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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**

9th Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional
Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre
for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.30/11
27 April 2009

Malta, 21-24 April 2009

Original: English

REPORT
OF THE NINTH MEETING OF FOCAL POINTS OF THE
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)

Malta, 21-24 April 2009

INTRODUCTION

1. The Ninth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) was convened in St. Julian's, Malta, between the 21 and 24 April 2009, pursuant to the decision of the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which agreed that a meeting of REMPEC Focal Points be organized during the 2008–2009 biennium (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/10, Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008).

2. The main objectives of the 9th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points were:

- a) to examine the implementation of the programme of activities of REMPEC since the 8th Focal Points Meeting; and
- b) to discuss and propose the programme of activities of REMPEC for the biennium 2010-2011 which will be submitted for adoption by the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in November 2009.

3. All REMPEC official Governmental Focal Points have been invited to nominate jointly and in consultation with all national authorities concerned their representatives in the Meeting. The participation in national delegations of observers representing the oil, chemical, port and shipping industries has been strongly encouraged. The invitation to attend the Meeting was also extended to the specialized agencies of the United Nations, other governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as to the international professional organizations and associations whose activities are relevant for the work of REMPEC.

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

ALBANIA	LEBANON
ALGERIA	LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	MALTA
CROATIA	MONACO
CYPRUS	MONTENEGRO
EGYPT	MOROCCO
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	SLOVENIA
FRANCE	SPAIN
GREECE	TUNISIA
ISRAEL	TURKEY
ITALY	

by representatives from the following United Nations Organizations:

- INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)
- UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME / MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP)
- INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) – MARINE ENVIRONMENT LABORATORY

by representatives from the following MAP partners/non-governmental organizations:

- INSTITUT DU DROIT ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER (INDEMER)
- INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE (IOI)
- INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION LTD (ITOPF)
- MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP (MOIG)
- MEDITERRANEAN OPERATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHY NETWORK (MOON)
- SEA ALARM FOUNDATION

and by representatives from the following other organizations:

- ITALIAN FEDERATION OF THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY (FEDERCHIMICA)

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

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. The Meeting was opened by the Director of REMPEC, on Tuesday, 21 April 2009 at 09.00 hours. The Director of the Centre welcomed all the delegations in the Meeting and highlighted the importance of the REMPEC Focal Points Meeting as the opportunity for the Contracting Parties and representatives from the industry as well as from other organizations whose work is relevant to the activities of the Centre, to share information. In this regard, he thanked those organizations which have replied to the Centre's call to exhibit some material and expressed the wish that next time more will join.

7. Mr. Paul Mifsud, UNEP/MAP Co-ordinator, welcomed the participants in the Meeting and stressed the importance of compliance with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. He pointed out that the main objective of the Meeting of Focal Points was to prepare for the forthcoming Meeting of the Contracting Parties, when the programme of activities proposed by REMPEC for the next biennium will be adopted. He also highlighted the need for increased co-operation between the components of MAP.

8. Mr. Stefan Micallef, Deputy Director, Marine Environment Division, IMO, welcomed all the delegations on behalf of the Secretary-General of IMO. He conveyed the deep appreciation of the Secretary-General of IMO to the Government of Malta, which hosts REMPEC, for the successful relocation of the Centre to new offices in Valletta. In his presentation, Mr. Micallef reminded the Meeting of the significant vessel traffic in the Mediterranean which has increased during the last ten years and of the consequent obligation of Mediterranean coastal States to be prepared to respond to marine pollution by implementing the OPRC Convention and the OPRC-HNS Protocol. He stated that REMPEC is a model for other regions and part of IMO's global strategy for technical cooperation. Mr. Micallef pointed out that 2008 was an important year for the IMO as it was the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention establishing IMO and the fiftieth anniversary of the entry into force of this Convention. The Meeting was also informed of developments within IMO related to the mandate of the Centre, and in this regard, specific mention was made of the entry into force of the AFS Convention, the OPRC-HNS Protocol and the Bunkers Convention. Moreover, significant progress was made with respect to achieving one of the two conditions for the entry into force of the Ballast Water Management Convention, namely, the tonnage threshold. Regarding the HNS Convention, he pointed out that it is expected that, pending approval by the Council, a diplomatic conference be held in 2010 to revise the Convention, with a view to its entry into force. Mr. Micallef then referred to the technical cooperation activities of IMO and recalled the IMO contribution to support the Centre's activities in the Mediterranean region. He then informed the Meeting of the IMO 4th R & D Forum to be held in conjunction with Interspill 2009 and concluded by expressing his satisfaction for the Centre's achievements in the field of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution in the Mediterranean.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Rules of Procedure

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

2.2 Election of Officers

10. The Director, following the practice of the Ordinary Meetings of the Contracting Parties, proposed Morocco, host country of the forthcoming Ordinary Meeting as chair, Spain, previous host country as Vice Chair and, in order to ensure geographical representation, Albania as Rapporteur. The Meeting unanimously decided to elect the following officers of the Meeting:

Mr. Mohamed Marzagui (Morocco)
Mr. Juan Otero Diez (Spain)

Chairperson
Vice – Chairperson

Mr. Sokol Kapidani (Albania)

Rapporteur

2.3 Working Languages

11. The working languages of the Meeting were English and French. Simultaneous English/French interpretation was provided during the Meeting. The working and information documents prepared by REMPEC were also available in both official languages of the Centre, i.e. English and French. However, the information documents submitted by Contracting Parties and other organizations were available in the original language only.

2.4 Timetable

12. The Director referred to the Timetable of the Meeting outlined in document REMPEC/WG.30/3/3/Rev.1 and drew the attention of the Meeting on the organization, on Day 2 of the Meeting, of the Intersessional Meeting of the GloBallast Regional Task Force.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

13. The Chairperson thanked the Meeting for supporting his election and proposed that the Provisional Agenda, contained in document REMPEC/WG.30/3/1, be adopted.

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

AGENDA ITEM 4: REMPEC'S ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT SINCE THE 8TH MEETING OF REMPEC FOCAL POINTS

15. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to introduce document REMPEC/WG.30/4/1 outlining REMPEC's activities since the 8th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points. Introducing this document, the Director of REMPEC explained that, in order to structure the reporting and the discussion on this agenda item, the presentation of this document will be divided into three parts in line with the structure of the said document.

16. With regard to Part I of the document relating to institutional developments, the Meeting was informed of the status of ratification of the Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, 2002 (Prevention and Emergency Protocol), provided in Annex I of document REMPEC/WG.30/4/1. The Contracting Parties which were still Parties to the 1976 Emergency Protocol were requested to speed up their accession process to the Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

17. The Meeting was then briefed on developments related to the Decisions taken by the Contracting Parties at their last Ordinary Meeting held in Almeria, Spain (14-18 January 2008). The Secretariat recalled the new reporting format decided upon by the Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, including the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, referring the Meeting to document REMPEC WG.30/INF.3. The Secretariat also, *inter alia*, drew the attention of the Meeting to the on-going exercise on the implementation of the ecosystem approach to MAP's policies and programmes. In order to implement this approach, data in the various fields of activities is to be collected. Further information on the consequences of this exercise for the activities related to the Prevention and Emergency Protocol was made available to the Meeting in document REMPEC/WG.30/INF.5.

18. Finally, the Meeting was informed of the work carried out by the MAP Secretariat through a Working Group on Effectiveness. As a complementary tool to the Reporting Format, the Contracting Parties had requested the Secretariat to develop and propose to their next Ordinary Meeting, a set of effectiveness indicators to assess the level of implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. It had been decided that, in order to implement this decision of the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat should propose, to MAP's Regional Activity Centre's (RACs) Focal Points, a draft proposal on effectiveness indicators related to their respective Protocols. Once discussed and agreed upon, the various sets of effectiveness indicators will be incorporated into one document by the MAP Secretariat

for consideration by the MAP Focal Points Meeting with a view to possibly adopt these indicators at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Marrakech, Morocco, November 2009). The proposed set of indicators for the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, appearing in annex to document REMPEC/WG.30/4/2, was introduced by the Secretariat, which specifically underlined the fact that the availability and accuracy of data to be used shall be the responsibility of the Contracting Parties, and that data provided by the Centre had to be considered as subsidiary.

19. The Chairperson invited the Meeting to take note of the information provided and to discuss document REMPEC/WG.30/4/2 with a view to agree on a set of effectiveness indicators related to the Prevention and Emergency Protocol. In this regard, the Chair stressed the importance of effectiveness indicators to assess the level of implementation of the Protocol.

20. The Director drew the attention of the Meeting on the fact that, once these indicators are adopted, the Contracting Parties will have to provide the relevant information and that the progress of the Contracting Parties towards the achievement of the established targets will be monitored.

