



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

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

REMPEC/WG.51/INF.9
Date: 28 May 2021

Online, 31 May – 2 June 2021

Original: English

Agenda Item 7

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL EXPERT MEETING ON THE POSSIBLE DESIGNATION OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA, AS A WHOLE, AS AN EMISSION CONTROL AREA FOR SULPHUR
OXIDES (MED SO_x ECA) PURSUANT TO MARPOL ANNEX VI**

(ONLINE, 27-28 APRIL 2021)

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document presents the Report of the Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO_x ECA) pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI (online, 27-28 April 2021)

Action to be taken: Paragraph 3

Related documents: UNEP/MED IG.24/22, REMPEC/WG.50/7, REMPEC/WG.51/7

Background

1 As indicated in document REMPEC/WG.51/7, the Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO_x ECA) pursuant to Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), hereinafter referred to as the Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Med SO_x ECA, was held remotely from 27 to 28 April 2021, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021¹ of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which was adopted by COP 21².

2 The Report of the Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Med SO_x ECA is presented in the **Appendix** to the present document.

Action requested by the Meeting

3 **The Meeting is invited to take note** of the information provided in the present document.

¹ UNEP/MED IG.24/22, Decision IG.24/14.

² Twenty-first Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the "Barcelona Convention") and its Protocols (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019).

APPENDIX

**Report of the Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea,
as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO_x ECA) pursuant to
MARPOL Annex VI**

(Online, 27-28 April 2021)

(REMPEC/WG.50/7)



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

Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO_x ECA) pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI

REMPEC/WG.50/7
Date: 28 May 2021

Online, 27-28 April 2021

Original: English

Agenda Item 7

REPORT

**REGIONAL EXPERT MEETING ON THE POSSIBLE DESIGNATION OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA, AS A WHOLE, AS AN EMISSION CONTROL AREA FOR
SULPHUR OXIDES (MED SO_x ECA) PURSUANT TO MARPOL ANNEX VI**

Online, 27-28 April 2021

INTRODUCTION

1 The Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO_x ECA) pursuant to Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), hereinafter referred to as the Meeting, was convened remotely by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) from 27 to 28 April 2021, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021¹ of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP, adopted by the Twenty-first Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the "Barcelona Convention") and its Protocols (COP 21) (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019).

2 The principal objectives of the Meeting were:

- .1 to examine the implementation of the road map for a proposal for the possible designation of the Med SO_x ECA, notably the completion of the necessary knowledge gathering, the carrying out of the further studies to more fully address the criteria and procedures for designation of emission control areas laid down in Appendix III to MARPOL Annex VI, and the updating of the initial draft submission to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) based on the completed knowledge gathering and the further studies carried out; and
- .2 to examine the draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO_x ECA to the IMO, and to discuss about the next steps.

3 Considering the scope of the Meeting, all REMPEC Prevention Focal Points were invited to nominate jointly and, in consultation with the REMPEC Governmental Focal Points and the representative(s) serving on the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, their representatives in the Meeting. The invitation to participate in the Meeting was also extended to observers from relevant regional and international organisations, the activities of which are relevant to the objectives of the Meeting.

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

ALBANIA	LEBANON
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	LIBYA
CROATIA	MALTA
CYPRUS	MONACO
EGYPT	MOROCCO
EUROPEAN UNION	SLOVENIA
FRANCE	SPAIN
GREECE	SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
ISRAEL	TUNISIA
ITALY	TURKEY

by a representative from the following organisation of the United Nations:

- MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP/MAP)

by a representative from the following Regional Activity Centre of UNEP/MAP:

- PLAN BLEU REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PB/RAC)

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

¹ UNEP/MED IG.24/22, Decision IG.24/14.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

6 The Meeting was opened by the Head of Office of REMPEC, Mr Gabino Gonzalez, on Tuesday, 27 April 2021 at 0900 hours². He welcomed the participants to the Meeting and explained the objectives of the Meeting. He also welcomed Dr James J. Corbett and Dr Edward W. Carr, Consultants, who had been working with the Secretariat, including REMPEC, the Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL) as well as the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (PB/RAC) of UNEP/MAP, to prepare for the Meeting. He expressed appreciation for the financial support provided by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) and the IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) for the implementation of Decision IG.24/8 on the Road Map for a Proposal for the Possible Designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides Pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, within the Framework of the Barcelona Convention, hereinafter referred to as the road map as annexed to the said decision, adopted by COP 21.

ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

Rules of Procedure

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

Election of Officers

8 Following informal consultations held with the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the Head of Office of REMPEC proposed Monaco as Chair, Albania as Vice-Chair and France as Rapporteur. The Meeting unanimously agreed to elect the following officers of the Meeting:

Mr Pierre BOUCHET (Monaco)	Chairperson
Ms Klodiana MARIKA (Albania)	Vice-Chairperson
Ms Océane RIGNAULT (France)	Rapporteur

Working Languages

9 The working languages of the Meeting were English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation was provided during the Meeting. All working documents were available in both official languages of the Centre, i.e. in English and in French. However, information documents were available in their original language only, unless a translation was provided in the second working language.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

10 The Chairperson thanked the Meeting for supporting his election and proposed that the Provisional Agenda, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.50/1 and annotated in document REMPEC/WG.50/1/1, be adopted.

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

AGENDA ITEM 2: COMPLETION OF THE NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE GATHERING

12 The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to provide information on the completion of the necessary knowledge gathering pursuant to Decision IG.24/8 on the Road Map for a Proposal for the Possible Designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides Pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, within the Framework of the Barcelona Convention, hereinafter referred to as the road map.

² Malta local time or GMT+2.

- 13 The Programme Officer (Prevention), Mr Franck Lauwers, referred to:
- .1 the road map, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.3;
 - .2 the Report of the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.5; and
 - .3 the Terms of Reference for the completion of the knowledge gathering and the preparations of further studies as well as the finalisation of the draft submission to the IMO, hereinafter referred to as the set of Terms of Reference, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.6.
- 14 Dr Edward W. Carr, REMPEC Consultant, introduced:
- .1 relevant sections of the Final report on the completion of the knowledge gathering and the finalisation of the draft submission to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.7; and
 - .2 the Final report on the completion of the knowledge gathering related to land-based emissions control measures of SO_x and Particulate matter (PM) in the Mediterranean coastal States, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.8.
- 15 Participants were encouraged to briefly present their views on the completion of the necessary knowledge gathering.
- 16 **The Meeting welcomed** the universal representation of all twenty-two (22) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and their broad participation in the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts.
- 17 **The Meeting took note** with interest of the report of the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.5.
- 18 **The Meeting valued** the presentations from the Secretariat on the following, endorsing, and reflecting their results:
- .1 the final report on the completion of the knowledge gathering and the finalisation of the draft submission to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.7; and
 - .2 the final report on the completion of the knowledge gathering related to land-based emissions control measures of SO_x and Particulate matter (PM) in the Mediterranean coastal States, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.8.
- 19 **The Meeting further acknowledged** the determining role and substantive contribution of MED POL in the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts on matters related to land-based emissions control measures of SO_x and Particulate matter (PM) in the Mediterranean coastal States.
- 20 **The Meeting recognised** that the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts oversaw the completion of the knowledge gathering.
- 21 **The Meeting was satisfied** that the necessary knowledge was gathered in line with the road map and in accordance with the Terms of Reference developed by the Secretariat and agreed by the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, by notably addressing:
- .1 synopsis of the assessment;
 - .2 quantification of the impacts associated with deposition of PM_{2.5} and air toxics;
 - .3 additional detail of land-based emissions controls of SO_x and PM in the Mediterranean coastal States; and

- .4 additional elements on the economic impacts on shipping engaged in international trade.

