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REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY
RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)

CENTRE REGIONAL MEDITERRANEEN POUR L'INTERVENTION
D'URGENCE CONTRE LA POLLUTION MARINE ACCIDENTELLE (REMPEC)

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN
PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE



6th Meeting of the Focal Points of the
Regional Marine Pollution Emergency
Response Centre for the Mediterranean
Sea (REMPEC)

Malta, 12 - 15 February 2003

REMPEC/WG.21/12
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REPORT
OF THE 6TH MEETING OF FOCAL POINTS OF THE
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)

Malta, 12-15 February 2003

INTRODUCTION

1. The Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) was convened in Malta from 12 to 15 February 2003, pursuant to the decision of the Twelfth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which agreed that a Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points be organized in 2002/2003 (UNEP (DEC)/MED IG.13/8, Monaco, November 2001).

2. The main objectives of the Focal Points' Meeting were to:

- a) examine the implementation of the programme of activities of REMPEC for the period 2000-2002;
- b) review the process of ratification of the new Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol) to the Barcelona Convention;
- c) discuss and propose the strategy for the prevention of and response to the pollution of the marine environment from sea based activities, for the period 2004-2014.
- d) discuss and propose the programme of priority activities of REMPEC for the biennium 2004-2005.

3. All REMPEC official Focal Points were invited to participate in the Meeting. In view of the fact that this Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points was the first one organized after the adoption of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, and in order to enhance the discussion of these new issues and to ensure the quality of decisions taken in the field of prevention of pollution from ships, REMPEC requested each Party to the Barcelona Convention to ensure that each delegation is composed of at least two representatives: one representing the authorities responsible for the environment and the other one representing the authorities in charge of maritime affairs. Contracting Parties were also invited to include in their delegations the representatives of their respective oil, chemical and shipping industries. The invitation to attend the Meeting was also extended to relevant United Nations Organizations and other Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations. Finally, the representatives of international professional organizations and associations were invited to attend as observers.

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

ALBANIA	LEBANON
ALGERIA	LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINIA	MALTA
CROATIA	MONACO
CYPRUS	MOROCCO
EGYPT	SLOVENIA
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	SPAIN
FRANCE	SYRIA
GREECE	TUNISIA
ISRAEL	TURKEY
ITALY	

by representatives from the following United Nations Organizations:

- INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)
- UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME/CO-ORDINATING UNIT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP)

by representatives from Regional Activity Centres of MAP:

- BLUE PLAN REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (BP/RAC)
- REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS (RAC/SPA)
- REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT REMOTE SENSING (RAC/ERS)

by the following non-governmental organizations, MAP partners:

- AMIGOS DEL MEDITERRANEO
- GREENPEACE
- INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (IPIECA)
- LEGAMBIENTE
- MIO-ECSDE

by the representatives from the following other non-governmental organizations:

- INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT TANKER OWNERS (INTERTANKO)
- INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION LTD. (ITOPF)
- MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP (MOIG)

and by the representatives of the following other organizations:

- CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR MARINE APPLIED RESEARCH (ICRAM)
- INSTITUT DU DROIT ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER DE MONACO (INDEMER)
- RAMOGE.

5. A complete list of participants is attached in **Annex I** to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. The Honourable Mr. Censu Galea, Minister for Transport and Communications of the Republic of Malta welcomed the delegations to the Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points. He pointed out that his presence as the Minister responsible for shipping in this particular Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points was quite significant as it reflected the new role played by REMPEC in the field of prevention of pollution from ships following the adoption of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol. The Hon. Mr. Censu Galea stated that the adoption of the new Protocol provided a new challenge not only to REMPEC but also to the Contracting Parties, which now have the possibility to co-operate with each other to prevent pollution from ships. In this regard, he stressed the need for co-operation and co-ordination at the national level between the environment and maritime authorities of each country and pointed out that the presence of representatives of these two sectors in the delegations attending the Meeting was a step in the right direction. The Hon. Minister reiterated Malta's interest in and support to the work of REMPEC and pointed out that the Meeting of Focal Points was being convened at a crucial time not only because it was the first Focal Points Meeting after the adoption of the Protocol but also because it was taking place in the aftermath of recent maritime-related accidents. The Hon. Mr. Censu Galea referred to the adoption of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol and pointed out the importance of its ratification. In this regard, he announced that Malta had very recently ratified the Protocol as well as the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 and its related Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000. Finally, the Hon. Mr. Censu Galea wished the delegation success in their deliberations.

7. The MAP Co-ordinator thanked the Mediterranean countries, EU and NGO's representatives for their participation in this Meeting and he expressed his solidarity with Spain for the tragic consequences of the Prestige incident. He described the new context surrounding the 6th Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points: the legal context, with recent development of EU legislation, the political one, as far as the public opinion is concerned, and the ecological one, taking into consideration the wide impact of the accident of the Prestige. He underlined the fact that the accident pointed out issues already raised by the Erika accident and he insisted on the importance of such issues for the Mediterranean region. Initiatives have to be taken, bearing in mind the need to have a common legal framework in the Mediterranean, taking into consideration the International, the European and the National legal framework and the role of each State as a flag State, a port State and a coastal State. Therefore, the 6th Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points has to be more strategic and should agree on a work plan and on a related timetable for its implementation.

8. Mr. Jean-Claude Sainlos, Senior Deputy Director, Marine Environment Division, speaking on behalf of the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Mr. William O'Neil, joined the other speakers in welcoming the participants. He emphasized the importance of the Meeting of Focal Points and of this particular Meeting, which was being convened after the adoption of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol and in the aftermath of the Prestige incident. In this regard, he stated that the discussion on the future strategy of REMPEC was of particular importance and he emphasized the importance of drawing up an effective but at the same time pragmatic strategy, which the Centre will be in a position to implement. He stated that the importance of this particular Meeting was evidenced by the large number of participants attending this Meeting of Focal Points which, he noted, was one of the best ever attended Focal Points Meetings also due to the participation of representatives of national authorities responsible for maritime affairs, which participation he commended and encouraged.

9. The representative of IMO also recalled that the activities of REMPEC have been consolidated and even extended in the past years, in particular as a result of the projects supported by the European Union such as LIFE and MEDA Projects. On behalf of IMO he thanked the European Union for this support. He emphasized that IMO, through its budget for technical co-operation, also provided its financial support to REMPEC's training activities and will continue to do so in the future.

10. For IMO it is essential that regulatory measures concerning maritime transport - maritime safety, pollution prevention - are elaborated and adopted at international level. However, regional co-operation plays a major role since it helps in the implementation of Conventions adopted under the aegis of IMO, and IMO advocated and encouraged regional co-operation. In this regard he pointed out that REMPEC is a model for other regions in the world.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Rules of Procedure

11. The participants 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).

2.2 Election of Officers

12. Participants unanimously elected Mr. Ezio Amato (Italy) as Chairman, Mr. Mohamed Nemouchi (Algeria) as Vice-Chairman and Mrs. Heger Farza (Tunisia) as Rapporteur.

2.3 Working Languages

13. Simultaneous English/French interpretation was provided during the Meeting. The working documents were also available in both official languages of the Centre, i.e. English and French.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

14. The Meeting adopted the Agenda as in **Annex II** of the present report. The list of documents is presented in **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PROGRESS REPORT ON REMPEC'S PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES
(November 2000 – December 2002)

15. Under the agenda item the Meeting was informed of the status of implementation of the Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention and, in particular, on the status of activities of REMPEC for the period November 2000-December 2002.

16. The Director of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.21/4 that contained a summary of activities in various fields that the Centre carried out since the last Meeting of Focal Points. He informed the Meeting of activities undertaken or completed in the field of collection and distribution of information, capacity building, including development of national and subregional systems for preparedness and response and training, assistance in cases of emergency, co-operation with other organizations and the implementation of recommendation addressed to REMPEC by the 11th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Conventions.

17. In addition the Director of REMPEC informed the Meeting of the changes in personnel which took place during the period under observation, development of the situation regarding the relocation of REMPEC to the new premises and of matters related to the administration of the Centre.

18. Referring to the human resources, the Director of REMPEC pointed out that the realisation of the programme of activities proposed in document REMPEC/WG.21/10 directly depended on complementing the present professional and general staff of the Centre. The minimum requirements were considered to be the following: the reclassification of the post of Administrator from G7 to P1, addition of an administrative assistant (G6), and the addition of a library assistant (G4). Two existing posts also needed a reclassification from G6 to G7 and from G3 to G4

19. Finally the Director of REMPEC provided the Meeting with an analysis of gaps that were noted during the period since the last Meeting of Focal Points.

20. REMPEC's Programme Officer responsible for the prevention presented document REMPEC/WG.21/4/1 which provided details on the ongoing MEDA Project concerning reception facilities for collecting ship-generated garbage, bilge waters and oily wastes, that is being financed through the EC MEDA Fund. In particular he emphasized the intention of REMPEC to extend the project to the countries which were not Euro-Med partners, and recalled that it was necessary to ensure financial resources for this planned extension

21. Following these presentations a number of delegations expressed their satisfaction with the work carried out by the Centre and congratulated the Director and his staff on the results achieved. Some delegations pointed out that certain "gaps" identified by the Director when presenting the progress report did not refer in fact to the Centre's responsibilities, but rather to the actions expected to be taken by the Contracting Parties themselves.

22. In particular the delegation of Tunisia emphasized the usefulness for his country of the seminar on liability and compensation that was organized in Tunis in July 2002 with the support of REMPEC.

23. The delegation of Algeria thanked REMPEC for the support in training and in the preparation of the subregional system for preparedness and response concerning Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. The head of the Algerian delegation also informed the Meeting of a series of shipping incidents which affected his country during the week before the Meeting, and on actions taken in response to these incidents. The Meeting expressed its sympathy and its support for Algeria following these incidents. REMPEC and IMO also stated their readiness to provide their support to Algeria.

24. The delegations of Cyprus, Malta, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey emphasized the importance of MEDA Project on port reception facilities, that is being carried out by REMPEC.

25. The delegations of Croatia and Slovenia respectively thanked the Centre for the support in developing the subregional preparedness and response system for the Northern Adriatic. Both delegations also welcomed the initiative of REMPEC to extend the activities related to port reception facilities to the Mediterranean coastal States not participating in the MEDA programme of the EC. The delegation of Croatia emphasized the importance for their country of addressing the issue of ballast waters in the view of planned conversion of an oil-importing terminal in the Northern Adriatic into the oil exporting one.