21. All the delegations which took the floor expressed their general satisfaction with the proposed indicators. However, several comments and proposals were put forward, especially regarding the indicators related to port/flag State control and their relevant targets. The Secretariat circulated a working paper with revised indicators for consideration by the Meeting. After a final discussion, the Meeting agreed on a revised list of indicators reproduced in document REMPEC/WG.30/4/2/Rev.2. However, the delegation of Cyprus, referring to the indicator related to accidental spills, stated that it considered the "0" accidental spills target unrealistic and favoured a baseline based on accidents' data maintained by REMPEC since 1977, and proposed as a target an annual percentage decrease of accidents (e.g. 15%).

22. The Meeting expressed the wish that the effectiveness indicators related to the Prevention and Emergency Protocol be periodically reviewed and requested REMPEC to convey the wish of the REMPEC Focal Points to the MAP Secretariat.

23. It was also noted that although Resolution 1 of the diplomatic conference adopting the Prevention and Emergency Protocol provided for a list of international conventions, the ratification of which should be considered by the Contracting Parties, there could be a need to agree, from time to time, to also consider new international instruments which are clearly related to the scope of the Protocol.

24. The Secretariat then introduced Part II of document REMPEC/WG.30/4/1 on administrative and other related issues of the Centre. The Meeting was informed that, in December 2007, after refurbishment, the Maltese authorities had allocated to the Centre the use of "Maritime House", located in Valletta. The move of REMPEC to these new premises entailed extensive preparations as the Centre had occupied its former premises for more than thirty years.

25. As regards human resources, the Centre has during the last two years greatly benefited from the support of the Contracting Parties either by some voluntary contributions to supplement the available human resources as was the case for France and Italy or through the implementation of a contract as in the case of the EC MEDA funded SAFEMED Project. The Secretariat thanked France, Italy and the EC for this support which has allowed it to develop and implement its programme of activities, and expressed the hope that this support will be extended in the future.

26. The Meeting was informed about the financial situation of the Centre and the difficulties that the Centre was facing due to the fact that whilst the operating costs were increasing, the MAP's Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) budget had remained unchanged since 2004. This situation will have serious implications on the implementation of the programme of work of REMPEC for the next biennium as the Centre will not be in a position to finance the same level of activities or the same level of participation to its activities.

27. The Meeting was also informed about the implementation of more stringent security rules according to instructions received from the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS). In particular, it was pointed out that, as a general rule, the organisation of meetings and conferences in countries where a security phase higher than phase one was in force, shall not be allowed.

28. During the discussion on Part II of the progress report, the Secretariat was requested to indicate possible solutions to the budgetary constraints faced by the Centre in order to maintain its current level of activities. The Director replied that one of the options might be to seek involvement of the industry in public-private partnerships. This should be done whilst keeping in mind the objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (hereinafter referred to as "the Regional Strategy"). Another option, *inter alia*, would be to rely more on the expertise available within the national authorities. However, the Director stressed that the real solution was to be found at the level of the Contracting Parties which decide upon the MTF budget.

29. The Secretariat then introduced Part III of the report on the activities of the Centre. Reference was made to documents REMPEC/WG.30/5, REMPEC/WG.30/6, REMPEC/WG.30/7, REMPEC/WG.30/8 and REMPEC/WG.30/9 which contained detailed information on several fields of activities and which were to be dealt with under agenda items 5 to 9.

30. In the field of prevention of pollution from ships, the Secretariat stressed that when implementing external Projects such as the EU-funded MEDA Project on Euromed Co-operation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships - SAFEMED, or the GEF-UNDP-IMO Project entitled Building Partnerships to assist Developing Countries to reduce the transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ships, the Centre had tried to extend to the Contracting Parties which were not benefiting from these projects some activities which have a regional outreach.

31. The Secretariat informed the Meeting of the successful outcome of the joint submission by the Contracting Parties, co-ordinated by REMPEC, to IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) in order to give effect to the special area status of the Mediterranean Sea as regards MARPOL Annex V (Garbage from ships). The Meeting was informed that the MEPC agreed and decided that the Special Area status of the Mediterranean Sea shall enter into force on 1 May 2009.

32. It was pointed out that during the period under review, in the field of preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships, in accordance with its mandate, the Centre had monitored several shipping casualties and provided the Contracting Parties with technical assistance.

33. In both fields of activities, when providing technical assistance to some Contracting Parties, the Centre benefited from the support of experts from the Administrations of other Contracting Parties. The Secretariat pointed out that this was a practice that should be further developed but, in order to be in a position to do so, there was a need for the Contracting Parties to inform the Centre on the expertise that could be made available in their country and also to keep the Centre informed of programmes of technical co-operation relevant to its mandate.

34. The Meeting was finally informed about the development of information and communication tools of the Centre and its participation to regional and international meetings. The Secretariat introduced the improvements to the Centre's database on alerts and accidents and gave a presentation of the future website of the Centre which should be available by the end of 2009. It also presented the new REMPEC training course/seminar/workshop information dissemination CD Rom containing all the material related to the subject of the activity. The Meeting was also briefly informed the Centre's participation to regional and international meetings, underlining the linkage established between the regional Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) and the international IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group, enabling the Centre to benefit from worldwide expertise.

35. Delegations welcomed the new version of REMPEC's website and the improvements made in the alerts and accidents database. It was however pointed out that this database was not intended to be an alert warning system but should be used for statistical purpose.

36. Summing up the discussion on the document REMPEC/WG.30/4/1, the Chairperson insisted on the need for the REMPEC Focal Points to liaise with the MAP Focal Points on issues related to the activities of the Centre and especially with regard to the issue of financing of the Centre.

37. The Meeting took note of the information contained in document REMPEC/WG.30/4/1 and expressed its deep appreciation to the Maltese Government for the new premises made available to REMPEC.

AGENDA ITEM 5: COOPERATION AGREEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS

38. Document REMPEC/WG/30/5 related to the issue of cooperation with other partners was introduced by the Secretariat. It was recalled that this issue was also addressed under Specific Objectives 17 and 18 of the Regional Strategy.

39. The Secretariat stated that, in the field of scientific assistance for oil spill drift forecast, during the 2008-2009 biennium, the Centre developed a strong relationship with the Mediterranean Operational Oceanographic Network (MOON) with regard to operational use of forecasting and backtracking system for oil spills based on meteo oceanographic observations and models. The Secretariat informed the Meeting that a co-operation agreement had very recently been signed to formalize this working relationship and define the type of activities to be implemented together with MOON. In view of the valuable contribution of MOON to preparedness and response to marine pollution, the Secretariat strongly encouraged countries whose oceanographic institutes were still not part of the network, to consider joining it.

40. As regards cooperation with the industry, the long standing collaboration with the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) was illustrated through communication exercises. It was stated that the Centre intended to formalize its working relation with CEFIC through an agreement of co-operation. The co-operation with the oil industry, represented at the regional level by the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG), saw some interesting developments. It was envisaged that with the technical support of the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), which recently confirmed its willingness to support MOIG, and the assistance of the IMO, a joint mid term plan of activities was to be developed. The content of this plan will be further defined after the joint Regional Government and Industry Workshop on Co-operation, Preparedness for and Response to Oil Spills in the Mediterranean Sea scheduled to be organized in Marseilles in May 2009.

41. Finally, the Secretariat provided information on a new field of co-operation with entities specialized in wildlife conservation and the Meeting was informed of the actions taken by the Centre to develop a co-operation agreement with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), the MAP component specializing in biodiversity, which has already long standing relations with some of these entities, and to define the participation of these specialized entities in REMPEC training activities and possibly also their involvement when responding to cases of emergency.

42. A number of delegations welcomed the Centre's enhanced co-operation with the scientific community and other partners but expressed some concern about the possible financial consequences. The delegation of Algeria drew the attention of the Meeting on the establishment of the Oil Spill Response Company (OSPREC), a multinational company aimed at responding to Tier 2 marine pollution incidents in the Southern part of the Mediterranean and in the Western coast of Africa. MOON and MOIG called for cooperation with relevant national entities in Mediterranean countries where they do not currently have any correspondents, so as to increase coverage of their networks.

43. The EC delegation referred to the MAR-ICE Network (Marine Intervention in Chemical Transport Emergencies) recently established by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) aimed at providing remote product specific information on chemicals in case of HNS marine pollution incidents. It informed the Meeting that non-EU Member States could also utilise the services of the MAR-ICE Network by making a request to the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) of the EC's Directorate-General for Environment.

44. The Director informed the Meeting that the envisaged co-operation will be beneficial for both REMPEC and the involved parties. With regard to MOON, he informed the Meeting that the services made available by the network will be at no cost. This co-operation will in turn provide MOON members with the opportunity to participate in actual operational/emergency situations. The cooperation with MOIG will enable both parties to share the costs of organising training activities and workshops.

