seconding staff, providing technical support or voluntary

funding. In this respect, the Meeting noted that the IMO would soon be launching the Associate Professional Officer (APO) programme, which would include a position at REMPEC.

25 The Head of Office urged the Contracting Parties to keep the Centre updated of any changes in the designation of the various REMPEC Focal Points as soon as they were appointed to ensure that the channelling of information to REMPEC Focal Points was kept and the deadlines for events organised by the Centre were strictly followed in order to avoid unnecessary expenses.

26 The Programme Officer (Prevention) presented the part of the document related to the Report on the Implementation of Activities with regard to prevention of and monitoring of marine pollution from ships.

27 The Meeting took note of the information provided on maritime administrations' capacity building and prevention of maritime accidents as well as the related activities carried out within the framework of the EU-funded MEDA Regional Project "*Euromed Cooperation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships – SAFEMED II*" (MED 2007/147-568) implemented by REMPEC.

28 The Meeting also noted the assistance provided by the Centre to Mediterranean coastal States to prepare for the entry into force of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention).

29 Turning to the implementation of international marine environment protection conventions, particularly the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), the Meeting further took note of the fact that, whilst REMPEC's efforts focused on the issue of illicit ship pollution discharges, other activities had been carried out with regard to Port Reception Facilities, Ship Energy Efficiency and Technology Transfer as well as Anti-Fouling Systems (AFS).

30 The Head of Office presented the part of the document related to the Report on the Implementation of Activities with regard to preparedness for and response to marine pollution, and the Offshore Protocol.

31 The Meeting was informed about activities carried out by the Centre in order to promote efficient response systems including the development of tools for oil spill risk assessment, the development and maintenance of national contingency planning, the support of regional cooperation, the organisation of capacity building activities, the participation in national and sub-regional oil spill response exercises, and the upgrade of the Regional Information System (RIS).

32 The Meeting noted that eighteen (18) out of twenty-one (21) Mediterranean coastal States had adopted a national contingency plan. It also took note of the progress made in the development or revision of national contingency plans as well as the efforts made to ensure that all Mediterranean coastal States had a system in place.

33 The Head of Office stressed the importance of sub-regional cooperation through the adoption and implementation of the sub-regional agreements on preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution in force in the Mediterranean.

34 Turning to the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed between REMPEC and organisations which had been providing emergency technical support and forming part of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU), a delegation acknowledged the work carried out by the MAU in relation to the MORNING GLORY. Whilst referring to the immediate activation of the MAU following the breach of a pipeline in Eilat, Israel, some delegations expressed their appreciation for the readiness of the MAU and for the quality of the technical assistance provided through the MAU. These delegations highlighted that such support was a demonstration of the crucial role of REMPEC in case of emergency and thanked the institutions composing the MAU for their continued cooperation.

35 The Meeting took note of the work carried out by MAP with the support of REMPEC on the establishment of an *ad hoc* working group and its progress in the preparation of the draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Offshore Protocol with a view to facilitating its effective implementation, which would be further discussed during the joint session to be held with the meeting of MED POL Focal Points on 17 June 2015.

36 A delegation welcomed the stability of REMPEC and requested the organisation every two years of the Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC.

37 The Meeting thanked REMPEC staff for the work accomplished since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC and took note of the information contained in document REMPEC/WG.37/4.

AGENDA ITEM 5: DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN MAP RELATED TO THE OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF REMPEC

38 The Deputy Coordinator of MAP, Mr Habib El-Habr, emphasised the importance of the Meeting in view of the next Meeting of the MAP Focal Points scheduled for October 2015 and the Nineteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, to be tentatively convened in February 2016 in Greece.

39 The Deputy Coordinator of MAP thanked REMPEC for its excellent work and mentioned the important role that the Centre had been playing as well as its support to MAP's activities.

40 Mr El Habr highlighted the fact that the Eighteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, which was held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 6 December 2013, requested the MAP Secretariat to prepare, *inter alia*, MSSD.2.0, a draft UNEP/MAP's Mid-Term Strategy, a Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Action Plan and roadmap for its implementation, as well as a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (RCCAF).

41 He underpinned the contribution of all MAP Components to the preparation of the draft UNEP/MAP's Mid-Term Strategy and noted that the proposed programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2016/2017 contributed to all original thematic priorities, namely land and sea-based pollution, biodiversity and ecosystems, climate change, natural resources, governance, and Mediterranean environment under review. He informed the Meeting that, following the review of the draft UNEP/MAP's Mid-Term Strategy by the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points, which was held in Athens, Greece from 19 to 21 May 2015, the MAP Secretariat was requested to review the structure based on three main priorities (i.e. land and sea-based pollution; biodiversity and ecosystems; and land and sea interactions and processes). The Meeting of the MAP Focal Points further agreed that Integrated Coastal Zone Management, SCP and Climate Change should be considered as overarching themes for the MAP System with a view to achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) and sustainable development.

42 He informed the Meeting about the successful conclusion of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), which was convened in Marrakesh, Morocco from 9 to 11 June 2015. The main result of the meeting was the endorsement of the draft revised MSSD 2.0. The meeting further recommended the submission of the RCCAF and the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points for endorsement and to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols for adoption.

43 The Deputy Coordinator of MAP also noted the positive developments related to the implementation of the EcAp in the Mediterranean which was mainly funded by the EU. He explained that, resulting from several discussions held at various meetings, an integrated monitoring programme was developed within the framework of the said EcAp.

44 Finally, the Deputy Coordinator of MAP stated that UNEP/MAP launched its 40th Anniversary during the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points convened in May 2015. As part of the celebrations, he referred to the workshop organised within the framework of the European Maritime Day 2015, which was held in Athens from 28 to 29 May 2015, and informed the Meeting that some national events would be organised throughout this year.

AGENDA ITEM 6: DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN IMO RELATED TO THE OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF REMPEC

45 Mr Dandu Pughiuc, Senior Deputy Director, Marine Environment Division, IMO, introduced document REMPEC/WG.37/6/1 providing a summary of the latest developments at the level of the IMO in the fields of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships. He addressed the recent activities of the IMO and provided the Meeting with a summary of the main decisions emanating from the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) sixty-fifth session (MEPC 65), sixty-sixth session (MEPC 66) and sixty-seventh session (MEPC 67). In particular, the Senior Deputy Director referred to the newly established Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR), the adoption of guidelines on the safe operation of oil pollution combating equipment and on international offers of assistance in response to a marine oil pollution incident, the plan of action for the development of Part III and Part IV of the guidelines for the use of dispersants for combating oil pollution at sea, following the adoption of Part I and II of the said guidelines and the status of various other guidelines. Mr Pughiuc further mentioned the revision of MARPOL Annexes I, III and VI and invited all parties concerned to support and promote the eminent entry into force of the BWM Convention. The representative of the IMO, then presented the ongoing work on ship recycling, the development of a data collection system for fuel consumption by ships as well as the promotion of technical cooperation and transfer of technology as a basis for enhancing energy efficiency of shipping. He finally highlighted the four thematic priorities relating to the protection of the marine environment for inclusion in the Integrated Technical Cooperation Program (ITCP) covering the 2016/2017 biennium, and welcomed their inclusion in the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021).

