



REGIONAL OIL-COMBATING CENTRE
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA
CENTRE REGIONAL MEDITERRANEEN
DE LUTTE CONTRE LA POLLUTION
PAR LES HYDROCARBURES



Review Meeting on the Structure and Functions
of the Regional Oil Combating Centre for the
Mediterranean Sea

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MALTA, 23-27 February 1987

Agenda Item: 8

Report of the Review Meeting
on the Structure and Functions
of the Regional Oil Combating Centre
for the Mediterranean Sea

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Introduction

1. The Fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution and its related Protocols held in Genoa, 9-13 September 1985 (UNEP/IG.56/5) inter alia recommended that a Meeting be convened to review the structure and functions of the Regional Oil Combating Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (ROCC) and that its recommendations be submitted to the Fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties for decision.
2. In accordance with this recommendation the UNEP Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan and the International Maritime Organization jointly convened the Review Meeting on the Structure and Functions of ROCC which was held at the ROCC premises in Malta from 23 to 27 February 1987.
3. The purpose of the Meeting was to review and evaluate the structure and functions of ROCC since its establishment in 1976 and to consider whether or not it is necessary to recommend to the Fifth Ordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties specific changes in the structure and functions of ROCC and, if so necessary, to provide the Contracting Parties with specific suggestions on how the structure and functions of ROCC may be changed.

Participants

4. Delegations from eleven Contracting Parties (Algeria, Cyprus, EEC, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Spain, Turkey) took part in the Meeting. Representatives of UNEP and IMO and the Director of ROCC also took part. A list of participants is given in Annex 1.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

5. The Meeting was opened by the Hon. Dr. D. MICALLEF, Minister of Education and Environment of the Republic of Malta, by Mr. A. MANOS, UNEP Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan and by Mr. A. MOROZOV, Director of the Marine Environment Division of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Their addresses to the Meeting have been appended in Annex 2 of this Report.

Agenda Item 2: Rules of Procedure

6. The Meeting agreed to apply the UNEP Rules of Procedure (UNEP/IG.43/6 Annex XI) to the deliberations of the Meeting mutatis mutandi.

Agenda Item 3: Election of Officers

7. Mr. George PAPACHRISTODOULOU (Greece), Mr. Juan OTERO DIEZ (Spain), Mr. HUSSEIN A. KAMEL (Egypt), Mr. Jean François LEVY (France) were elected unanimously Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur respectively.

Agenda Item 4: Adoption of the Agenda

8. The Agenda adopted by the Meeting is reproduced in Annex 3. A list of documents for the Meeting is contained in Annex 4.

Agenda Item 5: Overview and Evaluation of the Structure, Functions and Activities of the Regional Oil Combating Centre (ROCC) (1976-1986)

9. The Meeting reviewed the Activities of the Centre in relation to the Objectives and Functions annexed to Resolution 7 of the Barcelona Conference of February 1976 on the basis of a comprehensive overview prepared by the Centre and presented by the Director (UNEP/WG.150/5).
10. The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the activities of the Centre carried out over the past ten years. The Meeting also expressed its satisfaction that the Centre was discharging its functions and meeting its objectives. The Meeting however, in reviewing the specific functions of the Centre, noted that Function A stipulated that the Centre should "collect and disseminate information on: inventories of experts and equipment in each coastal State for combating massive accidental spillage of Oil". The Meeting was informed that the Centre was, up till now, unable to completely fulfil this Function because the Centre had not received information on equipment from all coastal States. The Meeting recommended that all Contracting Parties should provide to the Centre all relevant information on existing equipment on the understanding that not all such equipment could be made available to a Requesting Contracting Party.
11. The Director of the Centre presented document UNEP/WG.150/5.1 containing propositions on future activities of the Centre in accordance with the current mandate to deal with oil pollution combating and on the development of regional co-operation.
12. The Delegates' deliberations included the following main points:
 - . the importance of the problem of communication during pollution combating operations;
 - . the need to establish National Contingency Plans which is a prerequisite for effective co-operation;
 - . the importance of compensation schemes and the ratification of related international conventions by the Contracting Parties.
13. The Meeting considered that ROCC had an important promotional role to play on the points mentioned in the preceding paragraph, in particular to highlight for coastal States the advantages they would gain from action in these fields.
14. Finally it was clearly stated that the efficiency of ROCC was strongly dependent on information supplied by the Contracting Parties and their will to undertake actions in the field of oil pollution combating.

15. The Meeting recalled that during the Fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties the view was expressed that the functions of ROCC be widened to include other harmful substances. In order to provide the Meeting with a basis for discussion, an overview and evaluation of the risk of marine casualty involving harmful substances in the Mediterranean Sea was prepared by an IMO Consultant from "Centre de Documentation de Recherche et d'Expérimentations sur les Pollutions Accidentelles des Eaux" (CEDRE), Mr. R. KANTIN, with the financial support of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The Consultant presented this review to the Meeting, the main points of which are summarized below.
16. This study dealt with Mediterranean traffic of liquified gases and bulk and packaged chemicals, using in particular data compiled from the European Programme COST-301 (whose working group No. 8 concerns the Mediterranean) and data compiled from Marseilles-Fos, the largest port of the Mediterranean.
17. Around 220 000 ships (of more than 100 GRT) per year transit the Mediterranean. Among those ships, are gas carriers, chemical carriers or other types of ships transporting hazardous substances. Approximately 1/6 of the world fleet of these carriers transit the Mediterranean. For Marseilles-Fos alone, liquified gas traffic is estimated at 3 million tons per year and if one considers all harmful substances almost up to 5 million tons per year. There are around 6000 movements per year, 3000 for bulk chemicals, 2300 for packaged chemicals and 700 for liquified gases. Therefore a great variety of products is transported although in relatively small quantities, especially for packaged dangerous goods which include a great number of chemicals considered hazardous from a safety and environmental point of view (i.e. derivatives of arsenic or cyanides). However, some chemicals are transported in bulk in large quantities across the Mediterranean and especially via the Suez Canal, the Bosphorus, and to and from petrochemical complexes of North Adriatic or North Africa. Among the most frequently transported in bulk at the level of several hundred thousand tons each are: methanol, benzene, styrene, ethylene-glycol and other alcohols and derivatives of benzene, which are especially hazardous because of the risk of explosion or toxicity in case of a spillage.
18. Using Lloyd's data, it is estimated that the number of serious marine casualties which involve vessels transporting hazardous substances is approximately 10 per year. However, the number of accidents in the Mediterranean involving gas/chemical carriers is much lower, but the risks of marine casualties can increase with an increase of maritime transportation of some chemicals; transport of some products as methanol, benzene and oxygenated ethers, used as boosters, will continue to increase. For the liquified gases, a rate of growth of 2% up to 1995 is anticipated (against 1% for oil).
19. The overview contained a brief description of the problems associated with combating marine pollution by harmful substances emphasizing the need to integrate chemical spill response into existing National Contingency Plans.
20. This overview also contained specific initial proposals for activities which could be undertaken by ROCC to deal with the collection of information and training with respect to combating pollution by harmful substances.

21. The Meeting having considered the Consultant's Report, the conclusions of which are described above, agreed as follows:

To recommend to the Contracting Parties:

