

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

REMPEC/WG.18/10/4  
20 July 2000

Original: English

Malta, 25 - 28 October 2000

Agenda Item 10.4

**ACTIONS RELATED TO THE PREVENTION  
OF SHIPS' GENERATED POLLUTION**

**Note by REMPEC**

1. The Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Tunis, Tunisia 18-21 November 1997 (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.11/10, Annex IV, Appendix III), taking into consideration the conclusions of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Montpellier, France 1-4 July 1996 and the work of the 1996 Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, adopted the "Regional Strategy on prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships". In the Resolution concerning the adoption of the Regional Strategy, the same Meeting asked *inter alia* the next Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points "to study the question of regional co-operation in the field of prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships".
2. At the national level the Regional Strategy aims at strengthening capacities of the Mediterranean coastal States by improving the capacity of their administrations to develop and implement prevention policies, as well as by developing their equipment and infrastructure resources. At the regional level it aims at developing the regional co-operation by organizing dialogue, implementing programmes at the regional level and by conducting studies of regional interest. The strategy also identified the following "priority activities": monitoring the effective implementation of relevant IMO Conventions by Flag State, Port State and Coastal State, developing port reception facilities, safety of navigation, surveillance of discharges and prosecution of offenders, and emergency towing.
3. The implementation of the Regional Strategy and of the activities related to the prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships, required that the Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention be amended and revised with a view to providing the legal framework for the implementation of these new activities.
4. The work on the amendment of the Emergency Protocol started in 1998 and the current status of the revision process is reported in the document REMPEC/WG.18/5.

5. In accordance with the request of the Contracting Parties and with a view to initiating activities in the field of prevention of ship generated pollution, REMPEC prepared a project proposal concerning port reception facilities, that could be financed by the European Community through its MEDA financial instrument, within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The project was formulated taking into consideration that the provision of port reception facilities had already been identified as one of the most important regional problems related to marine pollution (Meeting of national experts organized by REMPEC in Cairo in 1991, Meeting of experts organized under the Euro-Mediterranean partnership framework in Cyprus in 1996).

6. In the last Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points the Secretariat reported that REMPEC submitted in 1997 to the Directorate General for Transport of the European Commission the project proposal concerning port reception facilities for ship-generated garbage, bilge waters and oily residues, and that the European Commission accepted it. The proposed project aimed at

- promoting, in accordance with the MARPOL 73/78 Convention, the installation of port reception facilities for the collection of garbage, bilge waters and oily residues generated by ships, as well as at identifying the most suitable, harmonized approach to financially (economically) viable operation of these facilities in the Mediterranean Partner States.
- studying (from a regional perspective) the question of the disposal, treatment or recycling of collected garbage and oily residues, taking into account other experiences in the field; and preparing pilot and demonstration projects in two Mediterranean countries.

7. The Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Malta, 27-30 October 1999 (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.12/9, Annex IV) adopted a set of Recommendations concerning sea-based pollution prevention and control activities, which have been addressed to both the Contracting Parties and to the Secretariat, i.e. REMPEC. Recommendations concerning marine pollution prevention had been prepared taking into consideration the Regional Strategy adopted by the Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the results of Meetings of REMPEC Focal Points in 1996 and 1998 respectively, the ongoing process of the revision of the Emergency Protocol, and the initiatives already undertaken by REMPEC in the field of prevention of pollution by ships.

8. The recommendations, directly related to the prevention of the pollution from ships of the Mediterranean Sea, that were addressed to the Contracting Parties were to support REMPEC in its endeavours when implementing the programme of activities under the MEDA project on port reception facilities, to promote, either individually or through bilateral or multilateral co-operation, aerial surveillance as a means of monitoring violations of existing regulations for the prevention of pollution from ships, and to give high priority to finding a solution to the problem of providing REMPEC with the personnel necessary to carry out its new responsibilities in the field of the prevention of pollution from ships.

9. On the other hand, in a Recommendation addressed to the Secretariat, the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, instructed REMPEC that, as regards the provision concerning the prevention of pollution from ships, no activity should be initiated other than the programme on port reception facilities for which financing is presently being considered by the E.U. within the framework of the MEDA programme, until such times that the necessary personnel are made available.

10. In line with the present position of the Contracting Parties, as expressed in the above quoted Recommendations, REMPEC continued with the process of finalizing the revision of the Emergency Protocol and endeavored to prompt the signing by the European Commission and IMO on behalf of REMPEC of the contract for the implementation of the MEDA project concerning the port reception facilities for garbage, bilge waters and oily residues.

11. The contract for the implementation of the project has been finalized in June 1999, and was submitted in September 1999 by the Directorate-General for Energy and Transport to the Common Service for External Relations (of the European Commission) for approval and signature. The latter approved the technical content of the contract and submitted it to the Directorate-General for Financial Control, which was expected to approve it in the first half of 2000. However at present it is not possible to indicate when the contract will be given the

final approval and when the EC and IMO on behalf of REMPEC will sign it.

12. REMPEC has already identified some potential consultants who could carry out the initial activities envisaged under the project. The final selection will be made in accordance with the standard IMO procedure for the provision of consultants' services, as soon as the contract with the EC has been signed.

**Actions requested from the Meeting of Focal Points**

13. The Meeting is invited to take note, examine and discuss actions taken by REMPEC in the field of prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships.