

Introduction

The 12th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Monaco, 14-17 November 2001) accepted the offer of the Government of Malta to host the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances in Cases of Emergency, which will be preceded by the a Third Meeting of Experts on the Revision of the Protocol, also convened in Malta, from 20-22 January 2002.

The Third Meeting of Experts is expected to clear the pending issues in the draft Protocol in order to facilitate its adoption by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Conference

The Conference will be opened at 09.30 hrs on Thursday, 24 January 2002 by the Coordinator of MAP, representing the Executive Director of UNEP, who will make an opening statement. A statement will also be made by H.E. Mr Francis Zammit Dimech, Minister for th Environment of the host country.

Agenda item 2: Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties shall apply to this Conference (document UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

Agenda item 3: Election of officers

In accordance with Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure, the Conference will elect its own President, four Vice Presidents and a Rapporteur. They will constitute the Bureau of the Conference (Rule 23).

Agenda item 4: Adoption of the Agenda and organisation of work

A provisional agenda (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.14/1), prepared by the Executive Director has been circulated with the letter of invitation on the 10th of December 2001.

A proposed timetable is annexed to the present document. The Secretariat will prepare the text of the Final Act and the Protocol, for signature, in the four official languages of the Conference.

Agenda item 5: Examination and adoption of the Draft Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and in combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances in cases of Emergency.

The Conference will have before it, for discussion and adoption, the Report of the Third Meeting of Legal and Technical National Experts on the amendments of the Emergency Protocol of the Barcelona Convention, together with the amended Protocol (Malta, 20-22 January 2002), the Draft Final Act and its accompanying resolutions.

If needed, the Conference will proceed to a separate vote on each of the articles of the Emergency Protocol, before adopting the protocol in its entity.

Agenda item 6: Report of the Credentials' Committee

Each Contracting Party shall be represented at the Conference by an accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternates and advisers as may be required (Rule 18). The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers should be submitted before the opening session, as per the invitation letter of the Executive Director Dr Töpfer dated 10 December 2001. The Bureau of the Conference shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Conference (Rule 19).

Agenda item 7 & Agenda item 8: Signature of the Final Act and Protocol

A signature ceremony will take place at the Presidential Palace in Valletta at 11.00 hrs on Friday, 25 January 2002, at the kind invitation of the President of the Republic H.E. Mr Guido de Marco.

The Final Act and the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances in cases of Emergency will be open for signature by the representatives of the Contracting Parties.

Agenda item 9: Closure of the Conference

The closure of the Conference will be followed by a reception and lunch offered by the authorities of Malta. After lunch the participants will be invited to visit the premises of REMPEC.

ANNEX
SUGGESTED TIMETABLE

Date	Morning: 09.30-13.00	Afternoon: 14.30-17.30
THURSDAY, 24 JAN 2002	AGENDA ITEMS: 1,2,3,4,5	AGENDA ITEMS: 5, 6
FRIDAY, 25 JAN 2002	AGENDA ITEM: 7, 8,9 Signature ceremony at 11:00 at the Presidential Palace, to be followed by a reception and lunch	Visit to the premises of REMPEC

COFFE BREAKS: AT 11.00 – 11.30 AND 16.00 – 16.30 HRS

LUNCH BREAK: AT 13.00 – 14.30 HRS