- . that the activities and mandate of ROCC should, pursuant to the Protocol on Co-operation, include harmful substances other than oil along the following lines;
 - . pending amendment of Resolution 7 and formal adoption of revised terms of reference, ROCC should carry out the following activities within the present budget allocation:
 - a) make all necessary contacts with existing data bases and other sources of information including data on the maritime transport of such substances;
 - b) introduce, in a provisional form, data on harmful substances other than oil in the ROCC Guide for Oil Pollution Combating in the Mediterranean;
 - c) introduce elements on harmful substances other than oil in the existing training programme;
 - d) organize a workshop on maritime transport of harmful substances in the Mediterranean in order to promote the integration of response to spills of such substances into existing National Contingency Plans;
 - e) explore the possibility for the Centre to obtain expertise in the field of harmful substances.
 - . on the basis of experience in carrying out the above activities, ROCC should prepare for the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (1989) a detailed proposal on the functions of the Centre including detailed workplan for activities related to harmful substances.
22. It was agreed that the proposal on the functions of the Centre concerning harmful substances, could be discussed at the above mentioned workshop on hazardous substances.
23. Considering the importance of National Contingency Plans pointed out during the discussion, the Delegates were invited to give a brief description of the status of Contingency Plans in their countries and to indicate any changes which they deem necessary for updating the ROCC Guide. The information received from several Delegates will be included in the next edition of the ROCC Guide.
24. The Meeting discussed in detail the "Draft Guidelines for Co-operation in Combating Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean" (Annex A of document WG/150/5.2) and agreed on the text as it appears in Annex 5. In particular it was agreed that, at the present time, these Guidelines should be limited to oil pollution.
25. It was also emphasized that external assistance alone would not be enough to deal with a marine pollution incident affecting a Contracting Party:

- . the existence of a National Contingency Plan, including information on the most sensitive zones and the necessary means for protecting them, is essential to determine the nature of the assistance to be requested and to ensure the effectiveness of this assistance;
 - . whatever the rapidity with which assistance can be obtained, (which assumes a minimal preliminary organization), one Party placing equipment at the disposal of another Party takes time (packing, transport, etc.): 48 hours appear to be an optimistic minimum in this respect. During this time serious damage can result if the coastal State, victim of the pollution, does not deploy the basic minimum equipment to enable initial combating operations to commence whilst awaiting this assistance.
26. The Meeting finally agreed to propose to the Contracting Parties the adoption of a set of Guidelines to facilitate co-operation in the Mediterranean. These Guidelines are contained in Annex 5.

Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties

27. The Meeting agreed to propose to the Contracting Parties to consider the recommendations contained in para. 10 on the information to be provided to ROCC and in para. 21 concerning the extension of ROCC's competence and to adopt the "Guidelines for co-operation in combating marine oil pollution in the Mediterranean" contained in Annex 5.

Agenda Item 7: Other Business

28. In response to questions raised by some Delegates about press reports that the Maltese Government has expressed its intent to develop Manoel Island for a touristic project, the Maltese Delegation informed the Meeting that they are authorized to say that if, for this or any other reason, the Maltese Government cannot extend further the lease of the ROCC premises, the Government will afford similar and adequate accommodation for ROCC on the same terms of the current lease and equipped with the same facilities as at present.

Agenda Item 8: Adoption of the Final Report

29. The Meeting approved the text of the present Report.

Agenda Item 9: Closure of the Meeting

30. At the end of the Meeting, the Director of the Marine Environment Division of IMO expressed his satisfaction for the excellent work already accomplished by the Centre. He thanked the Delegates for their spirit of co-operation and for their significant constructive proposals formulated with a view to adapt the objectives and functions of the Centre to the needs of the Mediterranean Region.
31. On Friday 27 February 1987, at 12.30 hours, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed.

Annex(e) 1

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LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX 2

Speech delivered by the Hon. Dr. Daniel MICALLEF B.Sc., M.D.
Minister of Education and Environment of the Republic of Malta

I deem it an honour and it gives me great pleasure to be welcoming to Malta Mr. Aldo MANOS, the Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan, Mr. Alexander MOROZOV, Director of the Marine Environment Division of the International Maritime Organization and the representatives of the Mediterranean coastal States. It is my pleasure to open this Review Meeting on the Regional Oil Combating Centre.

The persons in this room are all motivated by the same ideal. The protection and the preservation for us and for posterity of a valuable heritage which we share - the Mediterranean Sea. This common aim transcends narrow individual nationalistic concerns, and brings us together to work for a mutually beneficial worthy cause. One can say that the sea that separates us, is the bond between us.

Economic development and social advancement, has brought to our peoples, goods and comforts, that have greatly enhanced the quality of life in our region. But for all this, we had to pay a price. For creating wealth, we had to exploit available resources, and tamper with the natural circumstances.

The biosphere is large, but not limitless. Its ability to absorb with impunity anthropogenic manipulation, has a threshold. And man has exceeded that threshold. What can be said for the biosphere in general can be asserted with more vehemence for the Mediterranean basin in particular.