22 **The Meeting considered** that the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts was successfully completed within the approved timeline of the road map.

23 **The Meeting requested** the Secretariat to carry out final editing and any editorial corrections that might be identified, as appropriate.

AGENDA ITEM 3: CARRYING OUT OF THE FURTHER STUDIES TO MORE FULLY ADDRESS THE CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR DESIGNATION OF EMISSION CONTROL AREAS LAID DOWN IN APPENDIX III TO MARPOL ANNEX VI

24 At the invitation of the Chairperson, the Secretariat provided information on the carrying out of the further studies to more fully address the criteria and procedures for designation of emission control areas laid down in Appendix III to MARPOL Annex VI, pursuant to the road map.

25 The Programme Officer (Prevention) referred to:

- .1 the road map, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.3;
- .2 the report of the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.5; and
- .3 the set of Terms of Reference, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.6.

26 Dr James J. Corbett, REMPEC and Plan Bleu Consultant, introduced:

- .1 the final report on the carrying out of the further study related to the additional analyses of fuel supply and alternative compliance methods, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.9; and
- .2 the final report on the completion of the knowledge gathering and the carrying out of the further study related to the additional economic impact evaluation, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.10.

27 Participants were encouraged to briefly present their views on the carrying out of the further studies to more fully address the criteria and procedures for designation of emission control areas laid down in Appendix III to MARPOL Annex VI.

28 **The Meeting took note** with interest of the report of the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.5.

29 **The Meeting valued** the presentations from the Secretariat on the following, endorsing, and reflecting their results:

- .1 the final report on the carrying out of the further study related to the additional analyses of fuel supply and alternative compliance methods, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.9; and
- .2 the final report on the completion of the knowledge gathering and the carrying out of the further study related to the additional economic impact evaluation, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.10.

30 **The Meeting further acknowledged** the determining role and substantive contribution of PB/RAC in the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts on matters related to additional economic impact evaluation.

31 **The Meeting recognised** that the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts oversaw the preparations of further studies, notably socio-economic impacts on individual Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

32 **The Meeting was also satisfied** that the necessary studies were prepared in line with the road map and in accordance with the Terms of Reference developed by the Secretariat and agreed by the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, by notably addressing:

- .1 additional economic impact evaluation, more precisely:
 - .1 analyses of the impacts on shipping engaged in international trade as well as on trade modal shift outside the Mediterranean; and
 - .2 analyses of the impacts on short-sea shipping activity as well on the social and economic impact on Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention including on development for islands, insular and remote areas; and
- .2 additional fuel supply and technology analyses (regional fuel production, fuel availability, and alternative compliance technologies).

33 **The Meeting was of the opinion** that the carrying out of the further studies enabled to more fully address the criteria and procedures for designation of emission control areas laid down in Appendix III to MARPOL Annex VI.

34 **The Meeting considered** that the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts was successfully completed within the approved timeline of the road map.

35 **The Meeting requested** the Secretariat to carry out final editing and any editorial corrections that might be identified, as appropriate.

AGENDA ITEM 4: UPDATING OF THE INITIAL DRAFT SUBMISSION TO THE IMO BASED ON THE COMPLETED KNOWLEDGE GATHERING AND THE FURTHER STUDIES CARRIED OUT

36 The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to provide information on the updating of the initial draft submission to the IMO based on the completed knowledge gathering and the further studies carried out, pursuant to the road map.

37 The Programme Officer (Prevention) referred to:

- .1 the road map, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.3;
- .2 the report of the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.5; and
- .3 the set of Terms of Reference, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.6.

38 Dr Edward W. Carr, REMPEC Consultant, introduced the finalised draft submission to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.11.

39 Participants were encouraged to briefly present their views on the updating of the initial draft submission to the IMO based on the completed knowledge gathering and the further studies carried out.

40 **The Meeting took note** with interest of the report of the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.5.