AGENDA ITEM 6: MEDITERRANEAN TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (MTWG)

45. The Secretariat introduced document REMPEC/WG.30/6/1 which reported on progress made with respect to tasks assigned to the MTWG by the 8th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, which were to develop:

- Guidelines on Shorelines Cleanup Assessment;
- a Decision Support Tool on Waste Management; and
- Technical Guidelines on Sunken Oil Assessment and Removal Techniques.

46. The Secretariat thanked the Contracting Parties for having designated appropriate national entities and/or officials as contact points for the MTWG activities and for their contributions which enabled the MTWG to reach its objectives. The Secretariat also extended its gratitude to the IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group and other entities for their support in implementing these activities.

47. The Secretariat first introduced the draft Mediterranean Guidelines on Oiled Shoreline Assessment. While describing the content of the guidelines, it was highlighted that compared to other existing guidelines on the matter, the Mediterranean Guidelines focusing on the region were simpler and designed with a didactic approach enabling non professional surveyors to carry out field missions. The Meeting was informed that, following the finalization of the document, a pilot training course would be organised by REMPEC during the biennium 2010-2011.

48. The Meeting took note of the work carried out by the MTWG for the development of the Mediterranean Guidelines on Oiled Shoreline Assessment and agreed to continue supporting this initiative by providing the Secretariat with digital pictures of Mediterranean shoreline types, for the finalization of the Guidelines. The Meeting also agreed to request the Secretariat to integrate the final version of the Mediterranean Guidelines on Oiled Shoreline Assessment in the Centre's Regional Information System (RIS) and to disseminate it to the Contracting Parties.

49. As for the development of a Mediterranean Waste Management Decision Support Tool, the Secretariat recalled that the draft Mediterranean Waste Management Decision Support Tool was developed with a view to assist each Mediterranean coastal State to prepare a complete and operational oil spill waste management plan including the identification of the best oil spill waste treatment. It was highlighted that the MTWG completed Phase I (Mediterranean Oil Spill Waste Management Study) of the project. The revision of Phase II (Development of a draft Mediterranean Oil Spill Waste Management Decision Support Tool) by the MTWG with the support of the IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group would be initiated immediately after the present Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points in order to set the basis for Phase III (Electronic version of the Mediterranean Oil Spill Waste Management Decision support tool). The Secretariat explained that the development of all potential sections of an Oil Spill Waste Management Plan would be assisted by and integrated in the Application and that it would also assist the user to choose waste streams knowing the type of waste and the facilities existing in the country.

50. The Meeting took note of the work carried by the MTWG on the draft Mediterranean Oil Spill Waste Management Decision Support Tool and the work still to be carried out, and encouraged the MTWG nominees to provide comments on the Draft Decision Tool by not later than 13 July 2009.

51. Addressing the issue of sunken oil, the Secretariat informed the Meeting that the 56th Session of IMO's MEPC agreed to include, in the programme of work of the OPRC-HNS Technical Group, the development of technical Guidelines on Sunken Oil Assessment and Removal Techniques. In this connection, the Secretariat updated the Meeting on the situation and thanked Italy for taking the lead in the international forum to develop the Guidelines.

52. The Meeting took note of the work being carried out on sunken oil assessment and removal techniques.

53. Whilst expressing their appreciation for the work undertaken by the MTWG to date, several delegations suggested the organization of a workshop for the MTWG members to present and discuss the final outputs of the work of the Group. The Secretariat took note of the request and indicated that it would consider the organization of such a meeting if funds are available.

54. The Secretariat then introduced document REMPEC/WG.30/6/2 on the proposed future possible work of the MTWG.

55. The Secretariat informed the Meeting that the assessment carried out by the Centre in relation to the Regional Government and Industry Workshop on Co-operation, Preparedness for and Response to Oil Spills in the Mediterranean Sea (11-12 May 2009, Marseilles, France) was used with a view to identify potential subjects for the MTWG. The assessment revealed that little or no information on dispersant related issues was provided in the Country Profiles filled-in by the Contracting Parties. Moreover, it was pointed out that the Guidelines for the Use of Dispersants for Combating Oil Pollution at Sea in the Mediterranean Region had not been revised since October 1998 and consequently would require changes to reflect the current situation in the Mediterranean region and the dispersant technologies presently used.

56. The Secretariat introduced the issue of hazardous and noxious substances and took the opportunity to update the Meeting on the OPRC-HNS Protocol ratification status in the Mediterranean region. Reference was also made to several countries having requested assistance during the current biennium for the implementation of the OPRC-HNS Protocol.

57. Whilst referring to the need to update the Mediterranean Integrated Decision Support Information System (MIDSIS-TROCS) Version 2.0, the Secretariat invited the Meeting to mandate the MTWG to initiate the revision of MIDSIS-TROCS in its programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011. In this respect, it was noted that the Centre would be looking for partners to implement this project.

58. Answering a question from the floor regarding the need for REMPEC Focal Points to nominate new members of the MTWG, the Director pointed out that there will be a need for the Focal Points to designate new members for the MTWG having the required expertise. In this regard, the Centre could assist by providing some terms of reference when inviting the Focal Points to nominate these new members.

59. The Meeting endorsed the Secretariat's proposal to include, in the future programme of work of the MTWG (2010-2011), the revision of the Guidelines for the Use of Dispersants for Combating Oil Pollution at Sea in the Mediterranean Region, adopted by the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (UNEP (OCA)/MED IG.3/5, Appendix I, Antalya, Turkey 15 October 1993), as well as the initialisation of the revision of the Mediterranean Integrated Decision Support Information System (MIDSIS-TROCS) Version 2.0.

AGENDA ITEM 7: IMPROVEMENT OF THE LEVEL OF ENFORCEMENT OF MARPOL CONVENTION ANNEX I IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

60. The Meeting considered document REMPEC/WG.30/7 which provided a comprehensive overview of the activities carried out by REMPEC in the field of prevention of illicit discharges from ships since the adoption, in 2002, of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

61. When introducing the document, the Secretariat recalled that these activities were mainly related to two key issues, which are also addressed within the Regional Strategy, namely the improvement of monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges and the improvement of the level of enforcement and the prosecution of discharge offenders. It was also highlighted that the document contains some proposals for future activities in the field of illicit discharges from ships that the Meeting was invited to consider for their inclusion in the Centre's programme of work for 2010-2011.

62. The Meeting was then provided with a detailed overview of the document. Firstly, some of the main activities carried out by the Centre in the field of monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges were recalled, including several pilot projects based on satellite monitoring of sea based oil pollution as well as a feasibility study concerning the establishment of aerial surveillance at national level.

63. Moreover, the Secretariat provided some information on the coordinated surveillance operation in the Western Mediterranean Sea, to be carried out before the end of 2009, with a view to further enhance operational co-operation in combating illicit discharges in the region.

64. The Secretariat also referred to the results of an assessment carried out by REMPEC which highlighted gaps and deficiencies in many of the national legal, judicial and administrative systems to address illicit discharges of oil at sea. Corrective actions were recommended to develop and strengthen the legal and institutional framework of the countries assessed. Provision of expertise was desirable to develop or revise national legislation, and training and awareness raising activities were needed for the personnel of the competent national authorities, particularly legal personnel, as well as for public prosecutors and magistrates.

65. The Secretariat detailed the efforts of the Centre to raise awareness and knowledge on legal issues related to illicit discharges of oil, particularly by referring to a regional seminar (MEDEXPOL 2007) organized by REMPEC in November 2007, which was specifically dedicated to investigation, collection of evidence, penalties and prosecution. It was recalled that further activities of the same nature in the region were called for by the participants in the Seminar, who also recognized the benefits of establishing a network of magistrates in the region to exchange information and experience. The Secretariat indicated that such a network was initiated after the Seminar, and encouraged Mediterranean coastal States which did not yet do so, to join the initiative.

66. A number of delegations thanked REMPEC for the work it is carrying out in the field of prevention of operational pollution from ships and, in this regard, suggested other relevant initiatives which could be undertaken by REMPEC. Some delegations also informed the Meeting of a number of projects being undertaken at the national level to enhance the knowledge of the provisions of the MARPOL Convention and to improve their enforcement.

67. The Meeting generally agreed on the importance of the issue of illicit discharges from ships and on the need to enhance co-operation, exchange of information and experience in the region, and endorsed the Centre's strategic direction in dealing with this important issue. In this regard, delegations called for urgent action and further support from the Centre especially with respect to procedures related to prosecution of illicit discharges offenders. The delegation of Tunisia expressed its wish to be able to benefit from such support.