We have used, abused and misused this commonly-shared asset. We have despoiled the coastal areas, turned the sea into a sink for our sewage and industrial wastes, and used it as a carriageway for vessels laden with oil and other harmful substances.

Up to a few years ago, this offence, this insult to the environment, was being perpetuated without due consideration to the gradual degradation of our own milieu. An environment that had, through the ages moulded our way of life, shaped our history, developed our culture, and imbued us with an identifiable character.

That trend had to stop. We had to wake up to the unpleasant realities. We had to call a halt to this callous attitude. We had to start in earnest to concern ourselves with the damage we were inflicting on our very habitat to the detriment of the present and future generations.

Luckily, we did just that. And it is a happy circumstance that all the Mediterranean States felt the need for concerted action. The problem was regional - the solution could not but be a collaborative effort. A co-operative response to a collective issue.

All of you here are familiar with the Barcelona Agreement and the Convention and its attendant Protocols. All States represented here are actively involved in the various programmes of the Mediterranean Action Plan. The international cohesion that has characterized the management of these programmes during the first ten years, through the sterling work put in by the Co-ordinating Unit of Athens, is an added incentive and a guarantee for future successes.

Malta is a small State. Small in a geographical sense, but permit me to say, our smallness has not prevented us from grasping the validity of what was initiated at Barcelona. The size of our territory has in no way influenced our deep-seated desire to search for solutions to the problems under review. Nor has it impinged on us in contributing our whole-hearted collaboration to efforts aimed at protecting the Mediterranean marine environment.

Our will and our determination were made manifest right from the beginning when we offered to host the Regional Oil Combating Centre. Its establishment on our soil and the unstinted support afforded to it all along by the Maltese Authorities is ample witness of our sustained commitment to the scopes of the Mediterranean Action Plan. We are happy with its presence here and look up to it as the symbol of our adherence to the regional endeavours.

The Maltese Islands lie athwart the main sea routes of oil tankers. We are therefore right in the middle of a high risk zone as far as sudden, massive oil pollution is concerned, since density of traffic makes for higher accident probability. We are fully aware of this omnipresent threat, and, for that reason, appreciate and value highly the contributions made by the Centre towards assisting individual States to build up their capability in offering a cogent response to this potential danger. The Centre has proved its worth as a compiler

and disseminator of information and promulgator of guidelines to all those that are involved in this field.

Today, and in the coming days, you are meeting here to review the structure and functions of the Regional Oil Combating Centre. This in itself is already an indication that the validity of the Centre is recognized by the Contracting Parties. This is a unique establishment, which may serve as a model for similar set-ups in other regions.

The Centre was created for a purpose. That purpose is as valid today as it was in 1976.

Fortunately, the Mediterranean has been spared pollution incidents of "Torrey Canyon" or "Amoco Cadiz" magnitude. This, however, should not foster in us an unwarranted complacency. As I said earlier, the peril is there, and the Regional Oil Combating Centre has and will continue to have a role to play.

I can tell you beforehand, that my country will support all those proposals that are intended to strengthen the Centre - to render it more compatible with present day exigencies, which were understandably unforeseen at its inception, and possibly to incorporate within its ambit of operations, new concepts. But I would not be honest with you, if I were not to say also that we can hardly be expected to look with a sympathetic eye on any overt or covert stances that tend to debilitate the Centre.

If there is any restructuring to be done, by all means, let us do it. But let us do it with diligence, with a sense of responsibility, with due consideration for the needs and circumstances that prevail in our region. We have to keep in mind, for example, that developmental levels in the several States, differ considerably.

The Director and his staff deserve our gratitude and our congratulations for the achievements to date. Those achievements have amply vindicated the Centre's *raison d'être* and are, I daresay, a clear indication of positive expectations for the future.

It is my sincere desire, that your deliberations will be useful and fruitful, and that your sojourn in my country, a very enjoyable one.

Thank you.

Manoel Island, 23 February 1987.