41 **The Meeting valued** the presentation from the Secretariat on the finalised draft submission to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.11., endorsing, and reflecting its results.

42 **The Meeting further recognised** that the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts provided the necessary guidance to the Secretariat on the updating of the initial draft submission to the IMO for a proposal for the possible designation of the Med SO_x ECA.

43 **The Meeting** also **acknowledged** that the finalised draft submission to the IMO was based on the completed knowledge gathering and the further studies carried out.

44 **The Meeting was** further **satisfied** that the initial draft submission to the IMO for a proposal for the possible designation of the Med SO_x ECA was updated in line with the road map and in accordance with the Terms of Reference developed by the Secretariat and agreed by the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts.

45 **The Meeting considered** that the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts was successfully completed within the approved timeline of the road map.

46 **The Meeting requested** the Secretariat to carry out final editing and any editorial corrections that might be identified, as appropriate.

AGENDA ITEM 5: DRAFT JOINT AND COORDINATED PROPOSAL ON THE DESIGNATION OF THE MED SO_x ECA TO THE IMO

47 At the invitation of the Chairperson, the Programme Officer (Prevention) provided information on the development of a draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO_x ECA to the IMO, pursuant to the road map, as presented in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/5.

48 The Programme Officer (Prevention) referred to:

- .1 the road map, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.3;
- .2 the submission by REMPEC to the 76th session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 76), as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.4; and
- .3 the finalised draft submission to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.11.

49 Participants were invited to provide information on the developments at national level regarding ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI, including future prospects and initiatives.

50 Participants were also encouraged to briefly present their views on the development of a draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO_x ECA to the IMO.

51 **The Meeting welcomed** the submission by the Secretariat to the 76th session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 76), as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.4, in line with the road map.

52 **The Meeting encouraged** the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI, if they had not yet done so, as soon as possible.

53 **The Meeting also welcomed** the assistance for the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI that has been provided by the Secretariat to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which have so requested, through activities financed by the MTF and the IMO's ITCP, during the biennium 2020-2021, in line with the road map.

54 **The Meeting reiterated** the importance for the Secretariat to continue providing assistance for the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which so request.

55 **The Meeting also underlined** the need to encourage and support preparation efforts and mitigate potential impacts as relevant, in line, with outcomes of further knowledge gathering through relevant frontrunner activities and financial, and capacity building mechanisms.

56 **The Meeting agreed**, on the basis of the outcome of the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, to take the finalised draft submission to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.11, as a basis for the possible submission of a joint and coordinated proposal for the designation of the proposed Med SO_x ECA to the IMO.

57 **The Meeting noted** that an initial discussion was held on the following issues with a view to facilitating the further process:

- .1 whether or not to submit a proposal to IMO for the designation of the proposed Med SO_x ECA;
- .2 the most appropriate timing for such a submission, if any; and
- .3 the effective date of entry into force of the proposed Med SO_x ECA, if any.

58 **The Meeting acknowledged** that the road map was adopted with the view of formally submitting the proposal to the seventy-eighth (78th) session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 78) scheduled for 2022.

59 **The Meeting further acknowledged** that, according to the road map, the goal of the process is, *inter alia*, to have the proposed Med SO_x ECA effectively entering into force within a reasonable and practical timeframe, as defined by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, and **noted** that this date could be 1 March 2024 at the earliest or a later date such as 1 January 2025.

60 **The Meeting stressed** that further discussions were necessary with a view to formulating a joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the proposed Med SO_x ECA to the IMO.

AGENDA ITEM 6: OTHER BUSINESS

61 No other matter was raised under this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 7: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

62 The Chairperson invited the Rapporteur to read through the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting, which had been circulated to all participants, as document REMPEC/WG.50/WP.1, for their consideration, review, amendment, and adoption.