26. The delegations of Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Greece, Malta and Turkey informed the Meeting of the most recent ratifications by their respective countries of various international Conventions.

27. The delegations of Syria and Turkey thanked the Centre for guiding and managing the EC financed LIFE Third Countries projects implemented in their respective countries during the period under observation.

28. The representative of IMO noted the quality of the report and of the work carried out by REMPEC during the period under observation and pledged the continuing support of IMO for the activities that REMPEC will carry out in the forthcoming period in both, the field of co-operation, preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution, and in the field of prevention of pollution from ships. He emphasized the importance for the Mediterranean coastal States of signing these various international Conventions prepared under the aegis of IMO and invited the coastal States ratify as soon as possible these Conventions and in particular the OPRC 90 Convention and the OPRC/HNS Protocol.

29. The representative of ITOPF recalled the regular participation of his organization in training and other activities carried out by REMPEC and confirmed the intention of ITOPF to continue providing its support to REMPEC.

30. The delegation of Cyprus emphasized the importance of the entry into force and implementation in the Mediterranean region of Annex IV to MARPOL 73/78, while the representatives of INTERTANKO informed the Meeting of the availability on the website of his organization of the relevant information on Annex IV.

31. After taking note of the comments made by various delegations the Meeting approved the report of activities as presented by the Director of REMPEC and requested the Secretariat to take note of the additional information concerning ratification of international Conventions that was provided during discussion

AGENDA ITEM 5: MEDITERRANEAN TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

32. The Chairman of the MTWG, Dr. Ezio Amato, representing the lead country (Italy) for the biennium 2000/2002, presented the document REMPEC/WG.21/5 that contained the information on the activities of the MTWG during the period under observation and the results of these activities.

33. The items of work for the MTWG, established by the Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points held in Malta in October 2000, were the follows:

- an inventory of oil traded in Mediterranean ports or terminals;
- an inventory of bulk chemicals traded in Mediterranean ports or terminals;
- an inventory of the national legislation for the implementation of MARPOL 73/78, specifically article 4 of the Convention on the prosecution of violations concerning illegal discharges.

34. Dr. Amato presented the outcome of a pilot research aimed at providing the MTWG with an on-going experience and with suitable tools to pursue the assigned tasks, with regard to the inventories of oil and bulk chemicals traded in Mediterranean ports and terminals. This work was carried out by the Central Institute for Applied Marine Research (ICRAM), Italy, on behalf of Division IV "Prevention and fight against marine Pollution" of the Italian Ministry of Environment

35. Several delegations congratulated the Chairman for the quality of the report and underlined the importance of sharing the experience gained by Italy and providing data collected in carrying out this project.

36. The Director of REMPEC stressed the fact that although the MTWG encountered some difficulties in the beginning of its life, the outcome of its work was of good quality. However, there is a need to complete the assessment of the HNS traded in the Mediterranean by further collecting data from ports of other countries. He expressed the view that this should be followed up by an assessment of routes and quantities of HNS being shipped from one to another part of the Mediterranean in order to complete the whole picture in the region.

37. He also proposed that Dr. Amato should continue to chair the group up to the end of this year in order to complete the work in progress.

38. The delegations expressed their agreement on the proposals of the REMPEC's Director, and recommended that all coastal States should collect and send the available information on HNS traded in their ports and terminals to the Chairman of the MTWG following the Italian model.

39. The participating coastal States, were also invited to include information on the implementation of Article 4 of MARPOL 73/78, which could facilitate developing systematic formats to be used in the field of illicit discharges and prosecution of violations.

40. It was also agreed that the outcome of the MTWG's work may be utilised when carrying out the Mare Nostrum Project.

41. The Director of REMPEC proposed to the Meeting the following schedule for collecting and collating data with a view to submitting it for consideration to the forthcoming Contracting Parties Meeting:

- End of June 2003, submission to the Chairman of the MTWG of available statistical data presented by the participating coastal States;
- Beginning of September 2003, a draft document to be prepared by the Chairman of the MTWG and distributed to the participating coastal States for their comments;
- Mid September 2003, a consolidated document to be finalized and submitted for its consideration and approval to the MAP Focal Points Meeting;
- November 2003, submission of the final consolidated document to the Contracting Parties Meeting in Catania.

The Director stated that if the need arises an *ad hoc* meeting of the MTWG could be convened prior to the MAP Focal Points Meeting, underlining that at this stage no funds were available for this purpose.

42. The Focal Points Meeting endorsed the report of the Chairman of the MTWG and agreed on the proposed time table schedule. The Meeting also called upon other REMPEC Focal Points to participate in the work of the MTWG until the end of the year.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ADOPTION AND RATIFICATION PROCESS OF THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING CO-OPERATION IN PREVENTING POLLUTION FROM SHIPS AND, IN CASES OF EMERGENCY, COMBATING POLLUTION OF THE MEDITERRAAN SEA (PREVENTION AND EMERGENCY PROTOCOL)

43. The MAP Co-ordinator Mr. L. Chabason, presenting the document REMPEC/WG.21/6, briefly recalled the various phases of the negotiation process, characterised by the active participation of all Mediterranean coastal States, IMO and the European Commission that led to the adoption of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in January 2002 in Malta. On this issue reference was made to the fact that while developing the new legal instrument, the

ERIKA accident, the elements introduced by ERIKA I and ERIKA II packages, as well as the need to encompass relevant IMO international regulations, were taken into account.

44. He also informed the Meeting that in accordance with Resolution I of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, the Protocol remained open for signature in Madrid, Spain until the 25th January 2003.

45. Following the introductory comments of the MAP Co-ordinator, the Chairman invited the delegations to present the status of the ratification process of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol in their respective countries.

46. The delegations of Monaco and Malta informed the Meeting about their ratification of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

47. The delegations of Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Slovenia and Tunisia informed the Meeting that the ratification process should be finalized by the end of this year. In particular Slovenia announced that it acceded to the 1995 revised Barcelona Convention as well as to the revised Land-based Sources Protocol, the revised Dumping Protocol and the new SPA Protocol.

48. The delegation of Algeria informed the Meeting about the preparatory work undertaken at national level with the view to ratify the Protocol, as presented in the document REMPEC/WG.21/INF.6.

49. The delegation of Spain, whilst informing the Meeting that ratification of the Protocol is impending, invited the Contracting Parties to accelerate its ratification process.

50. The representative of Israel announced that Israel signed the Protocol on 22 January 2003 and that the ratification process is expected to be finalized in the following months. He also informed the Meeting that in practice most of the provisions of the new Protocol are being implemented in his country.

51. France, Italy and Libyan Arab Jamahiriya also informed the Meeting that the ratification process had initiated and would be finalized as soon as possible.

52. The delegation of Turkey informed the Meeting that translation of the text of the Protocol into Turkish and a consultative process among the relevant competent authorities was completed and that the ratification was in progress.

53. The delegation of Monaco stressed the importance to have the Protocol into force by the forthcoming Contracting Parties Meeting in Catania.

54. The Meeting took note of the provided information and expressed the auspice to have the new Protocol in force by the end of 2003.

AGENDA ITEM 7: DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN IMO RELATED TO THE OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF REMPEC

55. The representative of IMO, Mr. Jean Claude Sainlos, gave a brief oral presentation on developments within IMO related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC. He briefly recalled the international legal instruments that were developed within IMO since the last Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points and which are relevant to the objectives and functions of REMPEC namely the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001 and the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001. Reference was also made to the IMO Assembly Resolution adopted in November 2001 on Guidelines for the establishment of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas.

56. Mr. Sainlos also spoke about current ongoing work within IMO with regard to the development of an international convention on ballast water management, the development of a Protocol establishing a Supplementary Fund for compensation for oil pollution damage, the development of

Guidelines for the establishment of Places of Refuge, the development of Guidelines on ship recycling, and the development of a model audit scheme for the implementation of IMO Conventions.

57. The representative of IMO also recalled the decision of the last meeting of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) to establish an OPRC/OPRC-HNS Technical Group as a subsidiary body of MEPC, which would meet prior to MEPC meetings. In this regard, he urged Mediterranean coastal States to actively participate in this Technical Group. Mr. Sainlos also informed the Meeting that IMO had approved a work programme for the implementation of the OPRC-HNS Protocol 2000 and also approved the final revised version of Section IV of the Revised Edition of the Manual on Oil Pollution. Moreover, he informed the meeting that work was being initiated to review and update Section 2 (Search and Recovery of Parched Goods Lost at Sea) of the Manual on Chemical Pollution and the IMO OPRC model-training course.

58. Mr. Sainlos also referred to the organization of the Third Research and Development Forum on High Density Oil Response held in Brest, France in March 2002 and to the IMO/UNEP Forum on Regional Arrangements for Co-operation in Combating Marine Pollution held at IMO in 2002, in which REMPEC played an important role due to its vast experience in the field of regional co-operation.

59. The representative of IMO concluded by informing the Meeting of the initiatives undertaken by IMO in the aftermath of the Prestige incident and stated that IMO was prepared to consider all proposals that are presented as a result of this unfortunate incident. In this regard, he recalled and emphasized that IMO is the Competent international organization where rules and regulations relating to international shipping are considered and adapted. In this regard, he pointed out that regional or unilateral measures regarding shipping which are not in line with international rules will be detrimental for international maritime transport.

60. A brief discussion followed the presentation of the representative of IMO during which some delegations informed the Meeting of initiatives that were or being taken with regard to the activities of IMO.

61. The representative of SPA/RAC informed the Meeting of the ongoing activities of his Centre in the field of biodiversity conservation with a specific reference to the alien species in ballast waters.

AGENDA ITEM 8: IMPLICATIONS OF RECENT ACCIDENTS

62. The MAP Co-ordinator introduced the document REMPEC/WG.21/8 on lessons learnt from the "Prestige" accident and its implications within the Mediterranean region. He underlined the fact that the proposed Strategy for the implementation of the new "Prevention and Emergency Protocol" has to take into consideration both the accident of Prestige and the further development of EU initiatives in the field of the prevention of oil spills. He also pointed out the importance, prior to the submission of the Strategy to the forthcoming Meeting of the Contracting Parties, that the Mediterranean countries discuss and agree upon the issues raised by the Prestige accident, as listed in the document. In the same context, the Co-ordinator suggested the opportunity of organizing a meeting of experts appointed by the Governments of the Contracting Parties with a view to reviewing, prior to its submission for approval, the strategy for the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol (hereinafter referred to as the Experts Meeting). The Meeting should bear in mind the existing international legal framework as well as the initiatives developed at European and national levels and their possible consequences for the Mediterranean region in general. Furthermore, he underlined the need to find a country available to host and to cover the costs of such a meeting. Consideration must also be given to the paramount need of reaching a common Mediterranean homogeneous policy in the relevant fields addressed by the Strategy. He recalled that MAP was the appropriate framework for the drawing-up of such a policy.

63. The Co-ordinator recommended that, once adopted by the forthcoming Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the Strategy should be endorsed by a Ministerial Declaration, with the aim of giving strong political support to its implementation. He suggested that the Experts Meeting referred to in paragraph 62 could also examine and approve a draft Ministerial Declaration.

64. The delegations approved the proposal of the MAP Co-ordinator concerning the holding of the Experts Meeting. They also approved the proposal of a Ministerial Declaration endorsing the adopted

strategy. The delegations decided to hold the Experts Meeting between 8 and 10 September 2003. As recommended by the EU representatives, to convene the meeting in September would give the possibility to take into consideration the developments of the European legislation as well as the work underway within IMO on these issues. The Spanish delegation highlighted how much an accident such as that of the 'Prestige' could be prejudicial to the Mediterranean Sea and it insisted on the need to strengthen the capacities in the Mediterranean region to deal with such major accidents. The Algerian delegation informed the Meeting of recent measures taken to prohibit access to Algerian ports by single hull ships transporting heavy oil. It also presented the initiatives taken in Algeria with regard to prevention of accidents and refuge for ships in distress. The Tunisian delegation underlined the need to undertake emergency measures while waiting for the adoption of the new Strategy. The Italian delegation stressed the importance of European law on the issues raised and said that harmonization of this legislation at Mediterranean level was augured. The Maltese representative insisted that REMPEC should currently play a more active role and act as IMO's privileged partner in the Mediterranean. He said that the Centre should be more involved in the Mediterranean Memorandum of Understanding on port State control.

65. Finally, the representative of IMO recalled that the Organization should be the appropriate forum where regulations on the safety and protection of the marine environment had to be adopted.

66. The Meeting endorsed the outcome of the discussion, including the reference to the recent accidents which occurred in Algeria, and agreed on the fact that it should be taken into consideration when examining the draft Strategy for the implementation of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol under the next agenda item.

67. The representative of "Amigos Del Mediterraneo" introduced, on behalf of a group of seven Non-governmental organizations, the information document REMPEC/WG.21/INF.10 which contains the outcome of the meeting organized prior to the 6th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, proposing some actions to be taken at regional level in the field of prevention and response to marine pollution. The Meeting took note of the submitted document.

68. The representative of Monaco presented the document REMPEC/WG.21/INF.7/Rev.1 and expressed his concern regarding the absence in the Mediterranean of the recovery vessels of large capacity. He hoped that, under the aegis of REMPEC, an inventory of nautical recovery means with their detailed specifications be drawn up.

69. The Director of REMPEC recalled that Section 2 of Part B of the Regional Information Section was the appropriate place to include such information.

AGENDA ITEM 9: DISCUSSION AND PROPOSAL OF THE NEW STRATEGY FOR THE PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO THE POLLUTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM SEA-BASED ACTIVITIES

70. The Director of REMPEC introduced the document REMPEC/WG.21/9 that contained as an Annex a draft proposed strategy for the implementation of the New Prevention and Emergency Protocol. He informed the Meeting that a new strategy was necessary for achieving the goals that the Contracting Parties had in mind when the decision to revise 1976 Emergency Protocol was taken. He also informed the Meeting that the draft strategy was prepared by the Consultant who was engaged to carry out the evaluation of REMPEC, as part of the same task, in close co-operation with the Centre's staff.

71. Before inviting the Consultant to present the draft Strategy, the Director of REMPEC emphasized that the implementation of any new strategy depended primarily on the entry into force of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, and appealed once again to the Contracting Parties to complete as soon as possible the process of ratification of the new Protocol.

72. The Consultant, Mr. Peter Hayward, presented Annex I to the document REMPEC/WG.21/9 and its Appendices, explaining in detail actions proposed in the document and provided the Meeting with the rationale for inclusion of each particular item into the proposed strategy.

73. The presentation of the proposed strategy was followed by a detailed discussion in which a number of delegations took part. Following initial remarks by the delegations of Algeria, the EC, Malta and Slovenia that the document is too complex to be examined in detail in such a short time, the Meeting agreed to make only general comments on the proposed strategy and to request REMPEC to redistribute it to the Focal Points together with the comments made by the delegations in the present Meeting.

74. The Meeting also agreed with the proposal made under the Agenda item 8 by the Co-ordinator of MAP, and reiterated under the present Agenda Item by the Director of REMPEC, to convene an Experts Meeting in the beginning of September 2003 in order to finalize the proposed strategy.

75. The Director of REMPEC proposed the following plan and timetable for the preparation of the strategy

- Immediately after the present Meeting REMPEC will redistribute the present document to the national Focal Points together with the comments made by various delegations.
- National Focal Points will send their written comments and amendments to REMPEC by the end of June 2003.
- REMPEC will prepare a second draft document and distribute it to the national Focal Points by the end of July 2003. If necessary the Centre may request the support of a selected small group of national experts.
- An Experts Meeting will be convened 8 - 10 September 2003 in order to prepare the final draft strategy.
- The final draft strategy will be submitted for consideration and endorsement to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points scheduled for mid September 2003.
- The strategy endorsed by MAP Focal Points will be submitted for approval by the 13th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, scheduled for the end of November 2003.

76. The Meeting took note of the information provided by the Co-ordinator of MAP that the necessary funds for the organization of the Experts Meeting proposed for the beginning of September 2003 were not available in the budget of REMPEC for the current biennium. The Co-ordinator invited the present countries to consider providing financial assistance for organizing this meeting.

77. The delegations of Algeria, Cyprus, the EC, France, Israel, Slovenia, Tunisia and Turkey, as well as the representatives of IMO and INTERTANKO commended the work carried out by the Consultant and by REMPEC on the preparation of the document. They indicated that the proposal was very comprehensive and ambitious. Algeria emphasized the importance, within the strategy for the implementation of the new Protocol, of an integrated approach, uniting all the Parties. Unilateral initiatives taken by some Parties should not be detrimental for the others.

78. The representatives of the EC, IMO and INTERTANKO expressed the opinion that the proposed strategy appeared to be too ambitious and extensive, and might be beyond the capacities of an office the size of REMPEC, and that the duplication of actions already carried out by IMO or other relevant Institutions should be avoided.

79. The delegations of Algeria and Tunisia respectively noted that some of the activities included in the proposed strategy were very costly and expressed their concern regarding the possible lack of funds for realising such activities. In this regard they mentioned in particular the activities related to the emergency towing and to the setting-up of the vessel traffic systems (VTS).

80. The delegation of France invited the Meeting to adopt a pragmatic approach when assessing and discussing the proposal and noted that all actions to be included in the strategy should have a sound legal basis. As regards the funding of the planned activities France suggested that REMPEC

should contact common donor agencies with a view to obtaining financial resources necessary for the implementation of the future strategy. French delegation also pointed out that in order to avoid the duplication of efforts the information existing at the level of the EC should be utilised. Finally the French delegation suggested that the deadlines for the specific proposed activities should be agreed upon only after agreeing on the strategy itself.

81. The delegations of Cyprus and the EC were of the opinion that the proposals within the suggested strategy, which concerned the port State control, the standards of port State and flag State vessel inspections, and the standards and quality of seafarers, went beyond the scope of objectives and functions of REMPEC.

82. With regard to the proposed strategy the delegate of Israel informed the Meeting of the positive experiences his country had in the following fields: the eco-tax imposed since 1983 on fuel importers and vessels, the EC financed SISCAL satellite surveillance project and the coastal aerial surveillance. He also indicated the urgent need of MARPOL 73/78 training in his country.

83. The delegation of the EC provided an extensive information concerning ongoing and planned developments within the framework of the EC and suggested that the second draft of the proposed strategy takes into consideration the outcome of these activities which will become mandatory within the next year or two for almost a third of the Mediterranean coastal States. Besides he invited the Focal Points to take into consideration the following elements when amending and finalizing the proposed strategy:

- that most of the issues mentioned in the strategy are on the agenda of IMO and that the Mediterranean coastal States should be more present in this Organization;
- that REMPEC should be present in the Euro-Med Forum;
- that ratifying international Conventions means that these must be applied;
- that self evaluation forms submitted to IMO by the Mediterranean coastal States might be consulted when identifying the needs of these States;
- that the outcome of the current initiatives at the level of IMO regarding the problem of ballast waters should be taken into consideration;
- that the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) was recently established and that REMPEC should endeavour to closely co-operate with it;

As regards the timetable he was of the opinion that it was essential to immediately start with the procedures for defining places of refuge.

84. The representative of Tunisia stated that, within the proposed strategy, priority should be given to the field of port reception facilities, as well as to the aerial surveillance of marine pollution. He also pointed out the importance between traffic transiting the Mediterranean Sea and that calling in the Mediterranean ports.

85. The representative of the Greepeace International stated that his organization considered that the proposed deadlines for the ratification of various Protocols and the amendments to the Barcelona Convention were unacceptable and that these should be moved forward. He proposed that REMPEC focused its attention, as a matter of priority, to the traffic transiting Mediterranean and to the entry points, which were the Bosphorus, the Strait of Gibraltar and the end of Suez Canal. Control measures at these points of entry would allow to efficiently act on such transit traffic.

86. The representative of Amigos de Mediterraneo referred to document REMPEC/WG.21/INF.10 introduced under the Agenda Item 8 and emphasized that the deadlines suggested in the proposed strategy were unacceptable and called upon the delegations present in the Meeting to consider an immediate ban of single hull vessels transporting heavy fuel oils and of entrance into the Mediterranean and any port in the region of all single hull ships above 23 years of age. In particular

he emphasized the need for the introduction of an unlimited liability regime for maritime transportation of hazardous substances.

87. The representative of Intertanko invited the Mediterranean coastal States to take into consideration during the future work on the strategy, the comments from the industry.

88. The Meeting took note of all the comments made by various national delegations and by the representatives of the present governmental and non-governmental organizations and professional bodies.

89. The Meeting agreed:

- that the strategy should focus on the issues directly related to the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol and to the new mandate of REMPEC;
- that the ratification and effective implementation of the relevant international Conventions is essential for the protection of marine environment in the Mediterranean, and
- that REMPEC should play an important role in harmonizing the policies of the Mediterranean coastal States with regard to the prevention of pollution from ships

90. The Meeting decided to continue the work on the strategy for the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol in conformity with the plan and the timetable proposed by the Director of REMPEC and reproduced in paragraph 75 above.

AGENDA ITEM 10: PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2004/2005 BIENNIUM.

91. The Director of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.21/10 containing the proposed preliminary draft programme of activities for the 2004 – 2005 biennium, pointing out that in order to ensure the effective implementation of the proposed programme of activities, it was necessary to ensure that the present staff of REMPEC is complemented as described in the relevant paragraphs of the Progress Report of the Centre presented under Agenda item 4 (REMPEC/WG.21/4). The Director of REMPEC explained that the budgetary allocations for the proposed programme of activities are not included in the document. Nevertheless, it is expected that REMPEC budget in Euro, which the Contracting Parties approved for the biennium 2002-2003 during the 12th Ordinary Meeting held in Monaco, 14 – 17 November 2002 (UNEP (DEC)/MED IG.13/8, Annex V, page 3) will not change. The budget allocation for each proposed activity will be presented to the next Meeting of MAP Focal Points scheduled in September 2003, prior to their submission for approval to the 13th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention scheduled for November 2003. The Director of REMPEC invited the Senior Programme Officer and the two Programme Officers to present the relevant components of the proposed preliminary draft programme of activities that fall under their respective responsibilities.

92. The Programme Officer (Prevention) presented the section dealing with Prevention of Pollution from ships of document REMPEC/WG.21/10 explaining that this part of the document is divided into two sections: general orientations of future activities and actions, and specific activities. He pointed out that not all listed activities and actions will be addressed during the forthcoming biennium as the execution of the activities depended on the availability of the relative funding and on resources available at the Centre.

93. The Senior Programme Officer (OPRC) presented the component dealing with Preparedness and Response of the proposed preliminary draft programme of activities, pointing out that despite the adoption of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol, REMPEC will still carry out activities in the field of Preparedness and Response. He also gave a brief overview of the proposed training activities in the fields of Prevention, Preparedness and Response to marine pollution as outlined in the proposed preliminary draft programme of activities.

94. The Programme Officer (HNS) gave an overview of the proposed information activities of the Centre contained in document REMPEC/WG.21/10 highlighting the proposed enhancement of REMPEC's website and the need to introduce additional modifications to the Regional Information System (RIS) as indicated in Annex II and related Appendices of the document.

95. A large number of delegations expressed their support for the ambitious programme of activities that was proposed and whilst constructively commenting on the proposed programme, pointed out the importance of focusing on activities which were directly related to the mandate of the Centre and on the priorities which were established in the past. Various delegations also supported the proposal that the national authorities responsible for maritime affairs be included in the list of official contacts of REMPEC, in order to facilitate the implementation of the prevention element of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

96. The Italian representative informed the Meeting that Italy was committing itself to cover, for the period of the next three years, with a possibility of a further extension, the expenses related to the necessary recruitment of an assistant to the documentalist and of another assistant to the administrator of the Centre. This contribution will amount to USD 45,000 per annum.

97. In order to ensure a co-ordinated position for the Mediterranean on important specific issues related to the protection of the marine environment, the representative of Italy proposed to the Meeting the organization of a co-ordination meeting for the Contracting Parties during the next meeting of IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC). Several delegations supported the proposal of Italy.

98. The representatives of France referred to the proposed modifications to RIS contained in Appendix I to Annex II of document REMPEC/WG.21/10 and requested that Section 10 be retained in the modified list of RIS (Oil and Other Harmful Substances), so as to ensure that this topic remained under review.

99. The representative of the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG) briefed the Meeting on developments relating to his organization and informed the Meeting that MOIG has now established its own Secretariat in Tunisia. He reiterated the willingness of MOIG to co-ordinate and co-operate with REMPEC in all its future activities. In reply the Director of REMPEC expressed satisfaction with the establishment of MOIG Secretariat, which should contribute to the improved co-operation in the fields of common interest (training, exercises, assistance in case of emergency).

100. The delegation of the European Community expressed its support to REMPEC and stated that the European Commission would be willing to consider requests for assistance for the implementation of the Centre's programme of activities not only from the financial point of view, within the framework of the existing specific Community initiatives, but also in terms of exchange of information, particularly with regard to experiences gained through recent pollution incidents.

101. The representative of ERS/RAC expressed the willingness of his Regional Activity Centre to co-operate with REMPEC regarding the use of remote sensing for monitoring pollution of the marine environment from ships, and requested that reference to ERS/RAC be included in the activity item related to surveillance and detection of illicit pollution of the marine environment in Annex I (Preliminary Draft Programme) to document REMPEC/WG.21/10.

102. The representative of IMO endorsed the proposed REMPEC preliminary draft programme of activities in principle and proposed some minor modifications to the proposed programme. He pointed out that the Centre's activities in the Mediterranean region should reflect international rules and regulations developed at the level of IMO. He reiterated the support of IMO to the activities of the Centre particularly through IMO's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP).

103. Various delegations made specific requests for assistance related either to national or sub-regional requirements, which they requested to be taken into consideration in REMPEC's programme of activities for the biennium 2004 – 2005.

104. The Director of REMPEC expressed REMPEC's gratitude to Italy for its tangible support to the Centre and for its generous financial contribution, which will significantly increase the resources of

REMPEC. Regarding the Italian proposal to organize a co-ordination meeting during the next meeting of IMO's MEPC, the Director informed the Meeting that, upon request, REMPEC would assist in the organization of the said co-ordination meeting.

105. With regard to the specific requests of various delegations for assistance in the development of national and sub-regional systems, the Director stated that REMPEC, as always, would endeavour to consider all requests within the limits of financial and other resources put at its disposal. He drew the attention of the Meeting to the fact that all suggested bilateral and sub-regional agreements were included in the preliminary draft programme of activities, given in Annex IV to the present Report. As regards the requests for assistance at the national level, put forward by the delegations of Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon and Morocco, the Director indicated that such requests should be officially addressed to REMPEC by the competent national authorities of the countries concerned. He stressed that such assistance would be provided depending on the availability of funds that the Contracting Parties allocate to REMPEC. He recalled that the Centre's budget was finally decided by the Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. It was thus important that requests for assistance be supported in the Meetings of MAP Focal Points and of the Contracting Parties respectively by ensuring that the necessary funds are allocated in REMPEC's budget.

106. The Meeting approved the proposed preliminary draft programme of activities as amended, as well as the proposed modified contents list of the Regional Information System, which appear in **Annex IV** and **Annex V** to the present Report respectively.

107. The Meeting also endorsed the proposal that the national authorities responsible for maritime affairs be included in the list of official contacts of REMPEC.

AGENDA ITEM 11: OTHER BUSINESS

108. Ms. Khodjet El Khil, presented document REMPEC/WG.21/11/Rev.1, outlining the work that was carried out on the issue of prevention of pollution from pleasure craft in conformity with a recommendation of the Eleventh Contracting Parties Meeting.

109. REMPEC conducted a survey of national regulations applicable to the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft with a view to assessing the current situation. As a result REMPEC prepared a set of draft recommendations, which covered as priority fields those of pollution prevention and protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean. At the same time, the Institute du Droit Economique de la Mer de Monaco (INDEMER) produced a draft Convention on pleasure craft navigation in the Mediterranean Sea.

110. An expert meeting was organized in Monaco by the Monegasque Government in January 2003 in order to examine the draft convention taking also into consideration the work carried out by REMPEC.

111. The Monaco Meeting was of the opinion that it would be appropriate to continue the preparatory work within the framework of MAP under REMPEC co-ordination. It was also agreed to convene a second Expert Meeting by April 2003 in Monaco in order to try to harmonise the work carried out by REMPEC with that one by INDEMER.

112. The Monegasque delegation informed the Meeting that the expert meeting of April 2003 would be sponsored by Monaco.

113. Some delegations, as well as IMO, expresses the view that future work on this issue should focus on formulating some recommendations or guidelines, and the majority of the delegations agreed that REMPEC should continue to work on this issue with a view to proposing certain regional measures on prevention of pollution from pleasure craft.

114. The representative of IPIECA informed the Meeting of the long lasting co-operation between his organization and UNEP/WCMC in making available on the Internet the interactive environmental sensitivity maps.

115. In addition the Meeting took note of the following presentations made under this Agenda Item:

- by the Director of ERS/RAC on the on-going EC-financed VASCO Project and the use of remote sensing techniques for oil spill detection and monitoring in which REMPEC is involved.
- the representative of CEDRE, France, on the forthcoming European Workshop on Remote Sensing Techniques financed by the EC, to be held in Toulon, France, 2 - 4 October 2003. The participation of REMPEC was strongly recommended. In reply to the request of Algeria the representative of CEDRE indicated that the organizers would explore the possibility of participation via internet of the Parties and would inform REMPEC accordingly.
- The representative of Unione Petrolifera Italiana (UPI) on significant initiatives taken by the Italian Oil Industry in order to support REMPEC activities as well as the involvement of UPI in the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG).

116. The Meeting also took note of the document REMPEC/WG.21/INF.4 submitted by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on the Marine Pollution Emergency Response Support System (MPERSS), and of the information provided by Mr. Peter Hayward regarding the ongoing evaluation of the Centre.

117. The Secretariat took note of the remark made by several delegations regarding the need to organize important meetings during the periods that do not coincide with religious feasts.

118. The Meeting took note of the information provided by the Director of REMPEC that for the Conference referred to in the document REMPEC/WG.21/INF.9, the Centre would finance the participation of one participant from each Contracting Party.

AGENDA ITEM 12: APPROVAL OF THE REPORT

119. The Meeting adopted the present text together with its Annexes, as the Report of the Meeting, on Saturday, 15 February 2003.

AGENDA ITEM 13: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

120. In the absence of the Chairman, the Meeting was closed by the Vice-chairman at 13.30 hours, on Saturday, 15 February 2003.

ANNEX(E) I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

MALOKU Arben

Chief of Maritime Transport Department
Ministry of Transport and Telecommunication
SHESHI "SKENDERBEJII"
S.S. Toptani Street Nr. 4
Tirana

Tel: +355 (4) 22 62 28
Fax: +355 (4) 22 28 92
E-mail: beni2000al@yahoo.com

HASKO Gentiana

Director of Legislation and Foreign Relations
Ministry of Environment of Albania
Rruga e Durresit, No. 27
Tirana

Tel: +355 (4) 270 622
Fax: +355 (4) 270 627
E-mail: ghasko@yahoo.com

ALGERIA / ALGERIE

LAOUIRA Abdelhafid

Conseiller au Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Environnement
Av. des Quatre Canons
Alger

Tel: +213 (21) 432 857
Mob: +213 (61) 501 886
Fax: +213 (21) 432 848/ 432 857
E-mail: alaouira@yahoo.fr

GUELIL Djilali

Représentant de la Marine Marchande
Ministère des Transports
119 Rue Didouche Mourad
Alger

Tel: +213 (21) 74 36 89
Fax: +213 (21) 74 76 24
E-mail: dguellil@hotmail.com

ALGERIA / ALGERIE (cont.)