68. The delegation of Cyprus expressed its appreciation to the Centre for financing the preparation of a feasibility study on aerial surveillance for the maritime area of Cyprus and to France for offering the experts to conduct the study. In response, the French delegation thanked REMPEC and Cyprus for providing its experts with the opportunity to co-operate and share their experiences with the competent national authorities of another Contracting Party since this was also of benefit to its experts. France offered, with the support of REMPEC, similar technical assistance to other Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

69. The delegation of France informed the Meeting that in line with the work being carried out by REMPEC to improve the level of enforcement of Annex I of MARPOL, a World Bank financed seminar is being organized in line with the objectives of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in June 2009 in Marseilles with a view to establishing a network of inspectors and magistrates to exchange information and experience on the issue of illicit discharges from ships. The Centre was already invited to participate in this event and France invited all the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to participate in the seminar.

70. The Meeting then examined a proposal of the Secretariat for the creation of an internet-based tool to be used as the forum to exchange experience and information on the prevention of illicit discharges from ships and related legislation. A number of delegations welcomed this proposal which will facilitate the dissemination of information on best practices related to surveillance of operational pollution from ships and on legislation implementing MARPOL Annex I provisions.

71. The Meeting took note of the information provided in document REMPEC/WG.30/7, endorsed the activities proposed by the Centre for the next biennium in the field of illicit discharges at sea, and agreed with the proposal of REMPEC to establish an internet accessible forum for the exchange of information on legislation and any other relevant information on the enforcement of MARPOL Annex I regulations.

AGENDA ITEM 8: DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE EC/MEDA FINANCED PROJECT ON EUROMED COOPERATION ON MARITIME SAFETY AND PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (SAFEMED)

72. The Meeting considered document REMPEC/WG.30/8 regarding the implementation of the European Union (EU) financed MEDA regional project Euromed Co-operation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships – SAFEMED. In introducing this document, the Secretariat recalled that, during the last two meetings of REMPEC Focal Points, it had already provided information on this project which the Centre is implementing in ten Euromed Mediterranean partners with the support of IMO, EC and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). The Project, aimed at addressing the existing imbalance in the application of maritime legislation in the Mediterranean region, was originally scheduled to end on the 31 December 2008. However, the operational implementation phase of the project was extended up to the end of June 2009.

73. The Secretariat explained that the activities of the SAFEMED Project included needs assessment missions, preparation of studies, provision of direct technical assistance, development of recommendations and guidelines, and capacity building activities including *inter alia* training. The Meeting was provided with a detailed status report on the project activities implemented between January 2006 and February 2009 (including their outputs) and was informed that when the project is finally concluded it is anticipated that all the tasks will have been implemented successfully. Particular reference was made to the Study on Maritime Traffic Flows in the Mediterranean and the related Geographical Information System (GIS) financed by the Project which was demonstrated during the Meeting as well as to the Project's website (www.safemedproject.org) which provides extensive information on the project including project reports and documents. It was pointed out that several outputs of the Project not only assisted the project beneficiaries but also the Mediterranean coastal States at large.

74. The Meeting was also informed that, as announced during the last REMPEC Focal Points Meeting, in view of the achievements of the SAFEMED Project, now referred to as the "SAFEMED I Project", the EC and the Mediterranean partners agreed on a second EU-financed MEDA regional SAFEMED Project (SAFEMED II). The SAFEMED II Project will be implemented by REMPEC between 2009 and 2011. Reference was made to document REMPEC/WG.30/INF.6 which provides a summary of the Technical Annex of the SAFEMED II Project.

75. The Secretariat informed the Meeting that, as was the case for the SAFEMED I Project, in view of the fact that most of the SAFEMED II Project activities are closely linked to some of the specific objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, REMPEC has included some of the activities of the SAFEMED II Project in the proposed programme of work of the Centre for the biennium 2010-2011. It was explained that this was done to ensure synergy with the activities of REMPEC as well as to ensure the participation of those Contracting Parties not benefiting from the Project in SAFEMED II activities.

76. A number of delegations which benefited from the project took the floor to express their appreciation to REMPEC for the work carried out within the framework of the SAFEMED I Project which assisted them in enhancing the level of implementation of international maritime conventions. The EC delegation, whilst expressing its satisfaction with the level of implementation of SAFEMED I Project activities, stated that efforts were being made by the EC services to identify funds to finance the participation in some SAFEMED II activities of other non-EU countries forming part of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). The EC representative invited all SAFEMED beneficiaries to continue with their active participation in the activities of the project with a view to ensure that they obtained full benefit from the project. The EC delegation also informed the Meeting of the recent adoption, at the European Union level, of the Third Maritime Safety Package which is expected to be published in May 2009.

77. Some delegations expressed their wish that the SAFEMED II Project could provide technical assistance with regard to the issue of Long Range Identification and Tracking System (LRIT). In reply, the Secretariat stated that as the project beneficiaries were not all at the same level as regards Vessel Traffic Management and Information Systems (VTMIS), this issue will be dealt with on a case by case basis. Referring to previous interventions, the IMO Representative informed the Meeting of

the availability of IMO's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) to assist Mediterranean coastal States on the issue of LRIT.

78. The delegation of Algeria informed the Meeting of a national project to establish VTMS for Algerian waters. The representative of Morocco took the opportunity to inform the Meeting of a proposal to be submitted to IMO regarding an improvement of the existing Vessel Traffic Separation Scheme (VTS) in the Straits of Gibraltar and requested the support of all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for this proposal.

79. The Meeting welcomed the development of the Geographical Information System (GIS) on Maritime Traffic Flows in the Mediterranean developed within the framework of the SAFEMED I Project and acknowledged that this tool could provide valuable information in relation to other issues currently on the work programme of the Centre such as, for example, ships' ballast water management.

80. The Meeting took note of the information provided in document REMPEC/WG.30/8.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SHIPS' BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT AND INVASIVE SPECIES

81. The Meeting noted the information provided by the Secretariat in document REMPEC/WG.30/9 with respect to the status of implementation of a five year Project, entitled Building Partnerships to assist Developing Countries to Reduce the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ships (Globallast Partnerships), which REMPEC started implementing in 2008, in collaboration with the MAP's RAC/SPA. Details were provided on capacity building activities carried out with the GloBallast Partnerships in 2008 in Egypt and Turkey with the support of the Centre. The Meeting also took note of the establishment of a Regional Task Force (RTF), composed of representatives of the Contracting Parties, IMO, REMPEC (acting as Secretariat) and RAC/SPA, and whose mandate and objectives were agreed upon during the First Meeting of the Regional Task Force (Croatia, Dubrovnik, 11-12 September 2008). The Secretariat reported on the work carried out by the RTF, currently being chaired by Croatia, with a view to developing a regional strategy addressing ships' ballast water management and invasive species in the region. The Secretariat recalled that the RTF had, during its first Meeting, agreed that the regional strategy should be integrated within the MAP system and its instruments and policy.

82. Following the presentation by the Secretariat, the representative of IMO, whilst encouraging the Contracting Parties which did not yet do so to ratify the Ballast Water Management Convention, highlighted the importance of developing a regional strategy on ships' ballast water for implementation in the Mediterranean, also taking into account into neighbouring regional seas namely, the Black Sea and the Red Sea. He also encouraged the Mediterranean coastal States to inform IMO and REMPEC of relevant activities and initiatives taken at national level. He finally assured the Meeting that IMO-GloBallast would continue to support the efforts of REMPEC and of the Mediterranean countries to address efficiently the issue of ships' ballast water management and invasive species.

83. The Meeting was informed of actions taken at national level by Croatia, which established a system of notification of ships calling at Croatian ports and also adopted national ballast water legislation. The Meeting was also informed of a proposal from all the Adriatic countries to designate the Adriatic Sea as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA), with measures related to ballast water management. The proposal was expected to be presented to the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) in due course.

84. The representative of MOON offered to provide oceanographic data to help identify best strategies in the region for ships' ballast water management. The Meeting welcomed the offer of MOON.

85. The Meeting recognized the importance to address, at a regional level, the issue of ship-mediated invasive species introduction, expressed its appreciation for the work accomplished so far by the Regional Task Force in that respect, and endorsed the initiative leading to the development of a Regional Strategy to address this issue to be adopted by 2012 within the framework of the MAP.

Consequently, the Meeting requested the Secretariat to present the initiative to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for approval.

AGENDA ITEM 10: PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF REMPEC ACTIVITIES FOR BIENNIUM 2010/2011

86. The document REMPEC/WG.30/10 containing the proposed programme of REMPEC activities for biennium 2010/2011 was then considered by the Meeting.

87. The Secretariat explained that the proposed programme of work had to be consistent with the five year indicative work programme of MAP and also highlight the relevance of proposed activities to MAP programmes and policies. In the case of REMPEC, the draft programme is still based on the implementation of the Regional Strategy as this is the main instrument to ensure an effective implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol. In this regard, the Meeting was reminded that although there is no scheduled mid-term review of the level of implementation of the Regional Strategy agreed to by the Contracting Parties, the implementation level will be indirectly assessed in the next biennium as a review of the implementation of MAP's Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) will be conducted in 2010.

88. It was highlighted that the main objectives of the Centre's proposed programme of work concentrate on the facilitation of ratification and enforcement of IMO relevant conventions, the enhancing of the level of preparedness and cooperation in the field of response to marine pollution, and strengthening the governance of the Mediterranean Sea by participating in dedicated projects and enhancing the availability of information. It was also pointed out that the proposed programme of work was also reflecting an enhanced cooperation between the various MAP components.

89. The Secretariat explained that the draft programme of work had also taken into account the various activities that will be implemented by the Centre within other projects such as SAFEMED II and Globallast Partnerships. As far as possible, the Centre had tried to extend the participation to project activities which could have a regional outreach, to all Contracting Parties. However, in view of the current financial constraints of the Centre, it will not be possible to finance such participation in all project activities. It was also explained that the proposed programme of work had been built on the financial assumption that only one participant from each Contracting Party will be sponsored for each event. In this regard, the Secretariat called on the Contracting Parties to consider in kind contributions by hosting and sponsoring some activities of the Centre. As has already been the case, in kind contributions could take the form of providing free expertise to assist in the implementation of technical activities. Such assistance will also strengthen the links between the Contracting Parties. The Meeting was informed that the Centre had also submitted some proposals to be included in the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) 2010-2011 and Contracting Parties were requested to ask their Permanent Representatives to IMO to support these proposals. The Centre will also try to synergize with other institutions, governmental and/or non-governmental, in order to co-share the cost of some activities.

90. In view of the information provided to the Meeting by the EC delegation under Agenda Item 8 regarding the possibility of EC financing for the participation of other non-EU Contracting Parties, which are not currently benefiting from the SAFEMED II Project, in specific activities of the said Project, the Director stated that, should this financing be confirmed prior to the next MAP Focal Points Meeting, the indicative REMPEC budget estimates of the proposed work programme of the Centre would be reviewed in order to include other activities in the programme.

91. Finally, the Secretariat recalled the responsibility of Contracting Parties to ensure that the deadlines for nominations for the Centre's activities are strictly adhered to and that visa requirements are met in a timely manner. It was pointed out that, in view of the current budgetary constraints, the Centre could not afford to waste its scarce resources in booking, changing and finally cancelling flights and accommodation, as it has unfortunately been the case too often during the last biennium.

92. In the ensuing discussion, the delegations which took the floor expressed their general agreement with the draft work programme of the Centre for biennium 2010-2011 proposed by the Secretariat. During the course of the discussion, delegations proposed a number of other activities to be considered for inclusion in the work programme such as the organisation of a seminar for the

MTWG members, participation in the INFOPOL training course organised by France, organisation of a training course on liability and compensation for oil pollution damage and related cost recovery policies, the organisation of a follow-up activity related to prevention of pollution from pleasure craft, and the development of guidelines on biological treatment techniques on shore. One delegation however expressed its concern on the financial capacity of the Centre to carry out all these tasks and expressed its wish to be informed of the implementation schedule of the activities.

93. The Secretariat was requested to clarify the relationship between Specific Objective 13 of the Regional Strategy (i.e. to examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea as a SOx Emission Control Area under MARPOL Annex VI) and the cross cutting issue of climate change. In his reply, the Director explained that the proposed programme would include not only monitoring of SOx emissions by ships with a view to quantifying their impact on air quality but also specific activities to inventorise and monitor greenhouse gas emissions (including CO₂) with a view to mitigating the impact of maritime activities on global warming. For the sake of clarity, a corrigendum to page 5 of document REMPEC/WG.30/10 was issued establishing the link between the proposed programme of work and the cross cutting issue of climate change identified in the MAP work programme.

94. The Meeting, taking into consideration the comments and proposals made by delegations, endorsed in principle the draft proposed work programme of the Centre for 2010-2011 as outlined in the annex to document REMPEC/WG.30/10 and its corrigendum and requested the Secretariat to incorporate, as appropriate and according to available funds, the proposed activities referred to in paragraph 91 and to submit the work programme for the consideration of the MAP Focal Points Meeting scheduled to be held in July 2009 and subsequently to the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties for its final adoption.

AGENDA ITEM 11: OTHER BUSINESS

95. The Meeting was informed on activities of interest in the field of prevention of and response to marine pollution incidents. A presentation by the delegation of Croatia, focused on a GIS based decision support system for maritime accidents, aimed at assisting the competent authorities in identifying places of refuge in Croatia for ships in distress, on the basis of a multi-criteria analysis, and which could be used in other countries.

96. A second presentation was delivered by the Mediterranean Operational Oceanography Network (MOON), where possibilities offered by real time observing systems and oil spill forecasting models coupled operationally with MOON's regional, sub-regional and coastal ocean forecasting systems in the Mediterranean were detailed. The Meeting recognised the added value of having available up to date scientific information as a support to governmental level decision making and particularly in case of emergency. In this regard, it was pointed out that, in case of emergency, the dissemination of the forecast should be limited to the national authorities in charge of the operations. Several delegations indicated to the representative of MOON what other specific relevant national institutions or agencies could be contacted in order to join the Network.

97. The Meeting also noted the information provided by FEDERCHIMICA (Italian Federation of Chemical Industries) which presented the association, its objectives and members. Details were provided on the activities carried out by FEDERCHIMICA under its main work programmes, and reference was made to the Agreement signed between the association and REMPEC within the mechanism of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU).

98. The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the quality of the presentations delivered by Croatia, the MOON Network and FEDERCHIMICA.

AGENDA ITEM 12: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

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

AGENDA ITEM 13: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

100. Before closing the Meeting, the Chairperson thanked the Director and the staff of REMPEC for their work, the delegations for their constructive inputs to the deliberations, and the interpreters for their assistance.

101. The Director of REMPEC thanked the Chairperson, Mr Marzagui, for efficiently steering the discussion and thanked delegations for their support and active participation.

102. The Chairperson closed the Meeting at 12.20 hours on Friday, 24 April 2009.

ANNEX(E) I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

CONTRACTING PARTIES / PARTIES CONTRACTANTES

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

KAPIDANI Sokol

Director of Maritime Transport Policy
Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication
Square Skënderbej No 5, Tirana

Tel No: +355 (4) 225 70 28
Mobile: +355 68 20 73 523
Fax No: +355 (4) 225 70 28
E-mail: skapidani@gmail.com

HAMDI Domi

Vice General Harbor Master
Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication
Lagja No.1 Port 1 Detar Durres

Tel No: +355 (52) 22 00 17
Mobile: +355 (69) 20 94 860
Fax No: +355 (52) 22 00 17
E-mail: hamdidomi_durres@yahoo.it

ALGERIA / ALGÉRIE

NEZZAR Farid

Secrétaire permanent Tel bahr
Ministère de l'aménagement du territoire, de l'environnement et du Tourisme
Av. des Quatre Canons
16000 Alger

Tel No: +213 (21) 43 28 67
+213 (21) 43 28 57
Mobile: +213 661 53 36 00
Fax No: +213 (21) 43 28 67
E-mail: farid_nezzar@yahoo.fr
Telbahr@hotmail.com

NEMOUCHI Mohamed

Sous Directeur des Ports
Ministère des transports
1, Rue Ibn-Badis
16000 Alger

Tel No: +213 (21) 92 45 04
Mobile: +213 (771) 54 72 30
Fax No: +213 (21) 92 30 46
E-mail: nemouchi@ministere-transports.gov.dz

ALGERIA / ALGÉRIE (cont.)

TCHACHI Ouahid

Administrateur
Ministère de l'aménagement du Territoire, de l'Environnement et du Tourisme
Av. des Quatre Canons
Alger

Tel No: +213 (21) 43 28 57/67
Mobile: +213 774 16 86 63
Fax No: +213 (21) 43 28 57/67
E-mail: tchachiwahid2005@yahoo.fr

BOUKHALFA Souad

Ingénieur
Ministère de l'aménagement du Territoire, de l'Environnement et du Tourisme
Av. des Quatre Canons
Alger

Tel No: +213 (21) 43 28 57/97
Mobile: +213 663 49 27 05
Fax No: +213 (21) 43 28 57/67
E-mail: souadboukhalfa@hotmail.fr

KACIMI Nassima Djouher

Ingénieur
Ministère de l'aménagement du Territoire, de l'Environnement et du Tourisme
Av. des Quatre Canons
Alger

Tel No: +213 (21) 43 28 67
Mobile: +213 661 72 22 75
Fax No: +213 (21) 43 28 67
E-mail: kaciminassima@gmail.com

HERDA Slimane

Directeur Général d'OSPREC
Oil Spill Response Company
Lot 07 - Bois des Cars 3 – Dely Ibrahim
Alger

Tel No: +213 (21) 37 40 32
Mobile: +213 661 50 77 72
Fax No: +213 (21) 37 40 32
E-mail: osprec@yahoo.fr

KESSAL Malek

Sous Directeur des Opérations
Protection Civile
Chemin du réservoir Paradou, Hydra

Tel No: +213 (21) 54 84 14
Mobile: +213 61 69 15 95
Fax No: +213 (21) 54 86 14
E-mail: m.kessal@protectioncivile.dz

ALGERIA / ALGÉRIE (cont.)