Statement by Mr. Aldo MANCOS,
Co-ordinator, Mediterranean Action Plan, UNEP

I take pleasure in conveying to you, Mr. Minister, and to the distinguished participants, the greetings of the Executive Director of UNEP, Dr. Mostafa K. TOLBA, who has already shown a personal interest in the Regional Oil Combating Centre.

Global concern for the health of the oceans was expressed at the UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, June 1972). Immediately after its establishment, UNEP started to work on the Mediterranean Sea and submitted to the coastal States the Mediterranean Action Plan that was adopted in Barcelona in 1975. The Plan focuses on the region itself, stresses the primary responsibility of coastal States to safeguard their common sea and underlines the need to act on the causes rather than on the effects of pollution itself.

In 1976 the main legal instruments were adopted: the Barcelona Convention, the Protocol on Dumping and the Protocol on Emergencies. Four unanimous resolutions dealt with oil pollution (reporting by ships and aircraft, improved communications, the setting up of the Centre in Malta, the study of possible sub-regional Centres).

There were many projects launched in 1976 and not many survive today. The Regional Oil Combating Centre, on the contrary, is alive and well, a proof that it fills a need and can face the future with confidence.

Thanks are due to the Government of Malta for its unfailing support, to IMO for its continuous guidance, to contracting Parties such as France, Italy, the EEC, for their additional support. There is room for more such support, remembering that ROCC is an instrument of governments that is justified only so long as governments are prepared to use it.

It has been said that tanker accidents in the Mediterranean have diminished in number and gravity. The global efforts of IMO, measures introduced by the tankers' industry (INTERTANKO), by voluntary organizations such as HELMEPA, and, last but not least, the Centre's own efforts, have produced results.

But we must remember that the risk is always there, the lanes are busy, accidents have happened in broad daylight and near ports. There is absolutely no room for complacency. Besides, compared with ten years ago, more is at stake today, as coastal population has increased, there is more tourism and aquaculture that could be wiped off by a massive oil spill.

As we survey the first ten years of ROCC's history we see that, yes, it has provided an indispensable forum for technical exchange, a source of expertise, extensive training, information on experts, on techniques, on equipment and materials.

But at the same time we observe that:

- . reporting of oil slicks or accidents from ships and aircraft has not been significant;
- . National Contingency Plans are lacking in many coastal States, despite continuous efforts by the Centre to promote them;
- . sub-regional arrangements for co-operation have not materialized;
- . Act 10 of the protocol ("the placing at the disposal of other States of products, equipment, nautical facilities") has been singularly ineffective;
- . training in oil combating has become increasingly available so that the special role of ROCC needs to be re-stated.
- . administrative costs in ROCC appear too high when compared with those of the four centres established since (Athens, Sophia Antipolis, Split, Tunis) and financed by the Mediterranean Action Plan budget.

This Meeting will be called to review the reports submitted to it, provide up-dated or additional information, consider the proposals made by the secretariat, and develop an agreed, concise set of recommendations that will be transmitted for discussion and endorsement to the Fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in September 1987 in Athens.

Thank you.

Statement by Mr. Alexander MOROZOV,
Director, Marine Environment Division
International Maritime Organization (IMO)

On behalf of the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization, Mr. C.P. SRIVASTAVA, I would like to join with the Honourable Dr. MICALLEF and Mr. Aldo MANOS in welcoming you all to this intergovernmental review of the activities of the Regional Oil Combating Centre. A little over ten years ago, the Regional Oil Combating Centre or ROCC as we call it, was established here on Manoel Island in premises provided by the Government of Malta. It is upon this ROCC that an important network of co-operation among the Mediterranean coastal States has been built with the aim of combating and reducing the consequences of a major oil spill.

I believe that the Government of Malta and the Maltese people have every reason to feel proud, indeed as IMO and I am sure UNEP do, of the achievements of the Director Admiral Michel VOIRIN, his predecessor Mr. LE LOURD, and all the excellent staff of the Centre over the past ten years. In short, many States are much more aware of the threat of a major marine pollution incident, better prepared and better trained to deal with it than they were ten years ago and the Centre has played a major role in making this progress possible.