HOUDEL Belaid

Lieutenant Colonel
Chef du Centre National des Opérations de Surveillance et de Sauvetage (CNOSS)
Service National des Gardes Côtes
Forces Navales Algériennes
B.P. 81
Amirauté
16000 Alger

Tel: +213 (21) 71 41 08
Fax: +213 (21) 71 41 08
E-mail: N/A

NEMOUCHI Mohamed

Sous-Directeur des Ports
119 Rue Didouche Mourad
Alger

Tel: +213 (21) 74 75 10
Fax: +213 (21) 74 76 24
E-mail: mohamednemouchi@hotmail.com

DJAOUH Malek

Conseiller Diplomatique
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
Direction Générale des Relations Multilatérales
1 Place Mohamed Seddik Benyahia
El-Mouradia
Alger

Tel: +213 (21) 50 42 07
Fax: +213 (21) 50 43 35 (21) 50 42 42
E-mail: bichkek.rau@caramail.com

MOUMED Hachemi

Ingénieur HSE
SONATRACH (National Oil and Gas Company)
Cite FF
38/04 Boumerdes

Tel: +213 (24) 81 63 11
Fax: +213 (21) 67 61 53
E-mail: hmoumeddz@yahoo.fr

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE ET HERZEGOVINE

ALIC Ramiza

Environment Economist
Institute of Hydro-Engineering
1 Stjepana Tomica Street
71000 Sarajevo

Tel: + 387 (33) 212 466 (ext. 207)
Fax: + 387 (33) 207 949
E-mail: ramiza.alic@heis.com.ba

CROATIA / CROATIE

MIKULIC Nenad

Ministry of Environmental Protection
and Physical Planning
Environmental Protection Division
Ulica Republike Austrije 20
10 000 Zagreb

Tel: +385 (1) 610 65 58
Fax: +385 (1) 611 83 88
E-mail: nenad.mikulic@duzo.tel.hr

ANDRAKA Milivoj

Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Telecommunications
Harbour Master's Office
Senjsko Pristaniste 3
51 000 Rijeka

Tel: +385 (51) 212 474
Fax: +385 (51) 212 696
Mob: +385 (91) 542 52 00
E-mail: milivoj.andraka@pomorstvo.hr

STIGLIC Sonja

JANAF – Adriatic Pipeline
Ulica grada Vukovara 14
10 000 Zagreb

Tel: +385 (1) 3039 409
Fax: +385 (1) 3095 482
E-mail: sonja.stiglic@janaf.hr

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

EFSTRATIOU Ioannis

Marine Surveyor A
Department of Merchant Shipping
Kylinis Street, Mesa Geitonia
CY 4007 Lemesos
P.O.Box 56193, CY 3305

Tel: + 357 (25) 848 100
Fax: + 357 (25) 848 200
E-mail: dms@cytanet.com.cy

EGYPT / EGYPTE

EI Din RUSHDY Essam

Head of Central Administration for Marine Protection
Ministry of Transport
Maritime Transport Sector
4 Ptolemy Street
Alexandria

Tel: + 20 (3) 484 20 58
Fax +20 (3) 484 20 96/ 484 20 41
E-mail: mmt@idcs.net.eg

EGYPT / EGYPTE (cont.)

NAWAR Sameer Foud
General Manager of Security and Safety
Arab Petroleum Company "SUMED"
431 Algeish Avenue
Alexandria

Tel: + 20 (3) 584 6050
Fax: + 20 (3) 583 1297
E-mail: amairakna@sumed.org

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY / COMMUNAUTE EUROPEENNE

VINCENT Gilles
Head of Delegation
Directorate-General Environment
European Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Tel: +32 (2) 296 95 14
Fax: +32 (2) 299 03 14
Email: Gilles.Vincent@cec.eu.int

DE DIEU Jacques
Maritime Safety Unit
Directorate-General Energy and Transport
European Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Tel: +32 (2) 295 14 43
Fax: +32 (2) 299 03 14
Email: Jacques.De-Dieu@cec.eu.int

FRANCE

WEIZMANN Michel
Chargé de mission auprès du Directeur
Direction du Transport Maritime de Ports au Littoral
Ministère de l'Équipement des Transports du Logement et de la Mer
22 rue Monge
75005 Paris

Tel: + 33 (1) 40 81 71 37
Fax: + 33 (1) 40 81 70 30
E-mail: michel.weizmann@equipement.gouv.fr

GUERIN Xavier
Chargé de mission "Conventions Internationales"
Ministère de l'Écologie et du Développement Durable
Direction de l'Eau
20 Avenue de Ségur
75007 Paris

Tel: + 33 (1) 42 19 12 66
Fax: + 33 (1) 42 19 25 36
E-mail: xavier.guérin@environnement.gouv.fr

FRANCE (cont.)

MORNET Oliver Claude

Chef de la Division des Affaires Internationales
Ministère de l' Equipement
Secrétariat d'Etat aux Transports et de la mer
DAMGM/DAI
3, Place de Fontenoy
75007 Paris

Tel: +33 (1)44 49 8333
Fax: +33 (1) 44 49 8331
Email: olivier.mornet@equipement.gouv.fr

ERHARDT Jean-Bernard

Chef de la Division Action de l'Etat en Mer
Préfecture Maritime de la Méditerranée
BP.912
83800 Toulon Armées

Tel: +33 (4) 94 02 10 86
Fax: +33 (4) 94 02 13 63
E-mail: premartoulon_aem@hotmail.com

CALONNE Eric

General Manager Environment and Safety
Trading and Shipping Division
TOTALFINAELF
51 Esplanade du Général de Gaulle
La Défense 10
92907 Paris La Défense Cedex

Tel : +33 (1) 4135 20 89
Fax : +33 (1) 4135 64 45
E-mail: eric.calonne@totalfinaelf.com

PARTHIOT François

Délégué pour la Méditerranée
CEDRE
c/o IFREMER
BP 330
83507 La Seyne sur Mer

Tel: + 33 (4) 94 30 48 78
Fax: + 33 (4) 94 30 13 72
E-mail: Francois.Parthiot@le-cedre.fr

GREECE/GRECE

FEROUSIS Eleftherios

Director
Marine Environment Protection Division
Ministry of Mercantile Marine
109 Ipsilantou Street
GR 18532 Piraeus

Tel: +30 (210) 419 11 32
Fax: +30 (210) 422 04 40, (210) 422 04 41
E-mail: dpthap@mail.yen.gr

GREECE/GRECE (cont.)

LAGOUROS Alexandros
Marine Environment Protection Division
Ministry of Mercantile Marine
109 Ipsilantou Street
18518 Piraeus

Tel: +30 (210) 419 11 32
Fax: +30 (210) 422 04 40, (210) 422 04 41
E-mail: dpthap@mail.yen.gr

ISRAEL/ISRAEL

AMIR Ran
Director, Marine and Coastal Environment Division
Ministry of Environment
15a Pal Yam Street
71007 Haifa

Tel: +972 (4) 863 3500
Fax: +972 (4) 863 35 20
E-mail: rani@sviva.gov.il
rikis@sviva.gov.il

ITALY / ITALIE

VALENTINI Francesco
Director
Division for Prevention and Response to Marine Pollution
Ministry of Environment
Via Cristoforo Colombo, 44
00147 Rome

Tel: + 39 (06) 57 22 34 16
Fax: + 39 (06) 57 22 34 72
E-mail: SDM4@minambiente.it

ALATI Giuseppe
Dipartimento della Navigazione Marittima ed Aerea
Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti
Divisione Sicurezza Marittima
4th Floor
Viale dell' Arte, 16
00144 Rome

Tel: + 39 (06) 59 08 48 01
Fax: + 39 (06) 59 08 40 34
E-mail: alati.g@trasportinavigazione.it

GIANGRECO Roberto
Biologist
Division for Prevention and Response to Marine Pollution
Ministry of Environment
Viale Cristoforo Colombo, 44
00147 Rome

Tel: + 39 (06) 57 22 34 61
Fax: + 39 (06) 57 22 34 91
E-mail: Giangreco.Roberto@minambiente.it

ITALY / ITALIE (cont.)

BELLINI Mauro

Advisor
Technical Secretariat for the Safety of Maritime Traffic
Ministry of Environment
Viale Cristoforo Colombo, 44
00147 Rome

Tel: + 39 (347) 675 85 67
Fax: + 39 (347) 675 85 67
E-mail: blinus@sysnet.it

AMATO Ezio

Senior Scientist
Central Institute for Applied Marine Research (ICRAM)
Via di Casalotti, 300
00166 Rome

Tel: + 39 (06) 615 70 455
Fax: + 39 (06) 615 61 906
E-mail: eziamato@tin.it

GIORDANO Giuseppe

ENI S.p.A.
P.le Mattei 1
00144 Rome

Tel: + 39 (06) 598 25 677
Fax: + 39 (06) 598 22 141
E-mail: giuseppe.giordano@eni.it

DEL MANSO Franco

Engineer
Unione Petrolifera
Via Giorgione 129
00147 Rome

Tel: + 39 (06) 542 365 42
Fax: + 39 (06) 596 029 25
E-mail: delmanso@unionepetrolifera.it

LEBANON / LIBAN

WEHBE Samih

Expert – Petroleum Engineer PhD
Ministry of Environment
P.O. Box 70 -1091
Antelias - Beirut

Tel: + 961 (4) 522 222/(3) 43 43 46
Fax: + 961 (4) 525 080
E-mail: s.wehbe@moe.gov.lb

LEBANON / LIBAN (cont.)

AL HASHEM Michel

Lebanese Navy Headquarters
Lebanese Navy
Byblos -Kartaboun
Beirut

Tel: +961 (3) 30 38 32
Fax: +961 (1) 897 262
E-mail: mich.hash@hotmail.com

GSP LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

AMER M. Mohamed

Head, Office of Planning and Emergency
Environment General Authority (EGA)
P.O. Box 83618
El-Gheran, Tripoli

Tel: +218 (21) 48 400 43
Fax: +218 (21) 483 99 91
E-mail: ega@egalibya.org or
dr_amer@yahoo.com

MALTA / MALTE

PISCOPO Ray

Director
Environment Protection Directorate
Malta Environment and Planning Authority
St. Francis Revelin
Floriana CMR 01

Tel: + 356 22 90 15 84
Fax: + 356 22 90 15 85
E-mail: ray.piscopo@mepa.org.mt

VASSALLO L.C.