BOUCENNA Rabah

Sous Directeur des Frontières Maritimes
Direction de la Police des Frontières
Rue Quanouri Mohamed Babeloued
Alger

Tel No: +213 (21) 75 25 16
Mobile: +213 661 57 79 28
Fax No: +213 (21) 75 25 16
E-mail: adfmalgerie@yahoo.fr

CHEROUATI Nordine

Président
Autorité de Régulation des Hydrocarbures
Val – D'Hydra
Alger

Tel No: +213 (21) 48 81 67
Fax No: +213 (21) 48 81 83
E-mail: nordine.cherouati@arh.mem.gov.dz

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE ET HERZÉGOVINE

HURTIĆ-STRIKA Zahida

Head of Department for Law Drafting
Ministry of Communications and Transport
Trg BiH 3
71 000 Sarajevo

Tel No: +387 (33) 70 76 38
Mobile: +387 61 488 005
Fax No: +387 (33) 70 76 92
E-mail: zahida.hurtic-strika@mkt.gov.ba

MEHMEDOVSKI Senaida

Advisor for Waterway Transport
Ministry of Communications and Transport
Trg BiH 3
71 000 Sarajevo

Tel No: +387 (33) 70 76 08
Mobile: +387 61 908 377
Fax No: +387 (33) 284 751
E-mail: s.mehmedovski@mkt.gov.ba

CROATIA/ CROATIE

Ms. Nevia KRUŽIĆ

Head of Department for Sea Protection
Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction
Division for Environmental Protection
Uzarska 2/1
51000 Rijeka

Tel No: +385 (51) 213 499
Mobile: +385 (91) 1394 035
Fax No: +385 (51) 214 324
E-mail: nevia.kruzic@mzopu.hr

CROATIA/ CROATIE (cont.)

MARKOVIĆ-KOSTELAC Maja

Head of International and Legal Department
Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure
Directorate of Maritime Policy
Prisavlje 14
10000 Zagreb

Tel No: +385 (1) 616 90 25
+385 (1) 61 69 070
Fax No : +385 (1) 61 95 956
E-mail: maja.markovic@pomorstvo.hr

MLADINEO Nenad

Assistant Professor
University of Split, GAF
Matice hrvatske 15
21000 Split

Tel No: +385 (21) 303 318
Mobile: +385 98 891 649
Fax No : +385 (21) 465 117
E-mail: mladineo@gradst.hr

BRADARIC Zeljko

Assistant Director
International Relation and Safety of Navigation
Hydrographic Institute of the Republic of Croatia
Zrinsko-Frankopanska 161
21000 Split

Tel No: +385 (21) 308 851
Mobile: +385 91 543 0776
Fax No : +385 (21) 347 208
E-mail: zeljko.bradaric@hhi.hr

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

EFSTRATIOU Ioannis

Marine Surveyor A
Department of Merchant Shipping
Ministry of Communication and Works
Kyllinis Street
Mesa Geitonia
CY-4007 Limassol

Tel No: +357 (25) 848 100
+357 (25) 848 273
Mobile: +357 99 692 622
Fax No: +357 (25) 848 200
E-mail: jefstratiou@dms.mcw.gov.cy

CYPRUS / CHYPRE (cont.)

ATTAS Nicos C.

Marine Surveyor A
Department of Merchant Shipping
Ministry of Communication and Works
Kyllinis Street
Mesa Geitonia
CY-4007 Limassol

Tel No: +357 (25) 848 100
+357 (25) 848 132
Fax No: +357 (25) 848 200
E-mail: nattas@dms.mcw.gov.cy

EGYPT / ÉGYPTE

ISMAIL MOHAMED Mahmoud

National Co-ordinator N.O.S.C.P
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)
30 Misr-Helwan Elzyra'e Rd
Maadi, Cairo 1728

Tel No: +20(2) 25 25 64 91-92
Mobile: +20(11) 235 91 92
Fax No: +20 (2) 25 25 64 94
E-mail: mahmoud_s51@yahoo.com

EUROPEAN COMMISSION / COMMISSION EUROPEENNE

BOSCHEN Andreas

Policy Officer
Directorate-General Transport and Energy
Unit G1 Maritime Transport Policy : Regulatory questions, maritime safety and seafarers
European Commission
DM28 03/078
Rue de Mot 28,
BE-1049 Brussels, BELGIUM

Tel No: +32 (2) 295 96 54
Mobile: +32 (4) 724 25 252
Fax No: +32 (2) 296 90 66
E-mail: andreas.boschen@ec.europa.eu

MACKEVICIUTE Asta

Policy Officer
Directorate-General Environment
Unit A3 - Civil Protection
BU9 2/106
European Commission
200 rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels, BELGIUM

Tel No: +32 (2) 29 52 899
Mobile: +32 484 90 99 22
Fax No: +32 (2) 29 90 314
Email: asta.mackeviciute@ec.europa.eu

FRANCE / FRANCE

DUFAU-RICHET Marie-Sophie

Chargé de mission
Secrétariat Général de la Mer
16 Boulevard Raspail
75007 Paris

Tel No : +33 (1) 42 75 66 53
Mobile : +33 (6) 61 53 95 01
Fax No: +33 (1) 42 75 66 78
E-mail: marie-sophie.dufau-richet@pm.gouv.fr

JANÇON Carine

Préfecture Maritime Méditerranée
Pôle gestion des Risques
Bureau sécurité maritime
Préfecture maritime de la Méditerranée

Tel No: +33 (4) 94 02 03 72
Fax No: +33 (4) 94 02 13 63
E-mail: carine.jancon@premar-mediterranee.gouv.fr

GIRIN Michel

Conseiller/Advisor
Centre de Documentation, de Recherche et d'Expérimentations sur les Pollutions Accidentelles
des Eaux (CEDRE)
715 rue Alain Colas
CS 41836
29218 Brest Cedex 2

Tel No: +33 (1) 42 75 66 00
Mobile: +33 675 681 763
Fax No: +33 (1) 42 75 66 78
E-mail: michel.girin@cedre.fr

GREECE/ GRECE

SAMPATAKAKIS Elias

Director of the Marine Environment Protection Directorate
Hellenic Ministry of Mercantile Marine, Aegean and Island Policy
Akti Vasileiadi – Gate E1-E2 (inside port)
18510 Piraeus

Tel No: +30 (210) 419 1132
Fax No: +30 (210) 422 04 40
E-mail: esamp@yen.gr

GREECE/ GRECE (cont.)

ZERVOUDAKI Soutana

Researcher
Hellenic Technical University of Athens
A/6.7 km Athens Sounio
Anavyssos

Tel No: +30 2291 763 75
Fax No:
E-mail: tanya@ath.hcmr.gr

VENTIKOS P. Nikolaos

University Lecturer
National Technical University of Athens
9 Iroon Polytechniou
Zografou 15573

Tel No: +30 (210) 772 35 63
Mobile: +30 6932489 268
Fax No: +30 (201) 772 14 08
E-mail: niven@deslab.ntua.gr

ISRAEL / ISRAEL

AMIR Rani

Director, Marine and Coastal Environment Division
Ministry of the Environmental Protection
15a Pal-Yam st.
P.O. Box 811, Haifa 31007

Tel No: +972 (4) 863 35 00
Mobile: +972 (50) 62 33 050
Fax No: +972 (4) 863 35 20
E-mail: raniamir@013.net
rani@sviva.gov.il

STERNBERG Eliezer

Deputy Director
Administration of Shipping and Ports
Ministry of Transport
Itzhak Rabin Government Complex
15A Pal-Yam Str., Building B
P.O. Box 806, Haifa 31999

Tel No: +972 (4) 863 20 80
Mobile: +972 (57) 222 15 10
Fax No: +972 (4) 863 21 18
E-mail: lahavs@mot.gov.il

ITALY / ITALIE

DE ANGELIS Patrizia

Head of Division VI "Protection of Terrestrial
and Marine Environment from Pollution
Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea
Directorate General for Nature's Protection
Via Capitan Bavastro,174
00154 Rome

Tel No: + 39 (06) 57 22 85 10
+ 39 (06) 57 22 80 02
Mobile: + 39 (339) 38 10 317
Fax No: + 39 (06) 57 22 83 90
E-mail: dpn-div6@minambiente.it
ciasca.angelo@minambiente.it