46 Introducing document REMPEC/WG.37/6/2, Mr Thomas Liebert, Head, External Relations and Conference Department of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds), presented information on the latest developments within the international regime on liability and compensation for oil pollution damage. Particular reference was made to the dissolution of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund, 1971 (the "1971 Fund") on 31 December 2014, which paved the way for the ever-growing International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund, 1992 (the "1992 Fund") which was currently dealing with thirteen (13) incidents. As a result of the dissolution of the 1971 Fund, the IOPC Funds reimbursed contributors and made a donation to the World Maritime University (Sweden), the International Maritime Law Institute (Malta) and the International Maritime Safety, Security and Environment Agency (Italy). Mr Liebert recalled that hundred and fourteen (114) States and thirty-one (31) States were Parties to the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992 (the "1992 Fund Convention") and to its Protocol of 2003 (the "Supplementary Fund Protocol") respectively. The representative of the IOPC Funds was pleased to note that seventeen (17) Mediterranean coastal States were Parties to the 1992 Fund Convention, whilst nine (9) were Parties to the Supplementary Fund Protocol. He also referred to the development of guidelines for States and claimants as well as outlined the tasks carried out by the 1992 Fund Secretariat to set up the International Hazardous and Noxious Substances Fund (the "HNS Fund") and to provide assistance to the IMO and States to support the entry into force of Protocol of 2010 of the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996 (the "2010 HNS Protocol"). In his presentation, Mr Liebert informed the Meeting of the recent initiatives by the IOPC Funds including the launch of the current IOPC Funds' website, the development of which was inspired by REMPEC's website, and the organisation of training courses. The representative of the IOPC Funds highlighted the current work on the definition of ship. He invited the Mediterranean coastal States to ensure that the correct implementation of the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992 ("the 1992 Liability Convention") was in place for the proper functioning of the international compensation regime established by these Conventions in their respective countries. Mr Liebert concluded that, with regard to ship-source oil pollution damage and, in particular with regard to the implementation of the IOPC instruments, the Director of the IOPC Funds was looking forward to further engagement with REMPEC in the future.

47 Mr Philip Ruck, Manager of the Oil Spill Working Group (OSWG) at IPIECA – The global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues, introduced document REMPEC/WG.37/6/3 which provided information on the possible support of IPIECA towards strengthening the cooperation between IPIECA, the IMO and REMPEC in the Mediterranean region. Mr Ruck informed the Meeting of the work and the activities carried out under the umbrella of the Global Initiative (GI) programme which was jointly led by the IMO and IPIECA, with strong participation from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF), Oil Spill

Response Limited (OSRL) as well as the leveraged contributions of the industry members themselves. Referring to future potential collaboration with REMPEC and the IMO, the representative of IPIECA highlighted that there were a number of obvious potential synergies, and referred particularly to Specific Objectives 1, 20 and 22 of the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021) and the objectives of the GI programme. He then presented the proposed future key priorities with respect to activities related to Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) in the Mediterranean referred to in paragraph 13 of document REMPEC.WG.37/6/3. Mr Ruck highlighted that the OSWG would be available to support the Centre with collaborative activities and that IPIECA members looked forward to sharing their technical expertise and delivering training in future activities of REMPEC. Following agreement upon the proposed programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2016/2017 to be discussed under Agenda Item 15, Mr Ruck concluded that IPIECA would be in a better position to define the exact nature of its involvement in the activities to be carried out by REMPEC during the period 2016-2017.

48 The Meeting took note of the information provided by the representatives of the IMO, the IOPC Funds and IPIECA.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SHIPS' BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT AND INVASIVE SPECIES

49 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat presented document REMPEC/WG.37/7 containing information on activities related to ships' ballast water management (BWM) and invasive species.

50 The Programme Officer (Prevention) recalled that REMPEC had been identified by the IMO as the Regional Coordinating Organisation (RCO) to lead the implementation of the Project entitled "*Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries to Reduce the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water*", also referred to as the "*GloBallast Partnerships*" (GBP) Project, in the Mediterranean region.

51 The Meeting took note of the activities carried out at the global level, especially the development of training courses and guidance documents related to ships' BWM and invasive species in support of the Project implementation.

52 The Meeting also noted that, during the reporting period, REMPEC had participated in a number of activities within the framework of inter-regional cooperation, working closely with the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission or HELCOM), the Commission of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Commission) as well as the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA).

53 The Meeting was informed that the Centre organised the Consolidation and Implementation Training Course on the BWM Convention in Malta, from 8 to 9 May 2012, aimed at enhancing the institutional capacities on BWM in the Mediterranean region, which was supported by the EU, through SAFEMED II implemented by REMPEC, in close cooperation with the IMO through the GBP.

54 Turning to the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management, which was presented in the Appendix to the document under review, Mr Lauwers recalled that this was adopted together with the "*General Guidance on the Voluntary Application of the D1 Ballast Water Exchange Standard by Vessels Operating between the Mediterranean Sea and the North-East Atlantic and/or the Baltic Sea*", at the Seventeenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, which was convened in Paris, France, from 8 to 10 February 2012.

55 The Programme Officer (Prevention) further recalled that, whilst the Strategy was composed of eight (8) Strategic Priorities as well as of an Action Plan and Workplan/Timetable for its implementation, which covered the years 2011-2015, the Action Plan identified eight (8) main measures to be taken at regional, sub-regional or national level in accordance with the Strategic Priorities. He highlighted that, despite the fact that a number of measures had already been implemented, others had been initiated but had not been implemented yet or had not been initiated, commonly facing budget issues. Besides, Mr Lauwers indicated that the number of Parties to the BWM Convention had reached to date forty-four (44), representing 32.86 per cent of the world merchant shipping tonnage and stressed that, since the Convention would enter into force twelve (12)

months after ratification by thirty (30) States, representing thirty-five (35) per cent of world merchant shipping tonnage, it was likely that it would enter into force during the 2015/2016 biennium.

56 The Programme Officer (Prevention) then drew the attention of the Meeting to Strategic Priority 7 of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management, which referred to the need of periodic review of the Strategy and its Action Plan, to take into account emerging issues, outcome of R&D activities and experience gained from its operation and implementation.

57 The Meeting also took note that, following the adoption of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management, the Centre continued to assist Mediterranean coastal States, within the framework of the GBP and also with financial support from SAFEMED II implemented by REMPEC and the ITCP, to adhere to the Strategy.

58 In this respect, the Meeting noted that, during the reporting period, both Lead Partnering Countries (LPCs) of the GBP in the Mediterranean region, namely Croatia and Turkey, prepared a National Ballast Water Status Assessment, an Economic Impact Assessment of the implementation of the BWM Convention and a National Ballast Water Management Strategy (NBWMS). The Meeting was also informed that three additional Mediterranean coastal States acceded to the BWM Convention, as follows: Montenegro (November 2011), Lebanon (December 2011) and Turkey (October 2014). The meeting further noted that, since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, five National Training Courses / Awareness Raising Seminars on Ships' BWM were organised by the Centre and supported by the GBP, as follows: Tunisia (June 2012), Israel (October 2012), Algeria (October 2013) and Morocco (October 2012 and November 2014).