We may recall that the Mediterranean was the first of the Regional Seas designated by UNEP for special and urgent legal and scientific efforts to reduce the input of pollutants into the Mediterranean from all sources. Indeed, it was one of the first seas given special area status in IMO's MARPOL Convention which totally prohibits the operational discharge of oily wastes from ships in such special areas.

The sea ships will always ply the Mediterranean and accidents may happen involving an increasing range of products which may pose a threat to the marine environment if released into the sea.

International co-operation at any level - global or regional - among peoples of diverse cultures, languages and political systems is never easy. It is often said that an oil spill or other pollution disaster does not respect these differences nor national boundaries.

Therefore, the job of the Centre is all about international co-operation among neighbouring countries. It is not easy, it is not perfect, but it is the best way to deal with a common problem which can be greater than the resources of a country acting alone.

During this week the users of the Centre - the Mediterranean coastal States, represented here today, will have the opportunity to evaluate the work of the Centre and to make specific and meaningful recommendations on how to face the challenges of the next ten years.

Before closing, I should like to once again express the appreciation of IMO for the support of the Government of Malta in the past and I hope in future.

Thank you Minister, Dr. MICALLEF, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Manoel Island, 23 February, 1987

ANNEX 3

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Rules of procedure.
3. Election of officers.
4. Adoption of the agenda.
5. Overview and Evaluation of the structure, functions and activities of the Regional Oil Combating Centre (ROCC) (1976-1986)
6. Recommendations to the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties.
7. Other business.
8. Adoption of the report.
9. Closure of the Meeting.

ANNEX 4

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS distributed to all participants:

UNEP/WG.150/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP/WG.150/4	Provisional Annotated Agenda and Timetable
UNEP/WG.150/5	Review of the Activities of ROCC (1976-1986)
UNEP/WG.150/5.1	Future Activities of the Centre in the Field of Oil Pollution Combating
UNEP/WG.150/5.2	Risk Assessment of Marine Casualties involving Hazardous Substances in the Mediterranean Sea
UNEP/WG.150/8	Report of the Meeting (to be issued at the end of the Meeting)

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS distributed to all participants:

UNEP/WG.150/Inf.1	List of Documents
UNEP/WG.150/Inf.2	List of Participants *
UNEP/WG.150/Inf.3	Administrative and General Information
UNEP/WG.150/Inf.4	ROCC Budget Breakdown for 1985, 1986 and 1987
UNEP/WG.150/Inf.5	List of Alerts and Accidents in the Mediterranean recorded at ROCC (between August 1977 and December 1986)
**	Guide for Oil Pollution Combating in the Mediterranean
**	Catalogue of Spill Response Equipment and Products
**	ROCC INFO No. 18
**	Concise Dictionary of Marine Anti-pollution Terms

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS (may be consulted on request)

UNEP/IG.56/5	Report of the Fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (Genoa, September 1985)
**	MEDAS 83 - Final Report
**	ROCC's Summary Reports for 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1986

* Provisional List which will be updated during the Meeting
** ROCC publications which have been disseminated previously

ANNEX 5

**DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR CO-OPERATION IN COMBATING
MARINE OIL POLLUTION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

The Contracting Parties

- . Recalling their commitments under the Protocol concerning co-operation in combating pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergency, hereafter referred to as "the Protocol",
- . Recalling the need to establish National Contingency Plans for combating oil pollution,
- . Considering that in the light of experience there is a need for guidelines to facilitate the implementation of the Protocol and in particular mutual co-operation in the Mediterranean,
- . Recognizing that such co-operation cannot replace the individual action of each Contracting Party, which is essential in the initial hours following an incident to mitigate the effects of pollution,
- . Recalling the role of the Regional Oil Combating Centre for the Mediterranean Sea hereafter referred to as "the Centre",

Recommend that the following guidelines be used to the extent possible and request that these guidelines, as well as the documentation related to their implementation be inserted by the Centre in the "Guide for Pollution Combating in the Mediterranean" which it disseminates:

1. The Parties should report to the Centre at least all spillages or discharges of oil in excess of 100 cubic metres as soon as they have knowledge of them. A Standard Alert Format should be used for this purpose. The format can be found in the "Guide for Pollution Combating in the Mediterranean" that has been disseminated and updated by the Centre.
2. The Parties should acquire individually the necessary facilities to combat oil pollution in their territorial waters, including those means needed to provide initial response in case of major pollution incidents. In determining the minimum level of response capabilities consideration should be given to the National Contingency Plan and in particular to the most vulnerable and high risk areas.

