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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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First Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG)  
Sub-Group on Environmental Impact of Offshore Monitoring Programmes

Greece, 3-4 April 2017

**Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and election of officers**

**Provisional Annotated Agenda**

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## Provisional Annotated Agenda

### Introduction

The Nineteenth 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”) (COP19), which was held in Athens, Greece, from 9 to 12 February 2016, adopted basin-wide strategies, action plans and programmes, including the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) (Decision IG.22/7), and the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (“the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan”) (Decision IG.22/3).

In accordance with Decision IG.22/20 on the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017, the EcAp Med II Project supports the development of a quality assurance programme for oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) pollution from ships and offshore data reporting and collection in line with the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Monitoring Programme, hence the IMAP.

This activity is coordinated by the MED POL Programme, with the support of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).

In accordance with Article 19 of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (“the Offshore Protocol”):

- a) the operator shall be required to measure, or to have measured by a qualified entity, expert in the matter, the effects of the activities on the environment in the light of the nature, scope, duration and technical methods employed in the activities and of the characteristics of the area and to report on them periodically or upon request by the competent authority for the purpose of an evaluation by such competent authority according to a procedure established by the competent authority in its authorisation system; and
- b) the competent authority shall establish, where appropriate, a national monitoring system in order to be in a position to monitor regularly the installations and the impact of the activities on the environment, so as to ensure that the conditions attached to the grant of the authorisation are being fulfilled.

According to Specific Objective 9 of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan –*To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programmes*, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are expected to contribute to the development of a regional monitoring programme for offshore activities building, *inter alia*, on IMAP, with support from the Secretariat, as well as to report results of the national offshore monitoring programme and the related agreed data to the Secretariat every two years.

Moreover, depending on the availability of resources, the Secretariat and its Components are also expected to:

- a) develop the Mediterranean Offshore Reporting and Monitoring System (e.g. Regional Data Bank on Offshore activities through the Barcelona Convention Reporting System or other systems defined by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention); and
- b) produce, disseminate and publish every two years a report on Discharges, Spills and Emissions from Offshore Oil and Gas Installations, based on data submitted by countries, which should be used as a basis for the State of the Environment Report regarding the impacts of the offshore oil and gas industry.

Therefore, the establishment of regional offshore monitoring procedures and programmes in accordance with Article 19 of the Offshore Protocol should be aimed at completing the IMAP with relevant information and indicators as well as measures to implement the Offshore Protocol and the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan.

Considering that Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention should be efficiently and timely supported to establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programmes in accordance with Article 19 of the Offshore Protocol with a view, thereafter, to enabling them to develop their national monitoring programmes and to produce their monitoring reports on a regular basis, it is necessary to build upon:

- a) the relevant work that has been undertaken in COR MON in line with Decision IG.21/3; and
- b) the findings of the analysis of existing recognised international best practices and regulations relevant to the implementation of the Offshore Protocol and of the comparative analysis of existing legislative and administrative framework in the region, which were prepared in the framework of the EcAp Med Project and submitted to the Third Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting held in Attard, Malta from 17 to 18 June 2014 (REMPEC/WG.34/19/Rev.1).

With a view to completing the IMAP with elements corresponding to the Offshore related monitoring at regional level as well as developing guiding elements in support of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the development of a National Monitoring Programme and at Offshore operator level as well as of a National Monitoring Inspection Programme, a set of draft working documents are presented to the First Meeting of the OFOG Sub-Group on Environmental Impact of Offshore Monitoring Programmes, held in Greece, between 3 and 4 April 2017 for its review and recommendation.

The main objectives of the Meeting are:

- a) to review and examine the proposed outputs related to the establishment of National and Regional Offshore Monitoring Programmes, including pollutants, parameters and minimum requirement, and
- b) to give clear instructions and guidance to the Secretariat for the preparation of the required documentation in relation to offshore monitoring, to be submitted to the MAP Focal Point Meeting, to be held in Athens, Greece, between 5 and 8 September 2017, for its review and adoption.

### **Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting**

The Meeting will be opened by UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit and the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).

### **Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Agenda and Election of Officers**

*UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/1*

The Meeting will elect one (1) President, three (3) Vice Presidents and one (1) Rapporteur from among the participants.

The Provisional Agenda annotated in the present document will be reviewed, amended as necessary, and adopted by the Meeting. Simultaneous translation in English and French will be provided during the Meeting.

The participants will be invited to review and adopt the Meeting conclusions and recommendations, amended as appropriate, drafted by the Rapporteur. The report of the Meeting will be prepared and circulated for adoption after the Meeting.

### **Agenda item 3. Offshore Monitoring Programme**

Under this agenda item information will be provided on the technical aspects related to the establishment of National and Regional Offshore Monitoring Programmes, including pollutants, parameters and minimum requirements. The Participants will be invited to review and comment upon the documents submitted by the Secretariat as detailed below.

#### **a) List of pollutants**

The Secretariat will present document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/3 proposing recommendations for the required modification of the lists of pollutants referred in Annex I and Annex II of the Offshore Protocol, in the context of the development of a Mediterranean Offshore Monitoring Procedures and

Programmes. The ultimate objective of this document is to define a list of pollutants to be monitored as well as potential emerging pollutants resulting from new techniques applied by operators for exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the seabed and its subsoil.