59 The representative from Morocco expressed her appreciation to REMPEC, the IMO and Turkey for the assistance provided during the National Seminar on BWM held in Morocco in 2014, showed interest in the organisation of a third national seminar with regard to the implementation of the BWM Convention and asked for further support from REMPEC and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

60 Taking into consideration the proposals of the Secretariat, **the Meeting agreed that:**

- .1 a meeting is convened with the purpose of reviewing and evaluating the ongoing relevance of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management, and overall effectiveness of activities carried out under its Action Plan, amongst others;
- .2 Contracting Parties continue implementing the said Strategy, including its Action Plan, irrespective of its original Timetable, with the assistance of REMPEC which plays an essential role in the coordination of the implementation of the Action Plan and also in its role as RCO for the implementation of the GBP in the Mediterranean region in collaboration with RAC/SPA;
- .3 the Contracting Parties' efforts in the process of ratifying the BWM Convention are coordinated with the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management; and
- .4 during the biennium 2016/2017, REMPEC focuses its work in the field of BWM and invasive species on:
 - the implementation of the agreed activities of the GBP in the Mediterranean region in line with the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management, including its Action Plan and Timetable;
 - national activities with a view to further promoting the ratification and implementation of the BWM Convention in the Mediterranean region; and
 - the organisation of National Training Courses / Awareness Raising Seminars on Ships' BWM and the provision of assistance to interested Contracting Parties in preparing NBWMS.

AGENDA ITEM 8: MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS RELATING TO MARPOL WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

61 Whilst presenting document REMPEC/WG.37/8, the Secretariat stressed that the issue of illegal discharges from ships in violation of the regulations laid down in MARPOL Annex I was addressed in the 2005 Regional Strategy, especially Specific Objectives 6 and 7 thereof.

62 The Programme Officer (Prevention) recalled that, as a means to reach the aims of Specific Objective 7 of the 2005 Regional Strategy and, based on the achievements of similar networks in other Regional Seas such as the North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors (NSN) and the Network of Prosecutors on Environmental Crime in the Baltic Sea Region (ENPRO), the Centre continued to focus its efforts on enhancing the knowledge of legal personnel, prosecutors and magistrates as well as facilitating judicial cooperation and the establishment of possible common procedures in the Mediterranean region.

63 In this respect, the Meeting was informed that the Third Plenary Meeting of the Network of Legal Prosecutors and Investigators against Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean, which was organised by the World Bank, through the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), and the French Ministry of Justice, was held in Marseille, France, from 16 to 17 June 2011.

64 The Meeting noted that a Meeting on the Establishment of a Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL in the Mediterranean Sea was organised in Palma de Mallorca, Spain from 25 to 26 June 2013, by REMPEC together with Plan Bleu, as implementing Agency of the Regional – Governance and Knowledge generation (ReGoKo) Project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and with the financial support of the Government of France.

65 The Meeting also took note that the Eighteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, which was convened in Istanbul, Turkey from 3 to 6 December 2013, decided to establish the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS) and approved its Terms of Reference (ToRs), as presented in the Appendix to the document under review. The Meeting further noted that REMPEC was requested to act as the Secretariat of this network and to report on its activities to the Contracting Parties at each of their Ordinary Meetings, and that the MAP Secretariat, in collaboration with REMPEC, was requested to further exploit possible synergies with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) within the framework of this decision.

66 Turning to activities related to illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean, Mr Lauwers indicated that a Coordinated Aerial Surveillance Operation for illicit ship pollution discharges (OSCAR-MED 2013) in the Western Mediterranean was organised in Palma de Mallorca, Spain from 24 to 26 June 2013, in cooperation with the Spanish Maritime Safety Agency (SASEMAR) and with the financial support of the Government of France and the RAMOGE Agreement. He stressed that, during the operation, five air patrol aircraft from Algeria, France, Italy, Morocco and Spain operated twelve (12) flights (a total of forty-four (44) flying hours) to detect marine pollution from ships in a designated area of the Western Mediterranean and that, in total, some seven hundred (700) vessels were monitored during the operation and three (3) oil slicks were detected.

67 The Meeting also noted that REMPEC participated in a Working Group, facilitated by EMSA, on Drafting EU Guidelines for Combating Illegal Discharges in the Marine Environment, which met five times between December 2011 and June 2013, and which led to the development of the publication entitled “*Addressing Illegal Discharges in the Marine Environment*” intended to support authorities involved in the enforcement chain addressing illegal pollution.

68 The Meeting was made aware that the MENELAS’ information system would be an internet based tool comprising a public area where general information would be made available to the public in order to raise awareness on the problem of illicit discharges from ships at sea, and a restricted area used for participating members only, where any request for assistance could be posted. Mr Lauwers mentioned that, as part of the ReGoKo Project, the Project Steering Committee decided to implement a specific activity aimed at developing and maintaining a MENELAS’ website, which started in March 2015 and was being implemented in close coordination with REMPEC and Plan Bleu.

69 The Programme Officer (Prevention) recalled that, pursuant to the decision of the Eighteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the Contracting Parties agreed to organise a MENELAS' meeting during the 2014/2015 biennium and that the Centre intended to organise this meeting towards the end of September 2015, possibly together with a coordinated aerial surveillance operation for illicit ship pollution discharges. The Meeting took note that one of the key issues to be discussed during the said meeting would be cooperation between Mediterranean coastal States within the framework of MENELAS as well as that between the network and other international organisations, including, but not necessarily limited to, EMSA and the networks established within the Regional Seas framework such as the NSN and ENPRO.

70 The Head of Office of REMPEC informed the Meeting that, although France could not participate in this meeting, it had sent some comments to the Secretariat, which stressed that the issue of illegal discharges from ships was of high priority for France, which invited Contracting Parties to organise regular surveillance operations and which highlighted that, following the Meeting of the NSN, which was held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from 27 to 28 May 2015, the NSN was very supportive to assist MENELAS in the Mediterranean region.

71 Taking into consideration the proposals of the Secretariat, **the Meeting agreed** that, during the biennium 2016/2017, the Centre focuses its work in the field of illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean on the implementation of Specific Objectives 7 and 8 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), which lay down measures aimed not only at improving the follow-up of pollution events as well as the monitoring and the surveillance of illicit discharges but also at improving the level of enforcement and the prosecution of discharge offenders.

AGENDA ITEM 9 **PROJECT PROPOSAL ON PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RESPONSE TO ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION (OIL AND HNS)**

72 At the invitation of the Chairperson, the Head of Office of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.37/9.

73 The Meeting was informed that, with a view to assisting the Contracting Parties in the implementation of the 1976 Emergency Protocol and the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, the Centre had managed to mobilise various sources of funding, including the Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (MTF), the IMO's ITCP and several EU funding mechanisms as well as voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties, since the last Meeting of Focal Points of REMPEC.

74 The Meeting considered the information provided by the Secretariat on the project proposals on preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution (oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances – HNS) namely the Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation in the Western Mediterranean Region Project (West MOPoCo Project) and the Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Exercise in the Western Mediterranean Region Project (West MOPoEx Project).

75 The Meeting acknowledged that such projects would assist Contracting Parties in implementing Specific Objectives 16, 17, 19, 20 and 22 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) to be adopted by the Nineteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, to be tentatively convened in February 2016 in Greece. Morocco welcomed the proposals, in particular the peer review which would contribute to the revision of its national contingency plan and requested the technical support of REMPEC during the revision process.