63 Following interventions by some delegations to express their views on the conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting, and after having entrusted the Secretariat to carry out final editing and any editorial corrections that might be identified, as appropriate, **the Meeting adopted** the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Meeting, as detailed in **Annex IV** to the present report, and **further requested** the Secretariat to report to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC on the outcome of the Meeting.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

64 Before closing the Meeting, the Chairperson thanked all delegations for their active participation, the Secretariat, including REMPEC, MED POL and PB/RAC as well as their consultants for the collaborative efforts and the work they carried out with regard to the implementation of the road map as well as for their respective contributions to the preparation and successful organisation of the Meeting. He also thanked the interpreters and the technicians for their support.

65 The Head of Office of REMPEC expressed his appreciation to the Chairperson, Mr Bouchet, for the smooth running of the proceedings.

66 The Chairperson closed the Meeting at 1600 hours³ on Wednesday, 28 April 2021.

³ Malta local time or GMT+2.

ANNEX(E) I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

CONTRACTING PARTIES / PARTIES CONTRACTANTES

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Ms Klodiana MARIKA
Director of the Development Programmes on Environment Department, Ministry of Tourism and Environment

Mr Elson THANA
Expert, Sector of Policies and Strategies for the Development of Maritime Transport, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy

Mr Indrit KULLA
Junior Expert, Directorate of Policies and Strategies of Environment, Ministry of Tourism and Environment

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE

Dr Tarik KUPUSOVIĆ
Special Advisor to the Minister of Physical Planning and Environment, Hydro-Engineering Institute

Dr Enis OMEROVIĆ
Assistant Professor, University of Zenica, Faculty of Law

CROATIA / CROATIE

Ms Ivana MAROVIĆ GUGIĆ
Senior Maritime Safety Inspector, Maritime Safety Directorate, Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure

Mr Gordan DOŠEN
Senior Adviser, Climate Activities Directorate, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

Mr Valentinos MAVROUDIS
Marine Surveyor, Flag State Directorate, Marine Environment Unit, Shipping Deputy Ministry to the President

EGYPT / ÉGYPTE

Mr Mohamed SAAD
Head of Central Department of Air Quality and Noise, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), Ministry of Environment

Chemist. Moustafa Mohamed MOURAD
Head of Environment Quality Sector, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), Ministry of Environment

EUROPEAN UNION / UNION EUROPÉENNE

Dr Rosa ANTIDORMI
Senior Policy Officer, European Commission

Mr Sergio ALDA
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Senior Project Officer, European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)

Mrs Mercedes GARCIA HORRILLO
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FRANCE / FRANCE

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Chargée de mission environnement, Ministère de la mer

Mr Michel ARDOHAIN
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GREECE / GRÈCE

Commander (ENG) H.C.G. Aikaterini STAMOU
Head, Department for International Cooperation, Hellenic Coast Guard, Marine Environment Protection Directorate, Hellenic Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy

ISRAEL / ISRAËL

Eng. Asher KADOSH
Principal Technical Maritime Inspector, Port State Control - Head of Department, Marine Pollution Prevention, Administration of Shipping and Ports, Ministry of Transport

Mr Ram GREENWALD
Head of Marine Air Pollution Inspection, Marine Environment Protection Division, Ministry of Environmental Protection

Ms Rotem ISHAY-ZAMIR
Transportation Engineer, Ministry of Environmental Protection

ITALY / ITALIE

Dr Roberto GIANGRECO
Senior Officer, Ministry for Ecological Transition

Ms Valentina MAURIELLO
Expert, Ministry for Ecological Transition

Mr Mauro MAURICI
Advisor, Sogesid S.p.A, Ministry for Ecological Transition

Mr Gianluca VETRARI
Adviser/Observer, Sogesid S.p.A, Ministry for Ecological Transition

LEBANON/ LIBAN

Capt. Hassan CHAABAN
Maritime Transport Expert, Directorate General of Land and Maritime Transport, Ministry of Public Works and Transport

