

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

REMPEC/WG.16/12
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Agenda Item 12

CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES

1. During the two years period between the last Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points and the present one, the Centre maintained and developed working relations with a number of International Organizations and Programmes having an interest in the field of accidental marine pollution preparedness and response.
2. Since January 1997 the Centre is conducting the Project for the development of oil spill response capabilities of Cyprus, Egypt and Israel, that has been financed through the **LIFE Third Countries** mechanism of the **European Union**. The current status of this Project is reported in document REMPEC/WG.16/4, paragraph 19.
3. In the beginning of 1998 REMPEC submitted for approval to **LIFE Third Countries 1998** three project proposals concerning **Malta** (Sensitivity mapping and oil spill modelling), **Turkey** (Risk assessment for the ports of Mersin and Iskenderun) and **Syria** (Development of the national system for preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution). In August 1998 the European Commission informed the Centre that the Project proposal concerning Turkey had been granted Community financial support. The execution of the Project is scheduled to start in the beginning of 1999.
4. Following the Meeting of experts on the implementation of the multi-annual rolling work programme for maritime transport (Cyprus, October 1996), organized within the framework of the **Euro-Mediterranean Partnership**, REMPEC prepared and submitted to the European Commission DG VII two project proposals, as described in document REMPEC/WG.16/4, paragraphs 23-27. DG VII has accepted the proposal concerning port reception facilities and its commencement is pending the endorsement by the DG I of the European Commission.
5. **The World Bank** is currently supporting the Oil Pollution Management Project in the Southwest Mediterranean Sea (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia) aiming at overcoming the lack of appropriate infrastructure to provide and monitor compliance with International Conventions related to marine pollution by oil. Information concerning this Project, prepared by the World Bank, is given in document REMPEC/WG.16/INF.18.

6. During 1997 the Centre participated in the meetings of the Regional Project Steering Committee (RPSC) for Oil Pollution Management Project for the South Mediterranean Sea concerning Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. The World Bank has administrated the Project in its capacity as the **GEF** Administrator. The Project has focused on enhancing national as well as regional capacity to deal with marine pollution from oil, ship wastes and land based sources. The Consultants engaged in the first phase of the Project completed and distributed their Final Report in February 1998.

7. REMPEC has participated as a member of the **GESAMP Working Group on the Evaluation of Harmful Substances carried by Ships (EHS Working Group)** where the current GESAMP hazard evaluation procedure is being re-evaluated in light of the scheduled revision of Annex II of MARPOL 73/78 and the new pollution categorization regime which will be developed under this Annex.

8. The Centre participated to selected activities carried out within the framework of the **OECD Working Group on Chemical Accidents** where it has also represented the IMO.

Action requested of the Meeting of Focal Points

9. The Focal Points' Meeting is invited to take note of the activities carried out by REMPEC in co-operation and/or co-ordination with other international organizations and programmes.