76 The Meeting considered the main factors which led the Secretariat to propose the submission of the project proposals and the proposed list of beneficiary countries. It took note of the main objectives and reviewed the brief description of the projects as detailed in the Annex to the document under review.

77 The importance of the involvement of the Mediterranean coastal States in the preparation of the proposed projects and their implementation was noted by the Meeting.

78 Following some questions from the floor on the possible involvement of other non-governmental entities, the Secretariat and the representative of the EU confirmed that any legal entity, including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) could be involved in the project proposals. The

representative of the Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Ocean Observing System (MONGOOS) offered to participate and contribute to the project proposal in particular in the field of oil spill forecasting modelling for the exercise.

79 Some delegations raised concerns with regard to their capacity to provide financial contribution to the project due to administrative limitations. The representatives of the IMO, the EU and the Secretariat clarified the nature of the possible national contribution, which could include the time of national officers involved in the implementation of the projects. The representative of IPIECA expressed his appreciation on the proposed proposals, which he considered extremely useful tools for the region, and informed the Meeting that he would explore with IPIECA members the potential involvement of the oil industry.

80 In view of the required consultation and authorisation, the Meeting was not in a position to endorse the proposals of the Secretariat. However, whilst expressing its high interest on the proposals, the Meeting asked the Secretariat to officially request the proposed beneficiary countries to confirm their possible involvement as partner of the proposed projects. One delegation also requested the Secretariat to provide, within the official communication, an estimation of the level of contribution to be mobilised by each country in addition to EU funding.

81 The representative of the EU thanked the Centre for these two proposals but raised concerns regarding their timing, whilst highlighting that the opening of the call on prevention and preparedness could be advanced to January 2016. She also underlined that EMSA's participation had to be looked into as the Agency could not be considered as a partner or a beneficiary. **The Meeting agreed** to integrate, in the project proposal, the Host Nation Support within the context of the revision of the Mediterranean Principles and Guidelines on cooperation, as well as the possible use of the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) and other regional tools made available by REMPEC.

82 A delegation questioned the reason for not reflecting the project proposal in the proposed programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2016/2017. The Secretariat clarified that it was not included since the Contracting Parties did not confirm their interest. The Meeting was informed that, whilst the funding was not guaranteed and therefore that the proposed activities may not be implemented, these activities would be integrated in the proposed programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2016/2017 after the Meeting.

83 The Meeting noted that the call for proposals 2016 for prevention and preparedness projects in the field of civil protection and marine pollution as well as that for EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) exercises would require an early preparation of the related proposals by the concerned beneficiary countries, with the support of the Secretariat.

AGENDA ITEM 10: DATA SHARING, MONITORING AND REPORTING

84 The Meeting considered document REMPEC/WG.37/10 which provided information on the current challenges and opportunities related to data sharing, monitoring and reporting.

85 The Meeting took note of the information available through the Centre's website and, in particular, the REMPEC's Country Profiles. The Meeting was informed that the information available in the Country Profiles section was exclusively updated by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, hence the need for the Focal Points of REMPEC to ensure that the information therein was kept up-to-date.

86 The Meeting acknowledged that the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on Oil Spill Risk Assessment in the Mediterranean Sea ("MEDEXPOL 2011"), which was held in Barcelona, Spain from 29 November to 1 December 2011, were successfully implemented in the Mediterranean Integrated Geographical Information System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment and Response (MEDGIS-MAR) and in the integrated multi-model oil spill prediction service, one of the products of the EU-Funded Mediterranean Decision Support System for Marine Safety (MEDESS-4MS) Project.

87 Following the presentation of the Secretariat on the collection of the data gathered through the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) (i.e. response means, marine incidents, oil and gas offshore installations, oil handling facilities) and through Plan Bleu, the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) and Eni S.p.A (socio-economic, environmental and coastal

morphology maps), which was integrated in MEDGIS-MAR and after a demonstration of MEDGIS-MAR and the MEDESS-4MS User Interface, the Meeting congratulated REMPEC on the excellent work carried out.

88 While transparency was expressed as the way forward, no consensus was reached regarding the visualisation rights of the data obtained from the MTWG, and some delegations expressed the need for internal consultation within their respective national authorities. Hence, the Meeting requested the Secretariat to send an official letter requesting each Mediterranean coastal State to confirm its position with regard to the data visualisation rights and to provide them with their respective credentials to access the platform. The Meeting further noted that all other information available through MEDGIS-MAR was publically available.

89 The representative of MONGOOS, which supported the scientific aspect of the MEDESS-4MS Project, thanked REMPEC for its collaboration and participation in the Project, and highlighted the uniqueness of the tool. He also stated that, despite the system being functional, a Med Capitalisation project to ensure the sustainability was being considered by some of the partners of the MEDESS-4MS Project.

90 With regard to CECIS, the representative of the EU clarified that the tool was now open for the use of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and REMPEC and proposed to organise a training course to familiarise the Mediterranean coastal States with the system, which would also enable the escalation of the regional assistance to a multi-regional assistance.

91 Further to the information provided on REMPEC's Country Profiles and MEDGIS-MAR, **the Meeting agreed:**

- .1 to endorse MEDGIS-MAR;
- .2 to remove from REMPEC's Country Profiles the sections on Risk assessment and Resources once MEDGIS-MAR is made operational;
- .3 to discontinue the database on alerts and accidents in the Mediterranean Sea, which would be replaced by MEDGIS-MAR; and
- .4 to encourage all Contracting Parties to report all accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances.

92 Addressing the issue of monitoring of illicit discharges from ships and, whilst acknowledging that POLREP and the related procedures had been in place to report accidental pollutions, the Meeting questioned the Secretariat's proposal to initiate discussions on the possible development of a common reporting format and the related reporting procedures for illicit discharges in the Mediterranean region during the forthcoming MENELAS' meeting to be convened in September 2015, based on existing practices in other regions. Several delegations recommended that POLREP should be used to report both accidental pollution and illicit discharges as well as requested the Secretariat to further discuss the issue at the above-mentioned meeting avoiding duplications and additional burden through a new format.

93 Taking into account the information provided by the Secretariat on the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS), the Meeting noted the information given in the Annex to the document under review, which compared the information requested under REMPEC's Country Profiles and that under the current BCRS, and noted that the Reporting Format for the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols would be revised with a view to making it more operational and simple. In this respect, it encouraged the Focal Points of REMPEC to contribute to this revision through their respective MAP Focal Points.

94 The Meeting noted that the main elements of a draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme with regard to the Ecological Objectives (EOs) of the pollution and litter cluster (EO 5 – Eutrophication, EO 9 – Contaminants, and EO 10 – Marine Litter) within the framework of the EcAp were presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.417/6, which would be further discussed during the joint session to be held with the meeting of MED POL Focal Points on 17 June 2015.

95 The meeting recognised the importance that all existing reporting procedures were taken into account within the context of the development of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment

Programme, and encouraged the Focal Points of REMPEC to contribute to the development and implementation of the said Programme through their respective MED POL Focal Points as well as MAP Focal Points.