BELLINI Mauro

Advisor
Segreteria Tecnica per la Sicurezza Ambientale della Navigazione
Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea
Directorate General for Nature's Protection
Via Capitan Bavastro,174
00154 Rome

Tel No: +39 (06) 57 221
Mobile +39 (347) 6 75 85 67
Fax No: +39 (06) 57 22 34 91
E-mail: blinus@sysnet.it
maurobellini@minambiente.it

BENSAIA Gianpaolo

Head of International Affairs Office
Italian Coast Guard Headquarters
Viale dell'Arte, 16
00144 Rome

Tel No: +39 (06) 59 08 33 79
Mobile +39 338 538 30 12
Fax No: +39 (06) 59 08 43 88
E-mail: gbensaia@libero.it
giampaolo.bensaia@mit.gov.it

GIANGRECO Roberto

Officer
Ministero dell' Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare
Direzione per la Protezione della Natura – Div. X
Via Cristoforo Colombo 44
00147 Rome

Tel No: +39 (06) 57 22 84 06
Mobile: +39 347 331 31 91
Fax No: +39 (06) 57 22 84 24
E-mail: Giangreco.Roberto@minambiente.it

LEBANON / LIBAN

CHABAN Hassan

Expert Maritime
Ministry of Public Works and Transport
Directorate General of Land and Maritime Transport
George Picot Street
Starco Building 3rd Floor
Beirut

Tel No: +961 (1) 372 438
Mobile: +961 (3) 023 571
Fax No: +961 (1) 371 647
E-mail: ministry@transportation.gov.lb

GSP LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA / JAMAHIRIYA ARABE LIBYENNE

ELGAMEZI Mohamed

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

Tel No: +218 (21) 487 37 62-64
Mobile: +218 (92) 518 4180
Fax No: +218 (21) 487 15 90
E-mail: etleha@yahoo.com
emergency_office@envionment.org.ly

BALLUG Abduladim

HSE Advisor
Environment General Authority (EGA)
P.O. Box 83618
El-Gheran
Tripoli

Tel No: +218 (21) 463 08 70
+218 (21) 48 73 762-64
Mobile: +218 (91) 212 42 05
Fax No: +218 (21) 483 08 70
E-mail: aaafmm@yahoo.com

MALTA / MALTE

GABRIELE Richard

Harbour Master
Malta Maritime Authority
Xatt I-Ghassara ta' I-Gheneb
Marsa MRS 1917

Tel No: +356 22914420
Mobile: +356 99 49 43 12
Fax No: +356 229 14429
E-mail: richard.gabriele@mma.gov.mt

MALTA / MALTE (cont.)

CUTAJAR Gordon

Assistant Registrar
Malta Maritime Authority
Xatt I-Ghassara ta' I-Gheneb
Marsa MRS 1917

Tel No: +356 21 250 360
Fax No: +356 21 241 460
E-mail: gordon.cutajar@mma.gov.mt

HAMILTON Dale

Co-ordination Manager
Malta Maritime Authority
Maritime Trade Centre
Marsa MRS 1912

Tel No: +356 (21) 250 350
Fax No: +356 (21) 241 460
E-mail: dale.hamilton@mma.gov.mt

VELLA Keon

Flag and Ports State Control Inspector
Merchant Shipping Directorate
Malta Maritime Authority
Maritime Trade Centre
Marsa MRS 1912

Tel No: +356 (21) 250 360
Fax No: +356 (21) 241 460
E-mail: keon.vella@mma.gov.mt

MONACO / MONACO

BOUCHET Pierre

Adjoint Directeur des affaires maritimes
Direction des affaires maritimes
Département de l'équipement, de l'environnement et de l'urbanisme
Quai Jean Charles Rey
B.P. 468
98012 Monaco Cedex

Tel No: +377 (-) 98 98 22 80
Mobile: +377 (-) 06 07 93 17 99
Fax No: +377 (-) 98 98 22 81
E-mail: pbouchet@gouv.mc

MONTENEGRO/ MONTENEGRO

JURIŠIĆ Goran

Port State Control Officer
Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Telecommunications of Montenegro
Harbour Master's Office Bar
Obala 13. jula bb
85000 Bar

Tel No: +381 (30) 312 733
Fax no: +381 (30) 302 060
E-mail: mingo@cg.yu

RATKOVIĆ Predrag

Head of Division for Prevention of Sea Pollution from Ships
Maritime Safety Department
Maršala Tita br.7
P.O. Box 14
85000 Bar

Tel No: +382 (30) 313 241
Mobile: +382 (69) 632 930
Fax No: +382 (30) 313 274
Email : predrag.ratkovic@msd-ups.org

MOROCCO / MAROC

MARZAGUI Mohamed

Chef de la division de la navigation maritime
Ministère de l'équipement et des transports
Direction de la marine marchande
Boulevard Félix Houphouet Boigny
20000 Casablanca

Tel No: +212 (522) 27 37 90
+212 (522) 43 46 08
Mobile: +212 (668) 61 95 45
Fax No: +212 (522) 27 33 40
E-mail: dnm@dmm.gov.ma
mmarzagui@yahoo.fr

SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE

BOŽIČ Zvezdan

Head of Branch Office
Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief
Ferrarska 5/b
6000 Koper

Tel No: +386 (5) 668 42 00
Mobile:
Fax No: +386 (5) 668 43 22
E-mail: zvezdan.bozic@urszr.si

SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE (cont.)

FANTULIN Davorin

Harbour Master
Ministry of Transport
The Slovenia Maritime Administration
Harbour Master
Ukmarjev trg 2
Si-6000 Koper

Tel No: +386 (5) 66 32 103
Mobile: +386 (31) 779 020
Fax No: +386 (5) 66 32 110
E-mail: davorin.fantulin@gov.si

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

OTERO Diez Juan

Head for Maritime Pollution Department
Directorate General for Merchant Shipping
Ruiz de Alarcon, 1
28071 Madrid

Tel No: +34 (91) 597 9051
Fax No: +34 (91) 597 92 35
E-mail: joterod@fomento.es

RODRIGUEZ CARBONELL Sergio

Head of Marine Protection Department
Spanish Maritime Safety Agency (SASEMAR)
Fruela, 3
Madrid

Tel No: +34 (91) 755 91 00
Fax No: +34 (91) 755 91 09
E-mail: sergiorc@sasemar.es

TUNISIA / TUNISIE

ZMERLI Mohamed

Chef de Service
Ministère de l'environnement et du développement durable
Centre Urbain Nord- Boulevard de la Terre
1080Tunis

Tel No: +216 (70) 268 644
Mobile: +216 (98) 939 485
Fax No: +216 (70) 268 535
E-mail: zmerli2004@yahoo.fr

ZROUD Lamia

Chef de Service des Ports
Ministère du Transport
Rue 7 Novembre près de l'aéroport Tunis
Carthage -Tunis 2035

Tel No: +216 (71) 80 63 62
Mobile: +216 (24) 72 16 21
Fax No: +216 (71) 80 64 13
E-mail: lamiazroud@yahoo.fr

TURKEY / TURQUIE

ARSLAN Meryem

Chemical Engineer
Ministry of Environment and Forestry
General Directorate of Environmental Management
Marine and Coastal Area Department
T.C. Çevre ve Orman Bakanlığı
Söğütözü Caddesi No: 14/E
Söğütözü, 06560 Ankara

Tel No: +90 (312) 207 66 57
Mobile: +90 (532) 656 47 72
Fax No: +90 (312) 207 66 95
+90 (312) 207 64 46
E-mail: imeryem@yahoo.com

Mr. Hakan ÖZTÜRK

Ship Inspection Officer
Department of Marine Environment
General Directorate for Maritime Transport
Undersecretariat for Maritime Affairs
T.C. Basbakanlik Denizcilik Mustesarligi
GMK Bulvari No.128/A
06570 Maltepe- Ankara

Tel No: +90 (312) 232 38 49 (2 lines) Ext. 2558
Mobile: +90 (506) 815 85 16
Fax No: +90 (312) 231 33 06
E-mail: hakan.ozturk@denizcilik.gov.tr

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS/ ORGANISATIONS DES NATION-UNIES

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

MICALLEF Stefan
Deputy Director
Marine Environment Division
International Maritime Organization (IMO)
4, Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
UNITED KINGDOM

Tel No: + 44 (207) 587 32 49
Fax No: + 44 (207) 587 3210
E-mail: smicallef@imo.org

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

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

Tel No: + 30 (210) 727 3101
Fax No: + 30 (210) 725 3196-7
E-mail: paul.mifsud@unepmap.gr

IAEA- MARINE ENVIRONMENT LAB (IAEA-MEL)

TOLOSA Imma
Laboratory Scientist
IAEA- Marine Environment Lab (IAEA-MEL)
4 Quai Antoine 1^{er}
MC 98000 MONACO