LIBYA/ LIBYE

Mr Abdulbaset ALMIRI
Director of Environmental Emergency Department, Ministry of Environment

Eng. Fathi Ameer AWAZ
Director of Monitoring and Environmental Inspection, Ministry of Environment

MALTA / MALTE

Ms Evangelia POULI
Assistant Registrar, Policy and Legislative Development Department, Merchant Shipping Directorate, Authority for Transport in Malta

Dr Robert VASSALLO
Senior Manager Legal, EU and International Affairs, Ports and Yachting Directorate, Authority for Transport in Malta

Mr Mevric ZAMMIT
Deputy Head, Marine Operations and Incident Response, Ports and Yachting Directorate, Authority for Transport in Malta

Ms Kristina DARMANIN
Manager Port Environment, Ports and Yachting Directorate, Authority for Transport in Malta

Mr Luca LACITIGNOLA
Manager, Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning

Ms Nadine MERCIECA
Team Manager (Air Quality, Radiation, Noise), Environment and Resources Authority

Ms Annabel VELLA
Economist, WestMed Initiative, Malta National Hub

MONACO / MONACO

M. Pierre BOUCHET
Pilote maritime, Direction des Affaires Maritimes, Département de l'Équipement, de l'Environnement et de l'Urbanisme

MOROCCO/ MAROC

M. Youssef HOUMAI
Chef du service de la sécurité de la navigation maritime et lutte contre la pollution marine, Direction de la Marine Marchande, Ministère de l'Équipement, du Transport, et de la Logistique et de l'Eau

Mlle Loubna SALHI
Ingénieure d'Etat, Direction de la Marine Marchande, Ministère de l'Équipement, du Transport, et de la Logistique et de l'Eau

SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE

Mr Arturo STEFFE
Head of Section, Slovenian Maritime Administration, Department for safety of the coastal sea,
Ministry of Infrastructure

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

Mr Pablo PEDROSA REY
Head Pollution Response Unit, Dirección General de la Marina Mercante, Ministerio de
Transportes, Movilidad y Agenda Urbana

Capt. Juan A. LECERTUA
Safety and Environment Technical Adviser, Dirección General de la Marina Mercante, Ministerio
de Transportes, Movilidad y Agenda Urbana

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE

Eng. Fathia MOHAMMAD
Chemical Safety Department, Environmental Risk Assessment and Emergency, Ministry of Local
Administration and Environment

TUNISIA / TUNISIE

Mr Alaya SAGAAMA
Sous-directeur de la pollution marine, Agence nationale de protection de l'environnement (ANPE)

TURKEY / TURQUIE

Mr Görkem YÜKSELEN
Engineer, Marine Environment Department, Directorate General of Maritime and Inland Waters
Regulation Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure

Ms Bahar ÖZÖĞÜT
Environmental Expert, Marine and Coastal Management Department, General Directorate of
Environmental Management, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization

Mrs Canan Esin KÖKSAL
Environmental Expert, Marine and Coastal Management Department, General Directorate of
Environmental Management, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization

Mrs Rabia ZAFER
Environmental Engineer - Expert, Marine and Coastal Management Department, General
Directorate of Environmental Management, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization

Mrs Sezin ÇALIK ÇEPE
Environmental Expert, Marine and Coastal Management Department, General Directorate of
Environmental Management, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization

ORGANISATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS / AGENCES DES NATIONS UNIES

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP/MAP) / PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE DU PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT (PNUE / PAM)

Mr Erol CAVUS
Programme Management Officer, Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL), Barcelona Convention Secretariat - Coordinating Unit for UNEP/MAP

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE OF UNEP/MAP / CENTRE D'ACTIVITÉS RÉGIONALES DU PNUE / PAM

PLAN BLEU REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PB/RAC) / CENTRE D'ACTIVITÉS RÉGIONALES DU PLAN BLEU (CAR / PB)