96 The Chairperson highlighted that the subject of data sharing, monitoring and reporting was an issue which was time consuming and, for certain countries, involved multiple reporting processes as detailed in the document under review, leading to duplication and frustrating situations, and thus considered that the proposal provided a way forward to initiate discussions at regional level with a view to alleviating reporting obligations and consequently reducing the related costs and time allocated to these tasks.

97 Further to the consideration of the various elements presented, the Meeting requested the Secretariat to prepare a proposal on data sharing, monitoring and reporting, including the revision of REMPEC's Country Profiles, to be submitted in 2017 at the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC for consideration, with a view to facilitating the reporting obligations of the Contracting Parties, taking into consideration information contained in REMPEC's Country Profiles, MEDGIS-MAR, developments within the framework of MENELAS, and the revision of the Reporting Format for the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme.

98 **The Meeting further agreed** to explore the possible interconnection between the current REMPEC reporting system (i.e. Country Profiles and MEDGIS-MAR) with CECIS and to report to the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC to be convened in 2017.

AGENDA ITEM 11: REVISION OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS

99 Whilst presenting both documents REMPEC/WG.37/11/1 and REMPEC/WG.37/11/2, the Secretariat provided an outline of the process leading to the preparation of the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021). It was recalled that, with a view to facilitating the implementation of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, the 2005 Regional Strategy had been adopted by the Fourteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, which was held in Portorož, Slovenia, from 8 to 11 November 2005, and included a set of 21 objectives to be implemented by 2015.

100 The Meeting noted that, as part of the revision process of the 2005 Regional Strategy, a draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) had been submitted to the Meeting of National Experts on the Revision of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, which was convened in Malta, from 11 to 12 March 2015. The Meeting was informed that, following discussions, the said meeting agreed upon a Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021) to be considered by the present Meeting.

101 The Meeting took note of the fact that, upon its agreement on the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021), amended as necessary, the said document would be submitted to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points scheduled for October 2015 prior to its adoption by the Nineteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, to be tentatively held in February 2016 in Greece. The Meeting appreciated that the final version would also be integrated in the UNEP/MAP's Mid-Term Strategy to be adopted by the same meeting.

102 **The Meeting agreed upon** the following minor revisions proposed by the Secretariat:

- .1 to delete page i entitled "*Background*" of the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021), since the background could not be construed as being an integral part of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021);
- .2 to delete the brackets and the text within brackets, namely "[Revised Draft]" throughout the text of the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021); and
- .3 to delete the reference to "*other marine vehicles and structures*" throughout the document, in particular in Annex III to the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021).

103 The Meeting noted that, following the deletion of Specific Objective 15 of the 2005 Regional Strategy by the Meeting of National Experts on the Revision of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, the reference to “oil handling facilities” had been deleted in the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021). Considering that the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 referred to ships, offshore units, sea ports and oil handling facilities, **the Meeting agreed** to add a reference to “sea ports and oil handling facilities” in sub-paragraphs a) and d) under Specific Objective 22.

104 The representative of the EU referred to Specific Objective 7 and explained that the use of the CleanSeaNet services could only be provided following the signature of the Conditions of Use. He informed the Meeting that seven (7) SAFEMED III beneficiary countries were considering the use of the services and that this was made possible thanks to the allocated budget under SAFEMED III. Considering the contractual and legal requirements related to the use of CleanSeaNet services, he proposed to amend paragraph f) as follows:

“to explore the continuation of the CleanSeaNet services offered by EMSA available to all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention that are not Member States of the EU, currently through the SAFEMED III Project, until 2021 and beyond”.

105 Referring to Specific Objective 18 paragraph g), the representative of the EU clarified that EMSA was not participating in any scientific project and that the reference was thus not relevant and requested the Secretariat to delete the said reference. Moving on to Specific Objective 22 paragraph f), he requested to delete the reference to EMSA and to the UCPM since, at the EU level, they did not have the mandate to provide assistance in the preparation or revision of national contingency plans. The representative of the EU also requested the addition of a new paragraph e) – “to consider the use of the CECIS Marine Pollution in order to enhance coordination of requests and offers of international assistance”, under Specific Objective 21, taking into account that CECIS had been opened to third countries and regional agreements. **The Meeting agreed** with the said proposals.

106 Considering the proposed amendments in Annex II – “List of Relevant International Conventions and European Union Legislation” to the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021) put forward by the EU, as detailed in paragraph 12.3 of document REMPEC/WG.37/11/1, **the Meeting agreed** with the Secretariat’s proposal provided that the reference to the EU Sulphur Directive (2012/33/EU) be deleted since it was considered that the latter was already covered by the proposed text referring to “Directive 1999/32/EC, as amended”.

107 The representative of Egypt stated that, although in principle, his government agreed on the majority of Specific Objectives, it expressed serious concerns on certain issues and proposed a series of amendments to the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021). Further to the dissemination of hard copies of the proposed amendments put forward by the representative of Egypt to the Meeting, reproduced in **Annex IV** to the present report, the Meeting discussed the first proposal relating to the addition of a preamble. **The Meeting agreed:**

- .1 with the addition, in the said preamble, of the first sub-proposal “*Nothing in this Strategy shall prejudice the principles of Sovereignty of the States, principles of Freedom, rights of Navigation, and principles of Innocent Passage in the Territorial Sea*”
- .2 with the amended text “*In case of any contradiction between the Strategy and national or international legislations, the latter shall prevail*” concerning the second sub-proposal; and
- .3 to merge the third and fourth sub-proposals as follows: “*For specific topics addressing national issues, the Secretariat should seek the authorisation of the concerned country prior to its publication*”.

108 After much deliberation on the second proposed amendment by Egypt related to the inclusion of a section on definitions in the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021), the Meeting decided not to prolong further the already lengthy discussion and, consequently, noted the reservation put forward by Egypt on the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021).

109 Following this discussion, **the Meeting eventually agreed** upon the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021), as amended, with the addition of the agreed preamble, bearing in mind the reservation made by Egypt on the said document. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to submit the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021), as amended, together with a note on the reservation made by Egypt, to the next Meeting of MAP Focal Points scheduled in October 2015, for further discussion, prior to its adoption by the Nineteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, to be tentatively convened in February 2016 in Greece.

AGENDA ITEM 12: COOPERATION BETWEEN REMPEC AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AS WELL AS THE EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY

110 The Secretariat introduced document REMPEC/WG.37/12 relating to cooperation between REMPEC and the European Commission as well as EMSA.

111 The Meeting took note of the mandates and objectives of REMPEC, the UCPM and EMSA, whilst particular emphasis was given to relevant EU legislations, in particular Decision No 1313/2013/EU relating to the establishment of the UCPM and Regulation (EC) No 1406/2002 on the establishment of EMSA, as amended by Regulation (EU) No 100/2013, considering the interaction between the UCPM, EMSA, regional agreements and international organisations.

112 The Meeting was informed of the conclusions of the Rosersberg Initiative launched by the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE) established by UNEP and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as well as the integration of the cooperation with the UCPM and EMSA within the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021).

113 The Meeting noted that the Workshop on Regional Response Capacity and Coordination for Major Oil Spill in the Mediterranean Sea ("MEDEXPOL 2013"), which was held in Athens, Greece, from 10 to 12 December 2013, recommended *inter alia* the identification of duplication/overlapping/gaps between the European and regional levels as well as the improvement of the cooperation arrangements and synergies between the European and regional mechanisms.

