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

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

REMPEC/WG.51/3/2  
Date: 14 May 2021

Online, 31 May – 2 June 2021

Original: English

Agenda Item 3

### ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DRAFT TIMETABLE

#### Note by the Secretariat

#### SUMMARY

**Executive Summary:** This document provides brief information on the actions to be taken by the Meeting as well as a draft timetable for the Meeting. This timetable prepared by the Secretariat is of a tentative nature and may be modified by the Meeting, as appropriate.

**Actions to be taken:** As indicated under each agenda item.

**Related documents:** UNEP/IG.43/6; REMPEC/WG.51/3/1; REMPEC/WG.51/4;  
REMPEC/WG.51/5; REMPEC/WG.51/6; REMPEC/WG.51/7;  
REMPEC/WG.51/8; REMPEC/WG.51/9; REMPEC/WG.51/9/1;  
REMPEC/WG.51/9/2; REMPEC/WG.51/9/3; REMPEC/WG.51/10;  
REMPEC/WG.51/10/1; REMPEC/WG.51/10/2; REMPEC/WG.51/11;  
REMPEC/WG.51/WP.1, REMPEC/WG.51/INF.3, REMPEC/WG.51/INF.4  
REMPEC/WG.51/INF.5, REMPEC/WG.51/INF.6, REMPEC/WG.51/INF.7,  
REMPEC/WG.51/INF.8, REMPEC/WG.51/INF.9, REMPEC/WG.51/INF.10,  
REMPEC/WG.51/INF.11

#### Introduction

1 The Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) is being convened remotely from 31 May to 2 June 2021, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021 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) (Napoli, Italy, 2-5 December 2019).

2 The principal objectives of the Meeting are:

- .1 to examine the implementation of the Programme of Work of REMPEC since the Thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Floriana, Malta, 11-13 June 2019); and
- .2 to discuss and agree upon the proposed Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2022-2023, prior to its submission, for approval by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 14-17 September 2021), and for adoption by the Twenty-Second Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 22) (Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021).

3 All REMPEC Governmental Focal Points were invited to nominate, jointly and in consultation with their respective REMPEC Prevention and OPRC Focal Points, their representatives in the Meeting. The participation of observers representing the oil, chemical, port and shipping industries in national delegations was strongly encouraged. The invitation to attend the Meeting was also extended to the specialised agencies of the United Nations, other governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as to the international professional organisations and associations, the activities of which are relevant to the work of the Centre.

4 In order to assist the Meeting in its work, the Secretariat prepared the following annotations to the proposed provisional agenda of the Meeting.

**Agenda Item 1**                      **Opening of the Meeting**

5 The Meeting will open on Monday, 31 May 2021 at 0900 hours (Malta local time or GMT+2) and is expected to close on Wednesday, 2 June 2021 at 1200 hours (Malta local time or GMT+2).

**Agenda Item 2**                      **Organisation of the Meeting**

**2.1**                      **Rules of Procedure**

6 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) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the deliberations of this Meeting.

**2.2**                      **Election of Officers**

**The Meeting will be invited** to elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and a Rapporteur.

**2.3**                      **Working Languages**

7 The working languages of the Meeting will be English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation will be provided during the Meeting. All working documents will be available in both official languages of the Centre, i.e. in English and in French. Information documents will be available in their original language unless a translation is provided in the second working language.

**Agenda Item 3**                      **Adoption of the Agenda**

8 The agenda, as proposed in document REMPEC/WG.45/3/1 and annotated in the present document, will be proposed for adoption by the Meeting. The Meeting will also be invited to agree on a timetable to carry out its work. A draft timetable is proposed in the **Annex** to the present document.

**Agenda Item 4**                      **Progress Report on REMPEC activities since the Thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC**

9 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.51/4, which sets out an outline of the activities carried out by the Centre since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC.

10 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided as well as to comment as deemed appropriate.

**Agenda Item 5**                      **Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action Plan**

11 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the document REMPEC/WG.51/5 on the Draft Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, hereinafter referred to as the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), which was prepared by the Secretariat, in consultation with Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and key Partners in the region, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations reproduced in Annex IV to the Report of the Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) (online, 10 March 2021), as laid down in document REMPEC/WG.51/INF.6.

