

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

REMPEC/WG.18/3/2  
15 May 2000

Original: English

Malta, 25-28 October 2000

Agenda item 3.

### **ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

#### **Introduction**

1. The Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) has been convened in Malta from 25 to 28 October 2000, pursuant to the decision of the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which agreed that a Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points be organized during 2000 (UNEP (OCA)/MED IG.12/9, Malta, October 1999).
2. The main objectives of the Focal Points' Meeting will be:
  - a) to evaluate the implementation of the programme of activities of REMPEC for the biennium 1999 / 2000 and to review the current state of regional, sub-regional and national systems for preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution and to examine the actions to be taken to strengthen these systems;
  - b) to discuss and agree on the recommendations of the last Meeting of the Contracting Parties and on the related actions and activities to be carried out by REMPEC;
  - c) to discuss and agree on the revision and the further development of the Regional Information System;
  - d) to consider the status of the revision process of the Emergency Protocol and of Resolution 7 regarding the objectives and functions of REMPEC, that should be submitted for adoption to the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention; and,
  - e) to discuss and approve a programme of activities for the 2002-2003 biennium.
3. All REMPEC official Governmental Focal Points have been invited to participate in the Meeting. They have also been invited to include in their national delegations the representatives of their respective oil, chemical and shipping industries. The invitation to attend the Meeting was also extended to relevant United Nations Organizations and other Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations. Finally, the representatives of international professional organizations and associations have been invited to attend as observers.

4. REMPEC prepared the following annotations to the proposed agenda of the Meeting with a view to assisting the Meeting in its work.

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

5. The Focal Points' Meeting will be opened at 09.30 hours on 25 October 2000.

**Agenda Item 2 - Organization 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**

7. The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited to elect a Chairman, a vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur.

**2.3 Working Languages**

8. Simultaneous English/French interpretation will be provided during the Meeting. The working documents will be available in both official languages of the Centre, i.e. in English and in French.

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

9. The agenda, as proposed in document REMPEC/WG.18/3/1 and annotated in the present document, will be proposed for adoption by the Focal Points' Meeting. The Meeting will be invited to agree on a timetable to carry out its work. A draft timetable is proposed in document REMPEC/WG.18/3/3.

**Agenda Item 4 - Progress report on REMPEC's Programme of Activities (1999-2000)**

10. The Focal Points' Meeting will be informed of the present status of implementation of REMPEC's Programme of Activities for the period 1999 - 2000.

The Director of REMPEC will introduce document REMPEC/WG.18/4: Progress report on REMPEC's programme of activities (1999-2000), which contains a summary presentation of the activities carried out by the Centre since the last Meeting of the Focal Points held in Malta in November 1998 (REMPEC/WG.16/14) and relevant information of budget expenditures. The report focuses on the following main areas of activities:

- Dissemination of information: Regional Information System
- Training
- Capacity building: development of national, sub-regional and regional capabilities
- Assistance in case of emergency: communication, exercises and the Mediterranean Assistance Unit.

**The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited** to comment and take note of the progress made.

**Agenda Item 5 - Revision process of the Emergency Protocol**

11. The Director of REMPEC will inform the Meeting of the progress achieved since the 1998 Meeting of Focal Points concerning the revision of the Emergency Protocol (REMPEC/WG.18/5) and present the present status of the work regarding proposed changes and amendments to the Emergency Protocol. The Director will also present the proposed amendments to Resolution 7 regarding REMPEC's objectives and functions that aim at introducing the provisions necessary for the implementation of the Regional Strategy on prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships.

**The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited** to take note of the work carried out by the Centre on the amendments to the Emergency Protocol and to the Resolution 7, which will be submitted for final adoption to the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

**Agenda Item 6 - OPRC 90 Convention and OPRC working group**

12. The representative of IMO will inform the participants of the latest development in the implementation of the OPRC 90 Convention, the OPRC-HNS Protocol and the activities of the OPRC Working Group that were carried out since the last Focal Points' Meeting (REMPEC/WG.18/6).

**The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided.

**Agenda Item 7 - Co-operation between governments and the oil, chemical and shipping Industries concerning preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution**

13. The Director of REMPEC will present the document REMPEC/WG.18/7 that contains the information on the progress made since the last Focal Points' Meeting concerning the co-operation between governments and the oil, chemical and shipping industries in the field of preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution.

The oil industry (IPIECA) is expected to submit an information document regarding, in particular, the activities of the MOIG, and will contribute to the work of the Meeting on this subject,

The Chemical Industry (CEFIC) is expected to submit an information document regarding, in particular, the relevant activities of the chemical industry, and to contribute to the work of the Meeting on this subject.