114 The Meeting was made aware of the recommendations of the Meeting of National Experts on the Revision of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, which was convened in Malta from 11 to 12 March 2015, to ensure an effective coordination between the Mediterranean regional assistance, the IMO support as well as the European response and assistance mechanism, and to establish clear procedures, conditions and synergies within the review of the series of Principles and Guidelines on various aspects related to cooperation during an oil spill incident developed by REMPEC since 1987.

115 Considering this rationale, the Meeting took note of the relevance of a strengthened cooperation in the Mediterranean region in the field of preparedness for and response to marine pollution.

116 The Meeting further noted the past and current cooperation between REMPEC and the European Commission as well as EMSA, in particular the cooperation within the framework of the SAFEMED Projects, the Inter-Secretariat Meetings held annually between regional agreements, the European Commission and EMSA, the implementation of the programme of work of the MTWG and the EMSA Consultative Technical Group for Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response (CTG MPPR).

117 The Meeting was informed about the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IMO and UNEP defining the areas of mutual interest and cooperation relating to Pollution Incident Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, and noted the current developments concerning the review of the MoU between the IMO and the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU). The Meeting further took note of the existing arrangement between OCHA and the European Commission as referred to in Commission Decision 2005/160/EC.

118 Following a proposal by a delegation with regard to the possible participation of representatives of the MTWG to attend the CTG MPPR meetings, the representative of the EU welcomed the suggestion which would benefit the CTG MPPR, and recalled that REMPEC was

invited to all CTG MPPR meetings and could envisage the participation of a representative of the MTWG, as part of the Centre's delegation.

119 The representative of the EU specified that the development undertaken by the MTWG was of interest for the CTG MPPR and highlighted that the Inter-Secretariat Meetings had no decision-making power. Following his proposed amendments and, on the basis of the proposed way forward in the Mediterranean region in the field of preparedness for and response to marine pollution put forward by the Secretariat, **the Meeting agreed:**

- .1 to strengthen the possible synergies between the MTWG and the CTG MPPR by amending the 2007 Guidelines for the MTWG, as proposed in Annex II to document REMPEC/WG.37/14/1, and by requesting the CTG MPPR meetings to note any relevant MTWG developments;
- .2 to explore possible synergies on future joint activities or projects in order to benefit from a stronger cooperation on topics of common interest, and to propose possible synergies to the various technical groups of the regional agreements and the CTG MPPR, within the framework of the Inter-Secretariat Meetings;
- .3 to organise working-level exchanges between, on the one hand, the Mediterranean coastal States and, on the other hand, relevant entities such as the IMO, UNEP together with representatives from UNEP/MAP, OCHA and REMPEC, the European Commission as well as EMSA, to discuss cooperation arrangements and synergies between the European and regional mechanisms, in view of the organisation of a high-level meeting; and
- .4 to initiate discussions, in consultation with the IMO and UNEP/MAP, to define, as soon as possible, the most appropriate way to cooperate and support the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021).

AGENDA ITEM 13: REMPEC'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

120 The Meeting considered document REMPEC/WG.37/13 which provided a brief history of the Centre, its achievements and milestones undertaken within the framework of its mandate as well as information on the proposed activities to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of REMPEC in 2016.

121 In an effort to provide historical perspective, the Head of Office of REMPEC presented the evolution of the legal framework and the context in which the Centre was set out, from the adoption of the first Action Plan within the framework of the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP by the Mediterranean in 1974, namely the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of 1975, to the adoption of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution ("the Barcelona Convention of 1976") which was adopted together with two specific Protocols, including the 1976 Emergency Protocol, as well as their amendments through time.

122 The Head of Office recalled that the Centre was originally established as the Regional Oil Combating Centre (ROCC) on 11 December 1976, before its name was changed to the "Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea" (REMPEC) in 1989. He also stated that its mandate had been extended over the years.

123 The Head of Office referred to the adoption of the resolution on the "*Regional Strategy on prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships*" by the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols convened in Tunis, Tunisia, from 18 to 21 November 1997, and which, in turn, paved the way for the amendment of the 1976 Emergency Protocol. He indicated that the resulting 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, which entered into force on 17 March 2004, covered prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from sea-based sources.

124 With a view to illustrating REMPEC's achievements over the past forty (40) years, the Head of Office provided statistical figures and examples of successful undertakings.

125 The Secretariat proposed that, in preparation for the 40th Anniversary of REMPEC to be launched on 11 December 2016 with the theme "*Cooperation in the Mediterranean to prevent and*

combat marine pollution", work be initiated in early 2016 and that this occasion be marked throughout the year 2017 up until the closing of the Twentieth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in order to enhance REMPEC's visibility, build new partnerships and mobilise resources.

126 In view of the above, the Secretariat specifically proposed to mobilise voluntary contributions and resources, revamp REMPEC's website, create a specific logo and tagline, produce brochures and other visual material as well as organise opening and closing events, preferably combining them with other regional events scheduled in the MAP Programme of Work.

127 The Secretariat also proposed to Contracting Parties and partners to take part in commemorating the 40th Anniversary of REMPEC by organising events at their national level.

128 **The Meeting agreed** to the proposals put forward by the Secretariat.

AGENDA ITEM 14: MEDITERRANEAN TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (MTWG)

129 The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to introduce both documents pertaining to Agenda Item 14 concerning the MTWG, namely document REMPEC/WG.37/14/1 relating to the progress made by the MTWG since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC and document REMPEC/WG.37/14/2 regarding the proposal related to future possible work of the MTWG.

130 The Meeting was informed that the main milestones achieved covered aspects of cooperation between the regional forum (MTWG) and the international forum (IMO's OPRC-HNS Technical Group), the completion and launch of the Maritime Integrated Decision Support Information System on Transport of Chemical Substances (MIDSIS-TROCS), the development of a Regional Risk Assessment Methodology including the revision of the existing inventory of response means through the MEDESS-4MS Project, as well as the update of the RIS reference system and content. The Meeting further noted that these achievements fulfilled the tasks which had been included in the programme of work of the MTWG for the biennium 2012/2013 by the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC.

131 On the basis of the above-mentioned considerations, **the Meeting agreed** with the proposals made by the Secretariat in document REMPEC/WG.37/14/1, pertaining to:

- .1 the review of MIDSIS-TROCS version 3.0;
- .2 assisting the Centre in maintaining updated information on HNS incidents by providing reports on HNS response following incidents; and
- .3 encouraging OPRC Focal Points to use the MEDESS-4MS and MEDGIS-MAR User Interface as well as to update MEDGIS-MAR with relevant national data, including the national inventory of response means, in view of the development or improvement of their respective risk assessments.

132 The Meeting considered the amended 2015 version of the Guidelines for the MTWG, reproduced in Annex II to document REMPEC/WG.37/14/1, which was prepared in accordance with Article 4 of the amended 2007 version of the said Guidelines. Taking into consideration the discussion under Agenda Item 12, the Meeting endorsed the amended 2015 version of the Guidelines for the MTWG.