Executive Director - Merchant Shipping
Malta Maritime Authority
Maritime House
Lascaris Wharf
Valletta VLT 01

Tel: +356 21 250 360
Fax: +356 21 241 460
E-mail: lcvassallo@mma.gov.mt

MIFSUD Mario

Research and Development Manager
Merchant Shipping Directorate
Malta Maritime Authority
Maritime House
Lascaris Wharf
Valletta VLT 01

Tel: +356 21 250 360
Fax: +356 21 241 460
E-mail: mario.mifsud@mma.gov.mt

MALTA / MALTE (cont.)

COLE Joseph

Counsellor
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Palazzo Parisio
Merchants Street
Valletta

Tel: +356 21 242 191/221 269
Fax: +356 21 237 020
E-mail: joseph.cole@gov.mt

BUTTIGIEG John

First Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Palazzo Parisio
Merchants Street
Valletta

Tel: +356 25 968 370
Fax: +356 21 251 520
E-mail: john.buttigieg@gov.mt

MONACO

ANGRISANO Giuseppe

Contre-amiral
Délégué de Monaco pour la coopération internationale
Direction des Affaires Maritimes
Quai Jean Charles Rey
BP 468
98000 Monaco

Tel: +377 (-) 931 53 709
Fax: +377 (-) 977 73 001
Email: marine@gouv.mc

BOUCHET Pierre

Chef de Section
Service de la Marine
Direction des Affaires Maritime
Quai Jean Charles Rey
B.P. 468
MC-98012 Monaco Cedex

Tel: + 377 (-) 93 15 86 78
Fax: + 377 (-) 93 15 37 15
E-mail: pbouchet@gouv.mc

PLATINI Frédéric

Administrator
Co-opération internationale pour l'Environnement et le Développement
16 Boulevard de Suisse
58000 Monaco

Tel: +377 (-) 531 542 25
Fax: +377 (-) 53 50 95 91
E-mail: fplatini@gouv.mt

MOROCCO / MAROC

DAHOU Mohammed

Chef de Service des Stratégies d'Intervention
Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Eau et de l'Environnement,
Département de l' Environnement
36 Avenue El Abtal
Rabat - Agdal

Tel: + 212 (37) 68 10 02
Fax: + 212 (37) 77 27 56/ (37) 68 10 02
E-mail: mdahhou1@caramail.com

SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE

SOTLAR Zorka

Deputy Director
Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy
Environment Agency of the Republic of Slovenia
Regional Office Koper
Pristaniska 12
P.P.115
SI-6000 Koper

Tel: + 386 (5) 639 84 96
Fax: + 386 (5) 639 84 95
E-mail: miran.sotlar@go-kgzs.si

BREJC Natasa

Deputy Director
Ministry of Transport
The Slovenian Maritime Directorate
Ukmarjev trg 2
SI-6000 Koper

Tel: +386 (5) 663 2100
Fax: +386 (5) 663 2102
E-mail: natasa.brejc@gov.si

SPAIN/ ESPAGNE

ROSELLO Jose Luis

Head of Delegation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain
P.za Marques de Salamanca
28006 Madrid

Tel: +34 (91) 379 1744
Fax: +34 (91) 575 80 15
E-mail: joseluis.rosello@mae.es

ESCOBAR PAREDES Victor

Jefe de Area de Coordinacion Institucional
d.g. Calidad y Evaluacion Ambiental
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente,
Plaza de San Juan de la Cruz, s.n.
28071 Madrid

Tel: +34 (91) 597 63 56
Fax: +34 (91) 597 59 80
Email: victor.escobar@sgnci.mma.es

SPAIN/ ESPAGNE (cont.)

RODRIGUEZ CARBONELL Sergio
Head of Marine Environment Protection
Dirección des Operaciones
Protección del Medio Ambiente Marino
SASEMAR (SALVAMENTO MARITIMO)
C/ Fruela, 3
28011 Madrid

Tel: +34 (91) 755 9100
Mob: +34 (63) 005 9562
+34 (67) 079 9329
Fax: +34 (91) 755 9104
E-mail: lcc@sasemar.es

VECINO VARELA Adrian
Ministry of Environment
Plaza de San Juan de la Cruz,s.n.
28071 Madrid

Tel: + 34 (91) 597 6732
Fax: +34 (91) 597 5980
E-mail: adrian.vecino@sgcips.mma.es

SYRIA / SYRIE

MORJAN Hasan
Director of Environment in Tartous
Tartous

Tel: + 963 (43) 321 916
Fax: + 963 (43) 321 917
E-mail: N/A

DAYOUB Ali
Head, Marine Anti-Pollution Department.
General Directorate of Ports
Ministry of Transport
P.O. Box 505
Al Gazair Street
Latakia

Tel: +963 (41) 47 25 93
Fax +963 (41) 47 58 05
E-mail: danco@net.sy

TUNISIA / TUNISIE

SMAOUI Malek
Sous Directeur Protection de l'Environnement
Ministère de l'Agriculture de l'Environnement et des Ressources Hydrauliques
Centre Urbain Nord – Bâtiment ICF
2080 Tunis – Ariana

Tel: +216 (71) 950 173
Fax: +216 (71) 950 291
Email: malek.smaoui@voila.fr

TUNISIA / TUNISIE (cont.)

FARZA Heger

Directeur Central de la Marine Marchande
Office de la Marine Marchande et des Ports (OMMP)
Bâtiment Administratif
Tunis

Tel: +216 (71) 737 675
Fax: +216 (71) 735 812
E-mail : n/a

TURKEY / TURQUIE

KUÇUKAY Ufuk

Division Head
Ministry of Environment
Department of Foreign Relations
Eskisehir Yolu, 8.km
06100 Ankara

Tel: +90 312 285 3197
Fax: +90 312 285 3739
Email: ukucukay@hotmail.com

KIRAÇ Çem Orkun

Engineer in Marine Environment Protection Division
Undersecretariat for Maritime Affairs
Gazi Mustafa Kemal Bulvari, 128
Maltepe
Ankara

Tel: +90 312 232 3850 / 2244
Fax: +90 312 231 3306
Email: cemorkunkirac@denizcilik.gov.tr

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS
ORGANISATIONS DES NATIONS-UNIES

UNEP / CO-ORDINATING UNIT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)
PNUE / UNITE DE COORDINATION DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE (PAM)

CHABASON Lucien

Co-ordinator
Co-ordinating Unit for the MAP (MEDU)
P.O. Box 18019
Vas. Konstantinou 48
GR 11610 Athens
GREECE

Tel: + 30 (210) 727 3101
Fax: + 30 (210) 725 3196-7
E-mail: chabason@unepmap.gr

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)
ORGANISATION MARITIME INTERNATIONALE (OMI)

SAINLOS Jean-Claude

Senior Deputy Director
Sub-Division for Pollution Response and T.C. Co-ordination
Marine Environment Division
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
U.K.

Tel: + 44 (207) 587 3142
Fax: + 44 (207) 587 3210
E-mail: JCSAINLOS@imo.org

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRES OF MAP
CENTRES D'ACTIVITES REGIONALES DU PAM

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS (RAC/SPA) /
CENTRE D'ACTIVITES REGIONALES POUR LES AIRES SPECIALEMENT PROTEGEES
(CAR/SPA)

CEBRIAN MENCHERO Daniel

Biologie Marine
Centre d'Activités pour les Aires Spécialement Protégées (SPA/RAC)
Boulevard de l'Environnement
PB 337 CEDEX
1080 Tunis
TUNISIA

Tel : +216 (71) 797 349
Fax : +216 (71) 795 760
E-mail : car.spa@rac.spa.org.tn

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT REMOTE SENSING (RAC/ERS)

CANNIZZARO Giovanni

Director
RAC/ERS
Via G. Giusti, 2
90144 Palermo
ITALY

Tel: +39 (91) 34 23 68
Fax: +39 (91) 30 85 12
E-mail : ctmrac@tin.it

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE BLUE PLAN
CENTRE D'ACTIVITES REGIONALES DU PLAN BLEU

MIRAN Patrice

Chargé du Sector "Transports"
Centre d'Activités Régionales du Plan Bleu pour la Méditerranée (BP/RAC)
15, rue Ludwig van Beethoven
Sophia Antipolis
06560 Valbonne
FRANCE

Tel: +33 (4) 92 38 71 30
Fax: +33 (4) 92 38 71 31
E-mail: miran@planbleu.org

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN PARTNERS
PARTENAIRES DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERANEE

AMIGOS DEL MEDITERRANEO

DA CRUZ Humberto

Advisor
Amigos del Mediterraneo
Complutense University Of Madrid
C/Bibadavia, 12
28029 Madrid
SPAIN

Tel : +34 (91) 32 22 440
Fax : +34 (91) 323 89 55
E-mail : hdacruz@arkano.com

ROMERO OLID Maria Jesus

Environment Legal Consultant
Amigos del Mediterraneo
C/Sierra Bermeja, 40 8° D
28018 Madrid
SPAIN

Tel : +34 627 588 625
Fax : +34 (91) 323 89 55
E-mail : mediterraneo@ecodesarrollo.org

GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL

REBELLE Bruno

Executive Director
Greenpeace France
22, rue des Rasselins
75020 Paris
FRANCE

Tel: +33 (1) 44 64 02 02
Fax: +33 (1) 44 64 02 00
E-mail: bruno.rebelle@diala.greenpeace.org

LEGAMBIENTE

MASONE Ilaria

LEGAMBIENTE
Via Salaria 403
00199 Rome
ITALY

Tel: +39 (06) 862 681
Mob: +39 (338) 675 4723
Fax: +39 (06) 86 21 84 74
E-mail: ilaria.mansone@ticali.it

MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MIO-ECSDE)

RIGA Aphrodite
MIO-ESCDE
28 Tripodon Street
10558 Plaka
Athens
GREECE

Tel: +30 (210) 3247 490/3247 267
Fax: +30 (210) 331 7127
E-mail: mio-ee-env@ath.forthnet.gr

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNMENTALES**

INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION (ITOPF)

NICOLAU Alexander
Technical Advisor
ITOPF
Staple Hall, Stonehouse Court
87-90 Houndsditch
London EC3A 7AX
U.K.

