

INTRODUCTION

The Meeting of Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) has discussed and commented on the proposals prepared by the Centre regarding the activities for the period 1998 - 1999 of REMPEC in the field of preparedness, response and co-operation in case of accidental marine pollution.

The Meeting noted that the proposed programme is in line with and a continuity of the 1996 - 1997 programme and the Meeting confirmed the orientation of the Centre's activities.

The programme covering the period 1998 - 1999 is presented in this document.

**PROGRAMME FOR THE 1998-1999 BIENNIUM
FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF REMPEC
IN THE FIELD OF PREPAREDNESS FOR, RESPONSE TO AND COOPERATION
IN CASE OF ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION**

A. Concerning preparedness, the Centre should:

- i) continue to develop and maintain the Regional Information System and develop tools as an aid to decision taking;
- ii) focus its intent and action mainly on developing national systems for preparedness and response as well as adopting subregional contingency plans;
- iii) organize a training programme geared to the requirements of the region with special attention paid to providing assistance to States so they can deliver their own national training courses and by giving the priority to countries that need them the most. This will have to fall within the budget envelope of the Centre;
- iv) undertake and co-operate in activities with the appropriate organizations regarding preparedness and response to maritime related accidents involving hazardous substances that occur in port areas or their approaches;
- v) organize exercises so as to test the regional co-operation scheme;
- vi) prepare new provisions and procedures that will apply in the event of international co-operation and assistance;
- vii) continue and intensify the contacts and relations with organizations that represent the shipping and the oil industries with a view to developing co-operation between government and industry;
- viii) organize and maintain the Mediterranean Assistance Unit, MAU, in a state of operational readiness.

B. In the event of marine pollution, at the request of States, in compliance with its objectives and functions and due to account being given to the resources available, REMPEC must:

- i) highlight and provide technical advice and information that States may require and use accordingly the Regional Information System that was developed and that is kept up to date by the Centre;
- ii) activate the MAU to assist in responding to accidental marine pollution;
- iii) assist in securing and coordinating international assistance whether the equipment, products or strike teams are provided by government or industry;
- iv) endeavour to assist States, that have sustained damage, to disseminate information.

ACTIVITIES / ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION	
		1998	1999
<p>I. INFORMATION</p> <p>Collection and dissemination of information (e.g. guidelines, recommendations and technical documents) from other relevant organizations and from the shipping, oil and chemical industry.</p> <p>REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (oil and hazardous substances)</p> <p>PART A: Basic Documents, Recommendations, Principles and Guidelines concerning marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance.</p> <p>1. Guidelines related to the legal and financial aspects of mutual assistance.</p>	REMPEC		X
<p>PART B: Lists and Inventories</p> <p>2. Directory of competent national authorities in charge of accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance and other relevant information - SECTION 1.</p>	REMPEC	X	X
<p>3. Inventory of experts, equipment and products which can be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of a State, which so requests, in cases of emergency - SECTION 2.</p>	REMPEC	X	
<p>4. Directory of companies offering services in the Mediterranean in case of emergency - SECTION 4.</p>	REMPEC		X
<p>5. Complete computerization and maintain this part of the RIS.</p>	REMPEC	permanent activity	
<p>PART C : Databanks, Forecasting Models and Decision Support Systems</p> <p>6. Maintenance, utilization and updating of the partially computerized databank of the Centre.</p>	REMPEC	permanent activity	
<p>7. Acquisition of behaviour simulation models.</p>	REMPEC	permanent activity	

ACTIVITIES / ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION	
		1998	1999
8. Description of the Centre's databanks simulation models and information services which can be provided by the Centre.	REMPEC		X
9. Develop and maintain the database TROCS.	REMPEC	permanent activity	
10. List of alerts and accidents in the Mediterranean.	REMPEC	X	X
11. Directory of Mediterranean Ports.	REMPEC	X	
12. Directory of Mediterranean Meteorological Centres.	REMPEC	X	
PART D : Operational Guides and Technical Documents			
13. Associated risks of gases and volatile liquids spilled at sea. (Supplement)	REMPEC	X	
14. Impact of spilled hazardous substances on human life and the marine environment.	REMPEC	X	
15. Case histories describing hazardous material spills.	REMPEC		X
16. Priority list of substances.	REMPEC		X
17. Technical intervention files of an operational character by substance.	REMPEC		X
18. Guide of countermeasures for dealing with maritime incidents involving hazardous substances.	REMPEC	X	
II. ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WHICH SO REQUEST, IN DEVELOPING THEIR NATIONAL CAPABILITIES			
A. National and Subregional Systems			
19. Assistance to countries in developing their information sources at the national level by providing computerized material developed by REMPEC.	REMPEC	on request	
20. Providing assistance to countries which so request, to develop their national system for preparedness and response.	Consultant	on request	

ACTIVITIES / ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION	
		1998	1999
21. Providing assistance to countries which so request, for the preparation of projects for the acquisition of combating equipment which would be submitted to possible sources of international financing.	Consultant	on request	
22. Development of sub-regional systems for combating major marine pollution accidents: (a) Eastern Mediterranean (b) Adriatic (c) Central Mediterranean	EEC / REMPEC Consultant	on request X X	X X X
23. Providing assistance to States, which so request, for the preparation and development of bilateral operational agreements amongst neighbouring coastal States.	REMPEC Consultant	on request	
<u>B. Port Emergency Response System</u>			
24. Risk analysis: - Pilot project	REMPEC in cooperation with other organizations	X	X
25. Port emergency plan: - Pilot project	REMPEC in cooperation with other organizations	X	X
26. Decision support system: - Adaptation of CAMEO to Mediterranean Region - Pilot Project - Training	REMPEC in cooperation with other organizations REMPEC in cooperation with other organizations REMPEC in cooperation with other organizations	X X X	X X X

ACTIVITIES / ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION	
		1998	1999
27. Follow up of a communications network between Mediterranean ports for the exchange of information - feasibility study.	follow-up and coordination by REMPEC	X	X
III. TRAINING			
28. Regional training courses of a general type on oil and hazardous substances.	REMPEC	X	
29. Specialized regional training course on oil.	REMPEC		X
30. Specialized regional training course on hazardous substances.	REMPEC	X	
31. Regional training course for trainers (French).	REMPEC		X
32. Regional training course for trainers (English).	REMPEC		
33. Providing assistance to States, which so request in the preparation of national training seminars (assistance to two seminars per year).	REMPEC	on request	
34. Making available teaching documents for national training activities.	REMPEC	permanent activity	
35. Identifying training capabilities in the region for preparedness and response to accidents in ports.	REMPEC	X	
36. Preparation of a training programme on preparedness and response in ports.	REMPEC	X	
IV. CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY			
37. Organization of alert exercises aimed at testing the use of the standard alert message and communications network.	REMPEC	X	X
38. Organization of "paper exercises".	REMPEC	X	
39. Organization of "operational exercises with the deployment of equipment".	in cooperation with a Contracting Party or with the oil industry		X
40. Organization and administration of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit to assist combating accidental marine pollution.	REMPEC	permanent activity	

ACTIVITIES / ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION	
		1998	1999
41. Maintenance of relations and contacts with the representative organizations of oil and shipping industries.	REMPEC		permanent activity
42. Co-operation with the chemical industry (ICE project).	REMPEC in cooperation with CEFIC		permanent activity