133 Whilst noting that the proposals put forward resulted from a consultation with the MTWG contact points in charge of reviewing the RIS, the Meeting considered the proposals related to the future possible work of the MTWG contained in document REMPEC/WG.37/14/2 following the introduction by the Secretariat on the rationale behind each proposal.

134 With the exception of the preparation of a technical document concerning the latest developments in the field of response to chemical spills, **the Meeting agreed** to include in the programme of work of the MTWG for the biennium 2016/2017, the following tasks:

- .1 to update the Guidelines on Risk of gaseous releases resulting from marine incidents; and

- .2 to carry out a complete review of the Principles and Guidelines on cooperation and mutual assistance, including:
- “*Guidelines for Co-Operation in Combating Marine Oil Pollution in the Mediterranean, 1987*”;
 - “*Principles and guidelines concerning cooperation and mutual assistance, 1991*”;
 - “*Guidelines concerning the Exchange of Liaison Officers between the Contracting Parties in case of Response Operations involving Several States, 1995*”; and
 - “*Guidelines concerning Arrangements which might be made with a view to ensuring, in case of an accident, liaison between the Governmental Authorities and other Interested Parties, 1995*”.

135 The Secretariat thanked the Contracting Parties for their support to the MTWG activities and especially for appointing appropriate national entities and/or officials as MTWG contact points. The Secretariat also extended its gratitude to the IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group and other partners for their contribution in the implementation of the programme of work of the MTWG, in particular for the preparation of Guidelines on Oil Spill Waste Management, MIDSIS-TROCS, and for pushing forward a regionally identified need at international level leading to the development of operational guidelines on sunken and submerged oil assessment and removal techniques.

AGENDA ITEM 15: PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF REMPEC FOR BIENNIUM 2016/2017

136 At the invitation of the Chairperson, the Head of Office of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.37/15 containing in its Annex the proposed programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2016/2017 as well as document REMPEC/WG.37/15/Corr.1, and explained the rationale used to prepare it.

137 The Meeting noted that the proposed programme of work of the Centre was prepared within the context of the Draft Strategic Framework of the UNEP/MAP’s Integrated Six-Year Programme of Work for the period 2016 to 2021 (“the draft Strategic Framework”) (REMPEC/WG.37/INF.3), which was discussed and amended in the meantime by the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points held in Athens, Greece from 19 to 21 May 2015. In this context, since the structure and numbering of the draft Strategic Framework would be modified with a view to reflecting the outcome of the discussions of the said meeting, the Meeting decided to only focus on the technical aspects related to the activities listed in the proposed programme of work of the Centre.

138 The Meeting took note of the fact that the MAP budget for the biennium 2016/2017, including the budget for the implementation of the programme of work of REMPEC, would be discussed at the next Meeting of the MAP Focal Points scheduled for October 2015.

139 Referring to the intervention made by the representative of the EU, it was clarified that the meaning of “partners” referred to potential partners. **The Meeting agreed** that references to EMSA as well as the European Commission would be removed from the Annex to the document under review since the EU was a Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention.

140 At the request of the Meeting, the Secretariat presented activity by activity whilst indicating the related Specific Objectives of the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021) and the corresponding level of priority for each activity in the proposed programme of work.

141 With reference to activity 1.3.1.1 relating to the preparation of specific guidelines to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, where appropriate, the application of a No-Special-Fee System, concerns were raised over the different regulatory systems from one country to another. On this aspect, the representative of the EU reminded the Meeting that the EU legislation had a fixed and variable fee. Besides, given the fact that reference to marine litter was lacking, it was proposed that the Secretariat would clarify the said

activity by stating the link with the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. Finally, the Meeting endorsed the proposal related to the inclusion of an asterisk referring to the fact that EU Member States were bound by relevant EU legislation (Directive 2000/59/EC).

142 Upon a proposal from the representative of the EU, **the Meeting agreed** that the reference to training on CECIS be reflected under activity 1.6.1.2.

143 With regard to activity 4.1.5.1, the Meeting took note of the comment made by the representative of the EU, which highlighted that the Operational Guidelines ('OG') on Places of Refuge had been finalised and would be shared with REMPEC.

144 Taking note of the comments made by various delegations, the Meeting endorsed the proposed activities, as amended, and requested the Secretariat to:

- .1 make the necessary amendments in the proposed programme of work of the Centre for the biennium 2016/2017 with a view to reflecting the new structure and numbering of the revised draft Strategic Framework once prepared by the MAP Secretariat;
- .2 circulate the revised programme of work of the Centre for the biennium 2016/2017 as soon as possible to the Focal Points of REMPEC for their information; and
- .3 integrate the revised programme of work of the Centre into the MAP Programme of Work for the biennium 2016/2017 to be submitted for approval by the next Meeting of the MAP Focal Points scheduled for October 2015 prior to its submission for adoption by the Nineteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, to be tentatively convened in February 2016 in Greece.

AGENDA ITEM 16: OTHER BUSINESS

145 The Chairperson referred to document REMPEC/WG.37/INF.5 submitted by the Sea Alarm foundation (a member of the MAU). He asked the Meeting to take note of the information provided in this document summarising recent developments in international oiled wildlife preparedness and response since the Sea Alarm foundation could not participate in the Meeting.

146 The representative of the EU noted that, since the time document REMPEC/WG.37/INF 4, which presented the UCPM and its tools available for the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, was published, there had been a minor change in the information contained therein, in that the UCPM currently had thirty-three (33) Participating States: twenty-eight (28) EU Member States, Iceland, Norway, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. She also indicated that Turkey had signed the agreement for the country's official participation in the UCPM, which was awaiting national ratification.

AGENDA ITEM 17: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

147 The Meeting adopted the present report together with its annexes.

AGENDA ITEM 18: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

148 Before closing the Meeting, the Chairperson thanked the delegations for their active participation, expressed deep appreciation to the Secretariat for the efforts made and showed gratitude to the interpreters for their excellent work.

149 The Head of Office of REMPEC thanked the Chairperson, Mr El Kaissi, for efficiently steering the discussions and all delegations for their constructive debate.

150 The Deputy Coordinator of MAP thanked all Contracting Parties and MAP Partners stressing that their presence showed commitment to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. He also expressed thanks to the Chairperson and to the Secretariat.