3. When in case of an incident the requirements for combating pollution exceed the national capabilities and when a Party requests the assistance of other Parties, this assistance may involve equipment, products and specialized personnel. Such assistance could be requested:
 - either through the Centre;
 - or, when bilateral or multilateral agreements exist, directly by the Authorities of the Party requesting assistance (hereafter referred to as "the Requesting Party") from the Authorities of one or several Parties (hereafter referred to as "the Assisting Party"). The Centre should be systematically informed of all requests for assistance and consequent action taken.
4. Whenever assistance is requested, the Requesting Party will be in full charge of response operations. If response teams are put at the disposal of the Requesting Party it should issue instructions to response team leaders who will then be in charge of looking after the details of the operation.
5. The Requesting Party should:
 - make its request in a clear and precise manner (quantity, type etc) by indicating for which purposes equipment, products and response personnel will be used;
 - appoint an authority to receive the equipment, products and/or personnel and to ensure control of operations from the moment equipment, products and personnel arrive in the country and while these are conveyed to and from the scene of operations;
 - make arrangements for the rapid entry of equipment, products and personnel prior to their arrival and ensure that customs formalities are facilitated to the maximum extent. Equipment should be admitted on a temporary basis and products should be admitted free of excise and duties;
 - supply all that is needed for the correct operation and maintenance of equipment and provide accommodation and food for response teams;
 - ensure that, should ships and aircraft be provided, ships are granted all necessary authorizations and aircraft cleared to fly in the national air space. A flight plan and a flight notification should be filed and accepted as an authorization for aircraft to take off, land ashore or at sea outside regular customs airfields;
 - return, once response operations are over, all unused products and ensure that returned equipment is in the best possible working order;

- send a report on the effectiveness of equipment, products and personnel provided, to the appropriate Authorities of the Assisting Party. A copy of the report should be sent to the Centre.
6. The Assisting Party should supply:
- a detailed statement and complete list of all equipment, products and personnel within those listed by the Requesting Party it can provide as well instructions for use of equipment and products;
 - equipment that is in good working order and suitable for the requirements of the Requesting Party;
 - only products approved for current use in its own territory;
 - competent specialized personnel, with their own individual response gear if possible. Non specialized personnel should not normally be sent out unless an exceptionally major pollution occurs.
7. In the absence of bilateral or multilateral agreements the financial conditions for the operation should be agreed between the Assisting and the Requesting Parties.
8. For regional co-operation to work effectively and rapidly in case of emergency, each Party should update annually the information provided to the Centre in accordance with Article 6 of the Protocol and any other relevant information including:
- the national organization and the competent national authorities in charge of combating marine pollution;
 - specific national regulations aimed at preventing accidents likely to cause marine pollution;
 - national regulations regarding the use of products and combating techniques;
 - bilateral or multilateral agreements on marine pollution signed with other Mediterranean Parties;
 - research programmes, experiments and major exercises on the various aspects of marine pollution response;
 - purchase of major items of equipment.

This annual updated report should be sent to the Centre by one of the Focal Points of the Centre designated by each Contracting Party during the first quarter. If there is no new information, a "nil" report should be sent. A "nil" report for oil spillages and discharges should also be sent if no report has been made pursuant to paragraph 1. above.

9. In order to strengthen the national capabilities to combat pollution, a national programme of training of personnel should be developed and maintained at a proper level. For this purpose the Centre should continue to provide training:

At regional level:

- a) General training covering all the aspects of marine pollution control.
- b) Practical advanced training designed to deal with one single and important aspect of pollution control.

At a national level:

- c) Pollution combating training geared to the specific requirements of a Party, on its request.