Tel: + 44 (207) 621 1255
Fax: + 44 (207) 621 1783
E-mail: info@itopf.com

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT TANKER OWNERS (INTERTANKO)

WILKINS Tim
Environment Manager
INTERTANKO
The Baltic Exchange
38 St Mary Axe
London EC3A 8BH
U.K.

Tel: + 44 (207) 623 43 11
Fax: + 44 (207) 626 70 78
E-mail: tim.wilkins@intertanko.com

MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP (MOIG)
THE INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION (IPIECA)

DHAOUI Ridha
Chef du Dept. Sec. Env/ETAP
Représentant MOIG/IPIECA
27 bis avenue Kheireddine Pacha
1002 Belvédère
Tunis
TUNISIE

Tel : +216 (71) 782 288 p.t.e. 1610
Fax : +216 (71) 717 822 88
E-mail : dhaoui@etap.com.tn

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS/ AUTRES ORGANISATIONS

CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR MARINE APPLIED RESEARCH (ICRAM)

CHIERUZZI Tiziana
Technical Expert
ICRAM
Via di Casalotti, 300
00166 Rome
ITALY

Tel: + 39 (06) 615 70 428
Fax: + 39 (06) 615 61 906
E-mail: martinift@interfree.it

INSTITUT DROIT ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER (INDEMER)

VAN DER MENSBRUGGE Yves
Prof. Extraord Emer de la Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Av. Des Commorans 10
1150 Bruxelles
BELGIUM

Tel: + 32 (2) 771 87 80
Fax: + 32 (2) 762 0866
E-mail: N/A

RAMOGE

PLATINI Frédéric
Administrator
Co-opération internationale pour l'Environnement et le Développement
16 Boulevard de Suiss
58000 Monaco
MONACO

Tel: +377 (-) 531 542 25
Fax: +377 (-) 53 50 95 91
E-mail: fplatini@gouv.mt

CONSULTANTS TO REMPEC/ CONSULTANTS AUPRES DU REMPEC

HAYWARD Peter
Peter Hayward Associates
10 Court Lane Gardens
Dulwich
London SE21 7DZ
U.K.

Tel: +44 (208) 693 6282
Fax: +44 (208) 693 2005
E-mail: hayward.assocs@btinternet.com

CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS/INTERPRETES DE LA CONFERENCE

MALLIA Helena
Interpreter

SCERRI Annette
Interpreter

SECRETARIAT / SECRETARIAT

**REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)
CENTRE REGIONAL MEDITERRANEEN POUR L'INTERVENTION D'URGENCE CONTRE LA
POLLUTION MARINE ACCIDENTELLE (REMPEC)**

PATRUNO Roberto

Director

DOMOVIC Darko

Senior Programme Officer (OPRC)

SAMPATAKAKIS Elias

Programme Officer (HNS)

PACE Jonathan

Programme Officer (Prevention)

KHODJET EL KHIL Lilia

Technical Officer

STRANGIS Francesco

Junior Programme Officer

DORGEVILLE Emilie

Junior Programme Officer

FARCHI Christina

Junior Programme Officer

STELLINI Doreen

Documentalist

SACCO Christopher

Administrator

TABONE Michaela

Assistant to the Director

BONAVIA Amanda

Secretary

BORG Francesca

Secretary

ZERFA Anthony

Document Reproducer

REMPEC
Manoel Island
Gzira GZR 03
MALTA

Tel: +356 21 33 72 96/7/8

Fax: +356 21 33 99 51

E-mail: rempec@rempec.org

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Organization of the Meeting.
3. Adoption of the Agenda.
4. Progress report on REMPEC's Programme of Activities (2000 - 2002).
5. Mediterranean Technical Working Group.
6. Adoption and ratification process of the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution From Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol).
7. Developments within IMO related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC.
8. Implications of recent accidents.
9. Discussion and proposal of the new strategy for the prevention of and response to the pollution of the marine environment from sea-based activities.
10. Proposed programme of activities for the 2004/2005 biennium.
11. Other business.
12. Approval of the Report.
13. Closure of the Meeting.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.21/3/1	Provisional Agenda.
REMPEC/WG.21/3/1/Corr.1	Corrigendum.
REMPEC/WG.21/3/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda.
REMPEC/WG.21/3/2/Corr.1	Corrigendum.
REMPEC/WG.21/3/3	Draft Timetable.
REMPEC/WG.21/4	Progress Report (November 2000 - December 2002) Implementation of the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention Concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency. (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.21/4/1	MEDA Project on "Port Reception Facilities for Collecting Ship Generated Garbage, Bilge Water and Oily Wastes". (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.21/5	Mediterranean Technical Working Group. (Submitted by the MTWG)
REMPEC/WG.21/6	The Process of Revision of 1976 Emergency Protocol and the Adoption of the New Prevention and Emergency Protocol (Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea). (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.21/7	No working documents issued under this agenda item.
REMPEC/WG.21/8	Lessons Learnt from the "Prestige" Accident and Initiatives to be taken in regard to the 13 th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention: Proposal of a Meeting of National Experts. (Submitted by UNEP-MAP)
REMPEC/WG.21/9	The New Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to the Pollution of Marine Environment from Sea-Based Activities. ((Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.21/10	Proposed Programme of Activities for the Biennium 2004 - 2005. (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.21/11	Prevention of Pollution from Pleasure Craft. (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.21/11/Rev.1	Prevention of Pollution from Pleasure Craft. (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.21/12	Final Report of the Meeting.

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

- REMPEC/WG.21/INF.1 List of Participants.
- REMPEC/WG.21/INF.2 List of Documents.
- REMPEC/WG.21/INF.3 RIS/D/9: Equipements de protection personnelle et appareils de contrôle en cas d'accident chimique maritime, October 2002. (Submitted by REMPEC). (French Only)
- REMPEC/WG.21/INF.4 Report on the Marine Pollution Emergency Response Support System (MPERSS). Submitted by WMO. (English Only)
- REMPEC/WG.21/INF.5 European Workshop "Satellite Imagery and Illicit oil Spills - in Europe and in the Mediterranean", Toulon, France, 26-28 June 2003. Submitted by CEDRE.
- REMPEC/WG.21/INF.5/Corr.1 European Workshop "Satellite Imagery and Illicit oil Spills - in Europe and in the Mediterranean", Toulon, France, 2-4 October 2003. Submitted by CEDRE.
- REMPEC/WG.21/INF.6 Etat de procédure de ratification par la Partie algérienne du "Protocole relatif à la coopération en matière de prévention de la pollution par les navires et, en cas de situation critique, de lutte contre la pollution de la mer Méditerranée ". Submitted by Algeria. (French Only)
- REMPEC/WG.21/INF.7 "Lutte contre la Pollution". Submitted by Monaco. (French Only)
- REMPEC/WG.21/INF.7/Rev.1 "Lutte contre la Pollution". Submitted by Monaco. (French Only)
- REMPEC/WG.21/INF.8 Extracts from the Report of the IMO Marine Safety Committee on its Seventy-Sixth Session (MSC 76/23) referring to the "Prestige" incident. Submitted by REMPEC. (English Only)
- REMPEC/WG.21/INF.9 Regional Conference on the Implementation of MARPOL 73/78 and the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea" in 2003. Submitted by Greece. (English Only)
- REMPEC/WG.21/INF.10 The Outcome of the Meeting of a Group of Non-Governmental Organizations, organized on 11 February 2003, prior to the 6th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points. Submitted by: Amigos del Mediterraneo; Legambiente; Greenpeace; Mediterranean-Sos Network; MareNet; Mio-Ecsde; Nature Trust. (English Only).
- REMPEC/WG.21/INF.11 Information Note on the Meeting Held Within the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) during the Week 3-7 February 2003. Submitted by IOPC Funds. (English Only)
- REMPEC/WG.21/INF.12 Recommendations for the Prevention of Pollution and Adverse Environmental Effects from Pleasure Craft in the Mediterranean, Malta 2000-2001. Submitted by REMPEC.
- REMPEC/WG.21/INF.13 Support to Prevention: Remote Sensing to Support Oil Spill Detection and Monitoring. Submitted by ERS/RAC. (English Only)

REMPEC/WG.21/INF.14 Action of the Italian Oil Industry for REMPEC and the Mediterranean Sea. Submitted by the Italian Oil Industry Association. (English Only)

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UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan and Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols, 1997.

UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.11/10 Report of the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols, Tunis, Tunisia, 18-21 November 1997.

UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.12/9 Report of the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols, Malta, 27-30 October 1999.

UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.13/8 Report of the Twelfth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols, Monaco, 14-17 November 2001.

REMPEC RIS/A: Basic Documents, Recommendations, Principles and Guidelines Concerning Accidental Marine Pollution Preparedness, Response and Mutual Assistance, as well as Prevention of Pollution from Ships, January 2002.

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REMPEC/WG.18/14 Report of the Meeting of Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), Malta, 25-28 October 2000.

IMO International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC Convention).

IMO Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000 (OPRC-HNS Protocol).

IMO International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL 73/78).

IMO International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, and its Protocol of 1988 (SOLAS).

IMO Report to the Maritime Safety Committee, Annex 12: Draft Assembly Resolution. Guidelines on Places of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance (NAV 48/19, Annex 12), IMO, London, 8-12 July 2002.

IMO	Report to the Maritime Safety Committee, Annex 13: Draft Assembly Resolution. Maritime Assistance Service (MAS) (NAV 48/19, Annex 13), IMO, London, 8-12 July 2002.
IMO	International Conference on Liability and Compensation for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001. Adoption of the Final Act and Any Instruments, Recommendations and Resolutions Resulting from the Work of the Conference (LEG/CONF.12/19).
EU-EC	Directive 2000/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2000 on port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues.
EU-EC	Directive 2002/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2002 establishing a Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system and repealing Council Directive 93/75/EEC.
France	Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Environnement. Communiqué de Presse. La création d'une Zone de Protection Ecologique en Méditerranée, 27 février 2002.
UNO	United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea.
REMPEC/WG.15/6	Report of the First Meeting of National, Legal and Technical Experts on the Amendments to the Emergency Protocol, Malta, 23-24 November 1998.
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.189/1	Second Meeting of National Legal/Technical Experts for the Amendments to the Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention, Monaco, 2-6 April 2001.
REMPEC	Report of the Open-ended <i>ad hoc</i> Meeting of the Working Group on the Amendments to the Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention, Malta, 29-30 October 2001.
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.197/2	Report of the Third Meeting of National Legal and Technical Experts on the Revision of the Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention, Malta, 20-22 January 2002.
REMPEC	Report of the National Training Course on Preparedness and Response to Accidental Marine Pollution for Supervisors and/or On-Scene Commanders, Casablanca, Morocco, 7-10 January 2001.
REMPEC	Report of the National Training Course on Accidental Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response for On-Scene Commanders and Supervisors, Tartous, Syria, 7-10 July 2001.
REMPEC	Report of the National Seminar on the National System for Preparedness and Response to Accidental Marine Pollution, Algiers, Algeria, 2-3 October 2001.
REMPEC	Report of the National Training Course on Accidental Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response for Decision-Makers, Beirut, Lebanon, 3-5 December 2001.