151 The Chairperson closed the Meeting at 17:30 hours on Wednesday, 17 June 2015.

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organization of the Meeting
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Progress Report on REMPEC's activities since the 10th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC
5. Developments within MAP related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC
6. Developments within IMO related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC
7. Activities related to ships' ballast water management and invasive species
8. Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, and related activities
9. Project proposal on preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution (oil and HNS)
10. Data sharing, monitoring and reporting
11. Revision of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships
12. Cooperation between REMPEC and the European Commission as well as the European Maritime Safety Agency
13. REMPEC's 40th Anniversary
14. Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG)
15. Proposed programme of work of REMPEC for biennium 2016/2017
16. Other business
17. Adoption of the report of the Meeting
18. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.37/3/1	Provisional agenda.
REMPEC/WG.37/3/2	Annotated provisional agenda.
REMPEC/WG.37/3/3	Draft timetable.
REMPEC/WG.37/3/3/Rev.1	Draft timetable.
REMPEC/WG.37/4	Progress report on REMPEC's activities since the 10 th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC.
REMPEC/WG.37/5	<i>No document was presented under agenda item 5.</i>
REMPEC/WG.37/6/1	Developments within IMO related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC. (Submitted by IMO)
REMPEC/WG.37/6/2	Latest developments in the field of compensation for ship-source pollution damage. (Submitted by IOPC Funds)
REMPEC/WG.37/6/3	Potential oil & gas industry collaboration with REMPEC through IPIECA. (Submitted by IPIECA)
REMPEC/WG.37/7	Activities related to ships' ballast water management and invasive species.
REMPEC/WG.37/8	Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention and related activities.
REMPEC/WG.37/9	Project proposal on preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution (oil and HNS).
REMPEC/WG.37/10	Data sharing, monitoring and reporting.
REMPEC/WG.37/11/1	Revision of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships.
REMPEC/WG.37/11/2	Report of the Meeting of National Experts on the Revision of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships.
REMPEC/WG.37/12	Cooperation between REMPEC and the European Commission as well as the European Maritime Safety Agency.
REMPEC/WG.37/13	REMPEC's 40 th Anniversary.
REMPEC/WG.37/14/1	Progress made by the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) since the 10 th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC.
REMPEC/WG.37/14/2	Proposal related to future possible work of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG).
REMPEC/WG.37/15	Proposed programme of work of REMPEC for biennium 2016/2017.

REMPEC/WG.37/15/Corr.1 Corrigendum

REMPEC/WG.37/WP.1 Draft report of the Meeting.

REMPEC/WG.37/16 Report of the Meeting.

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.37/INF.1 List of documents.

REMPEC/WG.37/J/1 Provisional list of participants.

REMPEC/WG.37/INF.2 List of participants.

REMPEC/WG.37/INF.3 UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021: Draft Strategic Framework.

REMPEC/WG.37/INF.4 European Union Civil Protection Mechanism. (Submitted by the European Commission) (English Only)

REMPEC/WG.37/INF.5 International developments in oiled wildlife preparedness and response (Submitted by Sea Alarm). (English Only)

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Joint Session MEDPOL and REMPEC Focal Points

Malta, 17 June 2015

WORKING DOCUMENTS

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.417/5/Corr.1 Reviewed Draft Offshore Protocol Action Plan.

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.417/6 Main elements of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme related to Ecological Objectives 5, 9, 10.

ANNEX IV

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
PUT FORWARD BY THE
REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT**

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

Good Morning,

Please allow me to express our appreciation to IMO, REMPEC, UNEP and EMSA for their efforts for the protection of Marine Environment in the Mediterranean Sea.

The Egyptian Government agrees in principle on the majority of the objectives of the draft regional strategy for prevention of and response to Marine pollution from ships.

The maritime environment constitutes one of Egypt's great interests and she cooperates effectively with Mediterranean States in order to comply with the provisions of international conventions related to the protection of maritime environment. Egypt has also acceded to most of international conventions and seeks, as a developing country, to efficiently apply the provisions of international conventions.

Egypt has very serious concerns about some of the objectives in addition to the implementation goals of this draft strategy in its current form as follows:

1. Egypt would like to add a necessary preamble to be inserted at the beginning of this draft stating that:
 - "Nothing in this strategy shall prejudice the principles of Sovereignty of the States, principles of Freedom, rights of Navigation, and principles of the Innocent Passage in the Territorial Sea.
 - In case of any contradiction between the Strategy and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the latter shall prevail.
 - Any reports concerning findings of the Strategy implementation in a certain Contracting Party shall be strictly confidential and shall be submitted to the concerned party for revision and comments prior to issue.
 - The release of the above-mentioned reports to the public or the Contracting Parties shall be subject to authorization of the State concerned.
2. Egypt would like also to add definitions part to the Strategy Draft to clarify concretely certain terms mentioned in the draft strategy such as "Aerial Surveillance", "Over-Fly the Waters " and any other terms where necessary.

3. Egypt would like to edit some texts in the Draft Strategy as follows:
 - **Item 4.1- paragraph a) –page 10:**
The text "to ratify and implement"
To be replaced by "to take necessary action to ratify and implement."
 - **Item 4.1- paragraph b):**
The text "to ratify and implement"
To be replaced by "to take necessary action to ratify and implement."
 - **Item 4.7 Paragraph a) line 4: page 20**
The text "If the Parties so agree" to be added after "jurisdiction of the Contracting Parties".
 - **Item 1- Implementation Goals, "Annex I" Page 1:Paragraph a):**
The text " All the Mediterranean States, to have ratified"
To be replaced with " All the Mediterranean States, to have taken all the necessary actions to ratify....."
 - **Item 14- Implementation Goals, "Annex I" Page 3:**
Paragraph a), line 2:
The text " relevant EU Legislation and Guidelines....."
To be replaced by:" Relevant EU Guidelines....."
 - **As for item 4.7, Item 7- Implementation Goals,** concerning the application of Aerial Surveillance and Over-Fly the Waters ", Egypt believes that such systems should be postponed until they are completely considered from the concerned authorities in Egypt.

4. As for item 15: **to examine the possibility of the designation of the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as SOX Emission Control Area under MARPOL, Annex VI,** Egypt requests the establishment of a technical committee of experts from the European Union and South Mediterranean states to carry out a technical and economic feasibility study to (item 15) in order to examine the possibility of application.

The reasons for this request are summarized below:

 - Some South Mediterranean states need investments in the oil refining sector in order to provide low sulfur fuel for ships.
 - Some south Mediterranean states (if not most of them) need investments to modernize their ship fleet to comply with the application of the provisions of Annex VI of MARPOL.
 - The designation of the Mediterranean region or parts thereof as an ECA or/and SECA without updating the fleet of ships in the South Mediterranean countries would adversely affect the shipping industry in developing countries in the region and this in turn will aggravate the problem of employment of maritime labor

in these countries in addition to the negative impacts on international competitiveness of export and import goods of developing countries, which in turn will constrain their development in international shipping, trade and economy.

- A basic fundamental shortcoming of designating ECA or SECA region in the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof is trying to put heavy burdens on developing countries that are least responsible for global warming and consequent climate change
- Many of the South Mediterranean countries did not accede to Annex VI of MARPOL as the accession to such Annex requires several legislative procedures and a feasibility study, then the issuance of national legislation to enforce the provisions of Annex VI of MARPOL, as well as to provide the necessary infrastructure and capacity building for the implementation.

Therefore, Egypt asks to exert more efforts in order to provide the necessary resources to support those countries to accede to Annex VI to enable the effective application of its provisions and this is before the designation of the Mediterranean region as an area of control of the sulfur oxides emissions.

We would also like to point out that nothing in this strategy should in any way affect any of the rules and regulations of the Suez Canal Authority and in case of any contradictions between the strategy and the terms of the Constantinople convention for the year 1888 concerning the Suez Canal, the latter shall prevail.

Last but not least, I think you share my opinion that the adoption of the current draft strategy calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differential responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions and any future regulatory regime must be so designated that international shipping is not capped and thus causes severe disruption to global trade and development .

Finally, we hope these comments will be taken into consideration in the draft strategy and we would like to incorporate this statement in the report of this meeting.

Thank you Mr. Chairman