Ms Lina TODE
Directrice adjointe

SECRETARIAT / SECRÉTARIAT

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

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

Opening of the Meeting

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Completion of the necessary knowledge gathering
3. Carrying out of the further studies to more fully address the criteria and procedures for designation of emission control areas laid down in Appendix III to MARPOL Annex VI
4. Updating of the initial draft submission to the IMO based on the completed knowledge gathering and the further studies carried out
5. Draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO_x ECA to the IMO
6. Other business
7. Conclusions and recommendations

Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.50/1	Provisional agenda
REMPEC/WG.50/1/1	Annotated provisional agenda and draft timetable
REMPEC/WG.50/5	Draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO _x ECA to the IMO
REMPEC/WG.50/WP.1	Draft conclusions and recommendations
REMPEC/WG.50/7	Report of the Meeting

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.50/INF.1	List of documents
REMPEC/WG.50/INF.2	List of participants
REMPEC/WG.50/INF.3	Decision IG.24/8 on the Road Map for a Proposal for the Possible Designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides Pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, within the Framework of the Barcelona Convention
REMPEC/WG.50/INF.4	Submission by REMPEC to the 76 th session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 76) (English only)
REMPEC/WG.50/INF.5*	Report of the further work of the SO _x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts (English only)
REMPEC/WG.50/INF.6	Terms of Reference for the completion of the knowledge gathering and the preparations of further studies as well as the finalisation of the draft submission to the IMO (English only)
REMPEC/WG.50/INF.7	Final report on the completion of the knowledge gathering and the finalisation of the draft submission to the IMO (English only)
REMPEC/WG.50/INF.8*	Final report on the completion of the knowledge gathering related to land-based emissions control measures of SO _x and PM in the Mediterranean coastal States (English only)
REMPEC/WG.50/INF.9	Final report on the carrying out of the further study related to the additional analyses of fuel supply and alternative compliance methods (English only)
REMPEC/WG.50/INF.10	Final report on the completion of the knowledge gathering and the carrying out of the further study related to the additional economic impact evaluation (English only)
REMPEC/WG.50/INF.11	Finalised draft submission to the IMO (English only)

* Reissued for technical reasons.

ANNEX IV

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO_x ECA) pursuant to Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), hereinafter referred to as the Meeting, which was held remotely from 27 to 28 April 2021:

1 **expressed** appreciation for the financial support provided by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) and the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the implementation of Decision IG.24/8 on the Road Map for a Proposal for the Possible Designation of the Med SO_x ECA, hereinafter referred to as the road map as annexed to the said decision, adopted by the Twenty-first Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the "Barcelona Convention") and its Protocols (COP 21) (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019);

2 **thanked** the Secretariat, including the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL) as well as the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (PB/RAC) of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and their consultants, for the collaborative efforts and the work they carried out with regard to the implementation of the road map as well as for their respective contributions to the preparation and successful organisation of the Meeting;

3 **welcomed** the universal representation of all twenty-two (22) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and their broad participation in the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts;

4 **took note** with interest of the report of the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.5;

5 **valued** the presentations from the Secretariat on the following, endorsing, and reflecting their results:

- .1 the final report on the completion of the knowledge gathering and the finalisation of the draft submission to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.7;
- .2 the final report on the completion of the knowledge gathering related to land-based emissions control measures of SO_x and Particulate matter (PM) in the Mediterranean coastal States, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.8;
- .3 the final report on the carrying out of the further study related to the additional analyses of fuel supply and alternative compliance methods, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.9;
- .4 the final report on the completion of the knowledge gathering and the carrying out of the further study related to the additional economic impact evaluation, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.10; and
- .5 the finalised draft submission to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.11.