12 In its presentation, the Secretariat will also mention the document REMPEC/WG.51/INF.11, which compiled a set of projects sheets relevant to the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

13 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided, to consider the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), to examine and agree upon the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), and request the Secretariat to submit it for approval by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points.

**Agenda Item 6**                    **Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027)**

14 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.51/6 presenting the Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027), as prepared by REMPEC, in cooperation with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC).

15 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided, to consider the proposal put forward by the Secretariat in document REMPEC/WG.51/6, as well as to examine and agree upon the Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027), as set out in Appendix II to document REMPEC/WG.51/6, as well as to request the Secretariat to submit it for examination and approval by the next Meeting of the MAP Focal Points.

**Agenda Item 7**                    **Possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA) pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI**

16 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.51/7, which provides information on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA) pursuant to Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), in accordance with Decision IG.24/8 adopted by the Twenty-first Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019).

17 In particular, the Secretariat will refer to the submission by REMPEC to the 76th session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 76) and the continued assistance it provided for the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI. It will also present the outcome of the further work of the SO<sub>x</sub> ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts and will refer to the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI (online, 27-28 April 2021), as laid down in document REMPEC/WG.51/INF.9. Finally, the Secretariat will present the draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.51/7.

18 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided, to concur with the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA, to consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in document REMPEC/WG.51/7, to examine and endorse the draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.51/7, as well as to request the Secretariat to submit it for examination and approval by the next Meeting of the MAP Focal Points.

**Agenda Item 8**                    **Guidance Document for the identification and designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas in relation to Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance**

19 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.51/8 presenting the Guidance Document for the identification and designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas in relation to Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance, as prepared by REMPEC, in cooperation with SPA/RAC.

20 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided, to consider the proposal put forward by the Secretariat in document REMPEC/WG.51/8, as well as to examine and agree upon the Guidance Document, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.51/8, and request the Secretariat to submit it for examination and agreement by the Fifteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points.

### **Agenda Item 9**      **Data sharing, monitoring, and reporting**

21 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.51/9, which outlines the progress made on data sharing, monitoring, and reporting since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Malta, 11-13 June 2019).

22 In particular, the Secretariat will provide information on the further development and practical use of a draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report within the framework of the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS), and will refer to the Report of the Third Meeting of MENELAS (Valletta, Malta, 15-16 October 2019) as well as the Report of the Fourth Meeting of MENELAS (online, 21-22 April 2021), as presented respectively in documents REMPEC/WG.51/INF.7 and REMPEC/WG.51/INF.8.

23 The Secretariat will provide an overview of the revised Guidance Fact Sheets: Common Indicator 6 and 19 of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP), as presented in the document REMPEC/WG.51/9/1.

24 The Secretariat will present the proposed way forward for the establishment of the Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean, as laid down in the document REMPEC/WG.51/9/2; as well as the Manual on national mechanisms for the mobilisation of response equipment and experts in case of emergency, as set out in the document REMPEC/WG.51/9/3, and will refer to the Report of the Regional Workshop to Enhance Regional Cooperation in Responding to Marine Oil and HNS Pollution in the Mediterranean (MEDEXPOL 2020) (online, 27-28 October 2020), reproduced in the document REMPEC/WG.51/INF.5.

25 The Secretariat will also refer to the Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution, maritime traffic, and offshore activities in the Mediterranean reproduced in the document REMPEC/WG.51/INF.3, which was prepared to support Contracting Parties in taking well informed decisions, in the context of the drafting of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031); the Study on synergy between the three sub-regional agreements and contingency plans in the West Mediterranean presented in in the document REMPEC/WG.51/INF.4 and the Comparative review of existing reporting procedures and formats, as laid down in the document REMPEC/WG.51/INF.10.