- REMPEC Report of the Regional Training Course on Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Accidents Involving Hazardous Substances at the Ship-shore Interface (MEDEXPOL 2001), Genoa, Italy, 10-14 December 2001.
- REMPEC Report of the National Training Course on Strategies for Effective Marine Chemical Spill Response in Port Areas and Their Approaches, Ta' Kandja, Malta, 7-9 January 2002.
- REMPEC Report of the National Training Course on Strategies for Effective Marine Chemical Spill Response in Port Areas and Their Approaches, Tripoli, GSP Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 12-14 January 2002.
- REMPEC Report of the Subregional Training Course on Preparedness for and Response to Accidental Marine Pollution for Supervisors and On-scene Commanders from the Mediterranean Arab Countries, Alexandria, Egypt, 11-15 May 2002.
- REMPEC Report of the National Seminar on Liability and Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, Tunis, Tunisia, 9-10 July 2002.
- REMPEC Report of the Regional Seminar on Response to Oil and Chemical Spills for Government Administrators and Senior Managers (MEDIPOL 2002), Malta, 29 October - 2 November 2002.

ANNEX IV

PRELIMINARY DRAFT PROGRAMME

ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	BUDGET SOURCE
Prevention of pollution from ships		
<u>Analysis of current situation</u> “Mare Nostrum” Project Proposal on maritime transportation in the Mediterranean	To assess the risks of marine environment pollution in the Mediterranean in relation to maritime traffic.	External Sources
<u>Capacity building</u> Implementation of marine pollution prevention policies MEDA Project on Port Reception Facilities Extension of MEDA Project on Port Reception Facilities to Contracting Parties not participating in the Euro Mediterranean Partnership. Project Proposal or preventing operational marine pollution in the Mediterranean. Geographically limited pilot project on the surveillance and detection of illicit pollution of the marine environment	To assist the development of national administrative system and legislation to effectively implement and enforce international conventions for the prevention of pollution from ships. To support the development of required infrastructural resources through technical and pre-investment studies. To enable Contracting Parties to comply with MARPOL 73/78 Annex I and V. To support the development of required infrastructural resources through technical and pre-investment studies. To enable Contracting Parties to comply with MARPOL 73/78 Annex I and V. To assist the development of national administrative system and legislation to effectively implement and enforce international conventions for the prevention of pollution from ships. To assess the viability and effectiveness of the utilisation of remote sensing generated data for the enforcement of MARPOL 73/78 Annex I To provide legally acceptable evidence for prosecution of offenders To serve as a basis for the development of a Regional Pollution Monitoring and Warning System.	MTF EC MEDA Fund MTF / External sources External Sources (to be identified) External Sources (to be identified)

<p>Provide short term advisory services to individual coastal States which so request</p>	<p>To assist Contracting Parties facing specific problems related to the protection of the marine environment.</p>	<p>MTF</p>
<p><u>Development of regional co-operation</u></p>		
<p>Development of regional measures concerning prevention of pollution from pleasure craft</p>	<p>To take concerted action and measures at the regional level.</p>	<p>MTF / External Sources</p>
<p>Development and application of Earth Observation (EO) techniques in the field of marine pollution from sea based sources in cooperation with ERS/RAC and other specialized institutions.</p>	<p>To assess the viability and effectiveness of the utilisation of EO technologies for the enforcement of MARPOL 73/78 Annex I and Annex II and as a tool for planning and conducting response activities. To serve as a basis for the development of a Regional Pollution Monitoring and Warning System.</p>	<p>External Sources</p>
<p>Assistance to the countries in addressing specific issues related to the protection of the marine environment (e.g. AFS, ballast water, PSSAs, places of refuge, emergency towing).</p>	<p>To provide a harmonised approach by Contracting Parties to these issues.</p>	<p>MTF/External Sources (to be identified)</p>
<p>Preparedness, response and co-operation in the event of accidental marine pollution</p>		
<p><u>Strengthening regional mechanism</u></p>		
<p>i) Mediterranean Assistance Unit: a) maintaining the achieved level of intervention readiness;</p>	<p>To rapidly provide Contracting Parties (CP) with advisory services in case of marine pollution emergency (oil and HNS). To reduce the consequences of pollution incidents.</p>	<p>MTF</p>
<p>b) including additional fields of expertise and a wider range of participating institutions;</p>	<p>To extend types of expertise available to the CPs in case of emergency.</p>	<p>MTF</p>
<p>ii) guidelines and recommendations aimed at facilitating co-operation and mutual assistance in case of emergency, and/or consolidation of the adopted ones.</p>	<p>To facilitate the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol To facilitate mutual assistance in case of emergency. To reduce the loss of time when rendering /receiving assistance in case of emergency</p>	<p>MTF</p>

<p><u>Developing subregional systems</u></p> <p>i) supporting and facilitating joint activities within existing subregional agreements: Cyprus, Egypt, Israel Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia</p> <p>ii) promoting and assisting in the preparation and signing of new subregional agreements (within the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol). Croatia, Italy, Slovenia Italy, Malta, [Tunisia] Tunisia, Libya Syria, Lebanon Extension of North Adriatic agreement to other Adriatic countries</p>	<p>To ensure the necessary level of preparedness within such subregional systems.</p> <p>To increase the level of preparedness of the CPs to respond to major pollution incidents. To enhance pollution response capabilities of individual CPs.</p>	<p>MTF</p> <p>MTF ITCP¹ EC/LIFE¹</p>
<p><u>Maintaining and developing national capacities</u></p> <p>i) assisting CPs to establish adequate national systems for preparedness and response, including in particular national contingency plans, as well as local plans for port areas and their approaches;</p> <p>ii) providing short term advisory services, to individual coastal States, which so request;</p>	<p>To ensure that all CPs are able to provide at least the initial response to major pollution incidents. To facilitate mutual assistance in case of emergency. To ensure compliance with the requirements of OPRC and OPRC/HNS Protocol. To reduce the consequences of pollution incidents.</p> <p>To increase the level of preparedness of the CPs to respond to major pollution incidents.</p>	<p>MTF ITCP¹ EC/LIFE¹</p> <p>MTF</p>

Training		
<p>i) Workshops/seminars</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a) a regional workshop on the implementation of MARPOL 73/78 (Annexes I and V) and on the new international maritime conventions related to the marine environment.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b) a regional workshop on implications and lessons learnt from recent accidents</p> <p>ii) Exercises</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a) an alert and communication exercise</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b) participation in a full scale equipment deployment exercise</p> <p>iii) Training of trainers</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">- a subregional course on training of trainers</p> <p>iv) National/subregional training courses</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">- support to two specialized training courses</p> <p>v) Drawing up of a comprehensive training programme on prevention of pollution from ships.</p>	<p>To increase the capacity of the Contracting Parties to enforce applicable regulations. To facilitate transfer of knowledge. To facilitate adoption by the Mediterranean coastal States of new international regulations.</p> <p>To facilitate transfer of knowledge. To enable the updating of national/subregional preparedness and response systems.</p> <p>To test the efficiency of the regional communication and alerting system</p> <p>To facilitate the transfer of knowledge and provide officers in charge of spill response operations with experience in testing national systems for preparedness.</p> <p>To assist CPs in developing self-dependency and sustainability in the field of training on accidental marine pollution preparedness and response.</p> <p>To assist CPs which so request in organizing training activities.</p> <p>To enable systemic training of personnel at national, subregional and regional levels (in the field of prevention of pollution from ships)</p>	<p>MTF / External sources (to be identified)</p> <p>MTF</p> <p>External sources (to be identified)</p> <p>MTF</p> <p>MTF</p> <p>External sources (to be identified)</p>

Information		
Development of information system and technology (e.g. website, MIDSIS, Library , RIS, databases, publications)	To improve the availability of information on issues related to preparation, preparedness and response to marine pollution from sea based sources To improve the visibility of REMPEC and MAP activities in these fields	MTF External sources (to be identified)
Meeting of Focal Points		
Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points	To examine REMPEC activities (2003 – 2004) To give guidance for the activities to be carried out during 2006-2007	MTF

¹ to be approved by the respective funding mechanism

ANNEX V

**Proposed Modified Contents List of the Regional Information System
(oil and other harmful substances)**

- PART A: BASIC DOCUMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES CONCERNING ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS**
- PART B: DIRECTORIES AND INVENTORIES**
- SECTION 1 Directory of competent national authorities in charge of accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance and other relevant information.
- SECTION 2 Inventory of Centres of Expertise and Centres of Resources which can be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of a State, which so requests, in cases of emergency.
- SECTION 3 Directory of companies offering services in the Mediterranean in case of emergency.
- PART C: DATABANKS, AND INFORMATION SERVICES**
- SECTION 1 Description of the Centre's databank on hazardous substances and information services provided by the Centre.
- SECTION 2 Alerts and Accidents in the Mediterranean.
- SECTION 3 Mediterranean Integrated Decision Support Information System (MIDSIS-TROCS)
- PART D: OPERATIONAL GUIDES AND TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS**
- SECTION 1 Guide for combating accidental Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean.
- SECTION 2 Guidelines for the use of dispersants for combating oil pollution at sea in the Mediterranean region.
- SECTION 3 Concise dictionary of marine anti-pollution terms.
- SECTION 4 The significance of a Material Safety Data Sheet.
- SECTION 5 Personal protective equipment and monitoring devices for maritime chemical emergencies.
- SECTION 6 The TROCS database and its use in response to lost packages washed ashore.
- SECTION 7 Theory and practice of foams in chemical spill response.
- SECTION 8 Standardised classification system for chemicals accidentally spilt at sea.
- SECTION 9 Risks of gaseous releases resulting from maritime incidents.
- SECTION 10 Impact of spilled hazardous substances of human life and the marine environment.
- SECTION 11 Practical guide for marine chemical spills.