6 **requested** the Secretariat to carry out final editing and any editorial corrections that might be identified, as appropriate;

7 **further acknowledged** the determining roles and substantive contributions of MED POL and PB/RAC in the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts on matters respectively related to land-based emissions control measures of SO_x and Particulate matter (PM) in the Mediterranean coastal States as well as additional economic impact evaluation;

8 **recognised** that the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts oversaw the completion of the knowledge gathering and the preparations of further studies, notably socio-economic impacts on individual Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention;

9 **was satisfied** that the necessary knowledge was gathered in line with the road map and in accordance with the Terms of Reference developed by the Secretariat and agreed by the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, by notably addressing:

- .1 synopsis of the assessment;
- .2 quantification of the impacts associated with deposition of PM_{2.5} and air toxics;
- .3 additional detail of land-based emissions controls of SO_x and PM in the Mediterranean coastal States; and
- .4 additional elements on the economic impacts on shipping engaged in international trade.

10 **was also satisfied** that the necessary studies were prepared in line with the road map and in accordance with the Terms of Reference developed by the Secretariat and agreed by the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, by notably addressing:

- .1 additional economic impact evaluation, more precisely:
 - .1 analyses of the impacts on shipping engaged in international trade as well as on trade modal shift outside the Mediterranean; and
 - .2 analyses of the impacts on short-sea shipping activity as well on the social and economic impact on Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention including on development for islands, insular and remote areas; and
- .2 additional fuel supply and technology analyses (regional fuel production, fuel availability, and alternative compliance technologies).

11 **was of the opinion** that the carrying out of the further studies enabled to more fully address the criteria and procedures for designation of emission control areas laid down in Appendix III to MARPOL Annex VI;

12 **further recognised** that the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts provided the necessary guidance to the Secretariat on the updating of the initial draft submission to the IMO for a proposal for the possible designation of the Med SO_x ECA;

13 **also acknowledged** that the finalised draft submission to the IMO was based on the completed knowledge gathering and the further studies carried out;

14 **was further satisfied** that the initial draft submission to the IMO for a proposal for the possible designation of the Med SO_x ECA was updated in line with the road map and in accordance with the Terms of Reference developed by the Secretariat and agreed by the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts;

15 **considered** that the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts was successfully completed within the approved timeline of the road map;

16 **welcomed** the submission by the Secretariat to the 76th session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 76), as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.4, in line with the road map;

17 **encouraged** the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI, if they had not yet done so, as soon as possible;

18 **also welcomed** the assistance for the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI that has been provided by the Secretariat to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which have so requested, through activities financed by the MTF and the IMO's ITCP, during the biennium 2020-2021, in line with the road map;

19 **reiterated** the importance for the Secretariat to continue providing assistance for the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which so request;

20 **also underlined** the need to encourage and support preparation efforts and mitigate potential impacts as relevant, in line, with outcomes of further knowledge gathering through relevant frontrunner activities and financial, and capacity building mechanisms;

21 **agreed**, on the basis of the outcome of the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, to take the finalised draft submission to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.50/INF.11, as a basis for the possible submission of a joint and coordinated proposal for the designation of the proposed Med SO_x ECA to the IMO;

22 **noted** that an initial discussion was held on the following issues with a view to facilitating the further process:

- .1 whether or not to submit a proposal to IMO for the designation of the proposed Med SO_x ECA;
- .2 the most appropriate timing for such a submission, if any; and
- .3 the effective date of entry into force of the proposed Med SO_x ECA, if any.

23 **acknowledged** that the road map was adopted with the view of formally submitting the proposal to the seventy-eighth (78th) session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 78) scheduled for 2022;

24 **further acknowledged** that, according to the road map, the goal of the process is, *inter alia*, to have the proposed Med SO_x ECA effectively entering into force within a reasonable and practical timeframe, as defined by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, and **noted** that this date could be 1 March 2024 at the earliest or a later date such as 1 January 2025;

25 **stressed** that further discussions were necessary with a view to formulating a joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the proposed Med SO_x ECA to the IMO; and

26 **further requested** the Secretariat to report to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC on the outcome of the Meeting.