Tel No: + 377 97 97 72 41
Mobile: +33 616 425 974
Fax No: + 377 97 97 72 76
E-mail: I.Tolosa@iaea.org
Tolosai@yahoo.com

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALES

**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN PARTNERS / NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS/
PARTENAIRES DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE /
ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES**

INSTITUT DU DROIT ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER (INDEMER)

ROS Nathalie

Vice Président du Conseil Scientifique de l'INDEMER
Professeur agrégé des Facultés de Droit
Secrétaire général de l'Association internationale du Droit de la mer
Institut du Droit Economique de la Mer de la Principauté de Monaco (INDEMER)
Place de la Visitation (Ministère d'Etat)
MONACO MC 98000

Tel No: +377 (98) 98 88 22
Fax No: +377 (98) 98 87 98
E-mail: nathalie@ros.fr

INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE (IOI)

VIRAPAT Cherdsak

Executive Director
International Ocean Institute (IOI)
P.O. Box 3
Gzira GZR 1000
MALTA

Tel No: +356 21 34 65 29
Fax No: +356 21 34 65 02
E-mail: cherdsak.virapat@ioihq.org.mt

RIOLLOT Eva

Intern
International Ocean Institute (IOI)
P.O. Box 3
Gzira GZR 1000
MALTA

Tel: +356 21 346 5 29
+356 21 385 926
Fax: +356 21 34 65 02
E-mail: eva.riollot@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION LTD (ITOPF)

LARUELLE Franck

Technical Advisor
The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Ltd (ITOPF)
1 Oliver's Yard
55 City Road
London EC1Y 1HQ
UNITED KINGDOM

Tel No: +44 (20) 7566 6999
Fax No: +44 (20) 7566 6950
E-mail: FranckLaruelle@ITOPF.COM

MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP (MOIG)

DHAOUI Ridha

Director
MOIG
B.Z.Z. Residence Dar Maghreb
1053 Tunis
TUNISIA

Tel: +216 (71) 965 192
Fax: +216 (71) 965 192
E-mail: dhaoui.moig@planet.tn

MEDITERRANEAN OPERATION OCEANOGRAPHY NETWORK (MOON)

PINARDI Nadia

Laboratorio SINCEM
Corso di Scienze Ambientali
University of Bologna
Via S.Alberto 163
48100 Ravenna
ITALY

Tel No: +39 (051) 37 82 633
Fax No: +39 (335) 524 89 08
E-mail: n.pinardi@sincem.unibo.it

SEA ALARM FOUNDATION

NIJKAMP Hugo

General Manager
Sea Alarm Foundation
Eue de Cyprès 7 – B10
1000 Brussels
BELGIUM

Tel No: +32 (2) 2788 744
Mobile: +32 (49 49 0000 12
Fax No: +32 (2) 502 74 38
E-mail: nijkamp@sea-alarm.org

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS / AUTRES ORGANISATIONS

ITALIAN FEDERATION OF THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY(FEDERCHIMICA)

MARI Renato
Logistics Manager
FEDERCHIMICA
Via Giovanni da Procida 11
20149 Milan
ITALY

Tel No: +39 (02) 34 565 259
Mobile: +39 339 114 57 35
Fax No: +39 (02) 34 565 329
E-mail: r.mari@federchimica.it

CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS / INTERPRETES DE LA CONFERENCE

TITOUAH Rachid
Interpreter

MARCHETTI Simona
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)**

HEBERT Frederic
Director

PACE Jonathan
Senior Programme Officer

KHODJET EL KHIL Lilia
Programme Officer (Marine Environment Protection)

GONZALEZ Gabino
Programme Officer (OPRC)

FARCHI Christina
Programme Officer

BERGONZO Albert
SAFEMED Project Officer (Maritime Administration)

STELLINI Doreen
Information Assistant/Documentalist

SACCO Christopher
Administrative/Financial Assistant

MANGION Michelle
Assistant to the Director

SAMMUT André
Administrative Assistant

BONAVIA Amanda
Secretary/Administrative Assistant

BORG Francesca
Clerk/Secretary

BONELLO Mario
Technical Assistant (Logistics)

REMPEC
Maritime House
Lascaris Wharf
Valletta VLT 1921
MALTA

Tel: +356 21 33 72 96/7/8
Fax: +356 21 33 99 51
E-mail: rempec@rempec.org

ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Organization of the Meeting.
3. Adoption of the Agenda.
4. REMPEC's activities carried out since the 8th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points.
5. Cooperation agreements in the field of prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships.
6. Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG).
7. Improvement of the level of enforcement of MARPOL Convention Annex I in the Mediterranean.
8. Developments related to the EC/MEDA financed project on Euromed cooperation on maritime safety and prevention of pollution from ships (SAFEMED).
9. Activities related to ships' ballast water management and invasive species.
10. Proposed programme of REMPEC activities for biennium 2010/2011.
11. Other business.
12. Adoption of the Report.
13. Closure of the Meeting.

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.30/3/1	Provisional agenda.
REMPEC/WG.30/3/2	Annotated provisional agenda.
REMPEC/WG.30/3/3	Draft timetable.
REMPEC/WG.30/3/3/Rev.1	Draft timetable.
REMPEC/WG.30/4/1	Progress report on REMPEC's activities since the 8 th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.30/4/1/Corr.1	Corrigendum.
REMPEC/WG.30/4/2	Proposal regarding effectiveness indicators of the measures taken by the Contracting parties to implement the Barcelona Convention system (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.30/4/2/Rev.1	Proposal regarding effectiveness indicators of the measures taken by the Contracting parties to implement the Barcelona Convention system (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.30/4/2/Rev.2	Proposal regarding effectiveness indicators of the measures taken by the Contracting parties to implement the Barcelona Convention system (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.30/5	Co-operation agreements with other organizations (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.30/6/1	Progress report of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.30/6/2	Proposal related to future possible work of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.30/7	REMPEC's activities in the field of illicit discharges in the Mediterranean region and steps forward (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.30/8	Implementation of the SAFEMED Project (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.30/9	Implementation of GloBallast Partnerships Project in the Mediterranean region (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.30/10	Proposed programme of activities for the biennium 2010 - 2011 (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.30/10/Corr.1	Corrigendum.
REMPEC/WG.30/WP.1	Proposal regarding effectiveness indicators of the measures taken by the Contracting Parties to implement the Barcelona system (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.30/WP.2	Draft report of the Meeting.
REMPEC/WG.30/11	Report of the Meeting.

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.30/INF.1	List of documents.
REMPEC/WG.30/INF.1/Rev.1	List of documents.
REMPEC/WG.30/INF.1/Rev.2	List of documents.
REMPEC/WG.30/J/1	Provisional list of participants.
REMPEC/WG.30/INF.2	List of participants.
REMPEC/WG.30/INF.3	New reporting format for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols (Prevention and Emergency Protocol). Adopted by the 15 th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the protection of the marine environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean and its protocols, Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/10, Annex V, p 55-70) (Submitted by REMPEC).
REMPEC/WG.30/INF.4	Terms of reference for REMPEC focal points. Adopted by the 15 th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the protection of the marine environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean and its protocols, Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/10, Annex V, p 170-171) (Submitted by REMPEC).
REMPEC/WG.30/INF.5	Application of the ecosystem approach to MAP policies and programmes (Submitted by REMPEC).
REMPEC/WG.30/INF.6	Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. EuroMed co-operation on maritime safety and prevention of pollution from ships (SAFEMED). SAFEMED II Project. Summary of the technical annex (Submitted by REMPEC).
REMPEC/WG.30/INF.7	GEF / UNDP / IMO Global Project. Building partnerships to assist developing countries to reduce the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms in ships' ballast water. (Globallast Partnerships). Project Implementation Plan (PIP) – Mediterranean Region (Submitted by REMPEC).
REMPEC/WG.30/INF.8	Actions taken by Turkey for the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol (Submitted by Turkey). (English only).
REMPEC/WG.30/INF.9	Oil pollution in Greek seas: Critical overview of confrontation and waste management (Submitted by Greece). (English only).
REMPEC/WG.30/INF.10	FEDERCHIMICA – REMPEC cooperation (Submitted by FEDERCHIMICA). (English only).
REMPEC/WG.30/INF.11	Information Paper on marine litter in the Mediterranean (Submitted by HELMEPA) (English only).
REMPEC/WG.30/INF.12	Draft Mediterranean guidelines on oiled shoreline assessment, March 2009 (Submitted by REMPEC). (English only).
REMPEC/WG.30/INF.13	Information paper (Submitted by SEA ALARM). (English only).
REMPEC/WG.30/INF.14	Systemic approach to decision-making procedure during marine accidents with potential oil spill (Submitted by Croatia). (English only).