Participants will be invited to comment upon the proposed modifications of Annex I, and II and of the Offshore Protocol; and provide input to enable the Secretariat to prepare a final draft list of pollutant prior to its submission to the MAP Focal Point Meeting.

#### **b) List of parameters**

The Secretariat will introduce document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/4 which proposes a draft list of parameters to be monitored by Operator for exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the seabed and its subsoil, including an analysis of methodological guidance for their monitoring and data availability.

Participants will be invited to review and provide input on the proposed list of parameters.

#### **c) Minimum requirements for the establishment of a National Offshore Monitoring Inspection Programme and Regional Road Map for the establishment of a Regional Offshore Monitoring Programme and Assessment**

The Secretariat will present the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/5 suggesting a check list with minimum requirements to enable Competent Authorities to establish a National Monitoring Inspection Programme aimed at inspecting the regular monitoring by Operators of the installations and the impact of the activities on the environment.

Participants will be invited to review and comment upon the proposed minimum requirements for the establishment of a National Offshore Monitoring Inspection Programme.

The Secretariat will also present document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/7, which provides a detailed Regional Road Map for the Implementation of a Regional Offshore Protocol Monitoring Programme and Assessment and recommendations on the process to be followed and implemented for the establishment of harmonised National Offshore Monitoring Programmes leading to a Regional Offshore Protocol Monitoring Programme. In this context, the proposed Operator Compliance Factsheets (OCFs) and “National Inspection Factsheet” (NIF) will be introduced for each of the nineteen (19) Common and Candidate Indicators Relevant to Offshore Monitoring.

Participants will be invited to review and comment upon the proposed Regional Road Map for the establishment of a Regional Offshore Monitoring Programme and Assessment and upon the OCFs and NIFs proposed in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/Inf.6.

#### **d) List of IMAP indicators relevant to the Offshore Monitoring Programme and related draft guidance fact sheets**

The Secretariat will introduce the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/6 providing a list of qualitative indicators relevant to the Offshore Monitoring Programme and related Guidance fact sheets of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP). The Secretariat will further present the proposed recommendations for the Quality Indicators, relevant for each Common and Candidate Indicator (CIs) pertinent to the Offshore Monitoring Programme and will provide specific scientific input on relevant Guidance Factsheets.

Participants will be invited to review and provide input on the list of IMAP indicators relevant to the Offshore Monitoring Programme, the proposed recommendations for the Quality Indicators and the related draft Guidance Factsheets.

**e) Questionnaire for private sector stakeholders and Competent Authorities**

In conformity with Decision IG.21/8 related to the establishment of Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (BARCO OFOG) and its Terms of Reference (ToR), adopted by the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 18) to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013), representatives of the oil and gas industry as well as Intergovernmental Organizations and Nongovernmental Organizations with a relevant mandate to the topics discussed in OFOG Sub-Group on Environmental Impact of Offshore Monitoring Programmes have been invited to participate in the Meeting, as observers, as well as representatives of other regional fora with a similar mandate to the OFOG Group.

The participants will be invited to complete either the questionnaire for Competent Authorities (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/Inf.7 - Annex I) or the questionnaire for stakeholders (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/Inf.7 - Annex II) and return it the Secretariat, in hard copy or in electronic format, at the end of the session for further analysis after the Meeting.

**Agenda item 4 Conclusions and Recommendations**

Under this Agenda item, the Meeting will review, amend and adopt draft conclusions and recommendations that will result from the Meeting discussions as prepared by the Rapporteur.

**Agenda item 5 Any Other Business**

Under this Agenda item, the participants and the Secretariat will be able to raise any other business related to the subject of the Meeting agreed during the adoption of the agenda.

**Agenda item 6 Closure of the Meeting**

The President will close the Meeting at 1230 hours on 4 April 2017.

**TIMETABLE**  
**3-4 April 2017**

<b>Monday, 3 April 2017</b>		<b>Relevant documents</b>
14:00 – 14:30	<i>Registration</i>	
14:30 – 14:45	Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting	
14:45 – 15:00	Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and election of officers	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/1 UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/2
15:00 – 15:45	Agenda item 3 a): Offshore Monitoring Programme - List of pollutants	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/3 UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/Inf.5
15:45 – 16:30	Agenda item 3 b): Offshore Monitoring Programme - List of parameters	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/4
16:30 – 17:15	Agenda item 3 c): Minimum requirements for the establishment of a National Offshore Monitoring Inspection Programme and Regional Road Map for the establishment of a Regional Offshore Monitoring Programme and Assessment	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/5 UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/7 UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/Inf.6
<b>Tuesday, 4 April 2017</b>		
09:00 – 09:45	Agenda item 3 c): Minimum requirements for the establishment of a National Offshore Monitoring Inspection Programme and Regional Road Map for the establishment of a Regional Offshore Monitoring Programme and Assessment	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/5 UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/7 UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/Inf.6
09:45 – 10:30	Agenda item 3 d): List of IMAP indicators relevant to the Offshore Monitoring Programme and related draft guidance fact sheets	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/6
10:30 – 11:15	Agenda item 3 e) Questionnaire for private sector stakeholders and Competent Authorities	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/Inf.7
11:15 – 12:00	Agenda item 4. Conclusions and Recommendations	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/8
12:00 – 12:15	Agenda item 5. Any Other Business	
12:15 – 12:30	Agenda item 6. Closure of the Meeting	