26 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided and to consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in the above-mentioned documents, in particular:

- .1 to request the Centre to submit the finalised draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report to the Fifteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC for endorsement,
- .2 to requests the Secretariat to coordinate the finalisation of the IMAP revised Guidance Fact Sheets for the Common Indicator 6 and 19,
- .3 to agree upon the possible use of the Common Emergency Communication and Information System for Marine Pollution (CECIS MP) by all Contracting Parties, as a Common Emergency Communication System for the request of assistance,
- .4 to agree upon the proposed interconnection between the equipment database of the CECIS MP and the Mediterranean Integrated Geographical Information System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment and Response (MEDGIS-MAR),
- .5 to agree upon the use of the Template for the development of the Manuals on the national mechanism for the mobilization of response equipment and experts, in case of emergency and request the Secretariat to make the necessary amendments, and
- .6 to request the Secretariat to undertake the necessary editorial review and publish the Study on Trends and Outlook on Marine Pollution, Maritime Traffic and Offshore Activities in the Mediterranean.

**Agenda Item 10**            **Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) and related activities**

27     The Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.51/10 providing an update on the progress made by the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) since the Thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC and proposing future activities to be integrated to the programme of work of the MTWG for the biennium 2022-2023.

28     The Secretariat will present the document REMPEC/WG.51/10/1, which describes the developments related to the preparation of the Study on Condensate spills and the related proposals.

29     Furthermore, the Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.51/10/2, which present the final version of the Marine HNS response manual – Multi-Regional Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC.

30     **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided and to consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in the above-mentioned documents, notably:

- .1     to examine and agree upon the further consultations and work required to complete the task related to the Study on Condensate spills,
- .2     to examine and adopt the Marine HNS response manual - Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC, and
- .3     to task the MTWG, through the OPRC HNS Correspondence Group, to continue supporting the process for the establishment of the Common Emergency Communication System, and to provide input for the “Development of an operational guide on the response to spills of Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS)”, in the framework of the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR), during the biennium 2022-2023

**Agenda Item 11**            **Proposed Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2022-2023**

31     Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.51/11, which presents, in its Annex, the proposed programme of work to be implemented by the Centre during the biennium 2022-2023, and explains the rationale used to prepare it.

32     **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided as well as to consider, discuss, and agree upon the proposed Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2022-2023, prior to its submission for approval by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points and for adoption by COP 21.

**Agenda Item 12**            **Other business**

33     **The Meeting will be invited** to consider any other matters that may be raised under this agenda item.

34     Under this agenda item, organisations wishing to provide brief information on some of their activities that may be of interest to the Meeting will also be given the opportunity to do so.

**Agenda Item 13**            **Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations**

35     The draft conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting will be submitted under the document REMPEC/WG.51/WP.1, for their consideration and adoption, as amended by the Meeting.

**Agenda Item 17**            **Closure of the Meeting**

36     The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairperson on Wednesday, 2 June 2021 at 1200 hours (Malta local time or GMT+2).

**Annex – Draft timetable**

<b>Day 1 – Monday, 31 May 2021</b>		
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Conference set-up and access to Plenary room</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	Agenda Item 1	Opening of the Meeting
09:30 – 10:00	Agenda Item 2	Organisation of the Meeting
	Agenda Item 3	Adoption of the Agenda
10:00 – 10:30	Agenda Item 4	Progress Report on REMPEC activities since the Thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11:00 – 12:30	Agenda Item 5	Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action Plan
12:30 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>	
14:00 – 15:00	Agenda Item 6	Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027)
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Coffee break</b>	
15:30 – 17:30	Agenda Item 7	Possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO <sub>x</sub> ECA) pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI
17:30	<b>End of Day 1</b>	
<b>Day 2 – Tuesday, 1 June 2021</b>		
09:00 – 9:45	Agenda Item 8	Guidance Document for the identification and designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas in relation to Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
9:45 – 10:30	Agenda Item 9	Data sharing, monitoring, and reporting
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11:00 – 12:30	Agenda Item 9 (cont.)	Data sharing, monitoring, and reporting
12:30 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>	
14:00 – 15:30	Agenda Item 10	Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) and related activities
15:30 – 16:30	Agenda Item 11	Proposed Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2022-2023
	<b>End of Day 2</b>	
<b>Day 3 – Wednesday, 2 June 2021</b>		
10:00 – 10:30	Agenda Item 12	Other business
10:30 – 11:30	Agenda Item 13	Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations
11:30 – 12:00	Agenda Item 14	Closure of the Meeting
	<b>End of the Meeting</b>	