The Shipping Industry (ITOPF, INTERTANKO) is expected to submit information documents regarding in particular their activities, and to contribute to the work of the Meeting on this subject.

**The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited:**

- a) to discuss and express its views on the subject of co-operation between governments and the industries;
- b) to consider and agree upon activities which might be carried out in co-operation between industry and REMPEC in the fields of prevention, preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution in the region.

**Agenda Item 8 - Cooperation and coordination with other International Organizations and Programmes**

14. The Director of REMPEC will introduce document REMPEC/WG.18/8 that provides information on programmes and activities conducted by other international organizations and which are relevant to prevention and response to the pollution of the marine environment from sea-based activities, as well as on the cooperation and coordination of REMPEC with relevant organizations and programmes.

**The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited:**

- a) to take note and comment on the information provided;
- b) to express its views on actions to be taken by the countries and by the Centre with the view to develop cooperation with other international organizations and to improve coordination between the various programmes and activities.

**8.1 The European Union**

15. The representative of the European Commission will be invited to present initiatives taken and programmes carried out by the EC since the last Meeting of Focal Points, as well as projects and activities implemented under different assistance mechanisms of the European Community.

**The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided.

**8.2 Meteorological Support to Marine Pollution Emergency Response Operations on the High Seas (WMO - MPERSS)**

16. The Meeting will be informed by the representative of WMO of the current developments of the Meteorological support system to Marine Pollution Emergency Response operations on the high Seas (REMPEC/WG.18/8/2) and of exercises involving MPERSS which were carried out by REMPEC since the last Focal Point's Meeting.

**The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited** to take note and comment on the development of this system.

**8.3 International Oil pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds)**

17. The Focal Points' Meeting will be informed by the representative of the IOPC Fund of the latest development regarding the CLC and the Funds Conventions and Protocols as well as of the activities of the Fund. IOPC Funds is expected to submit a document (REMPEC/WG.18/8/3...) concerning the entry into force of 92 Protocols to the two Conventions and the winding up of the 1971 Fund.

**The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided.

**8.4 Others**

18. Representatives of other organizations and programmes will be invited to submit information documents on their activities regarding prevention, preparedness and response to marine pollution, related specifically to the Mediterranean region.

**The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided.

**Agenda Item 9 - Accidents in the Mediterranean**

19. All delegations will be invited to report on recent accidents that caused or were likely to cause pollution of the marine environment in their respective countries, with a view to exchanging information on accidents and difficulties encountered in dealing with them, as well as on the performance of techniques used..

**The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided.

**Agenda Item 10 - Recommendations from the Contracting Parties Meeting**

**10.1 Mediterranean Technical Working Group**

20. The Director of REMPEC will introduce the document REMPEC/WG.18/10/1 on the establishment of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group.

**The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited to** discuss and express its views on the method of work of this Working Group, as well as the work that this Group might undertake.

**10.2 Aerial surveillance**

21. The Focal Points' Meeting will be informed on the proposal prepared by the Consultant (REMPEC/WG.18/10/2) concerning the use aerial surveillance for monitoring violations of existing regulations for the prevention of pollution from ships and, in particular, on the possibilities for promoting bilateral and multilateral co-operation among Mediterranean coastal States in this field.

**The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited to** discuss and express its views on the proposal submitted by the Secretariat.

**10.3 Prevention of pollution from pleasure craft**

22. The Director of REMPEC will introduce the document REMPEC/WG.18/10/3 concerning the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft.

**The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited:**

- a) to take note and comment on the information provided;
- b) to provide guidance and suggestions to the Director as necessary.

**10.4 Actions related to the prevention of ships' generated pollution**

23. The Director of REMPEC will inform the Meeting (REMPEC/WG.18/10/4) on the status of the project concerning port reception facilities for collecting ship-generated garbage, bilge waters and oily wastes, which REMPEC submitted for approval to MEDA financing instrument of the European Community.

**The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided by REMPEC.

**Agenda Item 11** - **Revision of the Regional Information System (RIS)**

24. The Director of REMPEC will present document REMPEC/WG.18/11 describing the current status of the Regional Information System (RIS), as well as proposals for reorganization of the RIS.

**The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited:**

- a) to take note on the progress to date;
- b) to give guidance and suggestions on the reorganization of the RIS.

**Agenda Item 12** - **Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU)**

25. The Focal Points' Meeting will be informed of the progress achieved over the last two years in consolidating the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (REMPEC/WG.18/12). Information will be provided in particular on the arrangements made for rapid activation of the MAU in case of emergency, insurance of the MAU members while on mission and memorandums of understanding prepared with certain centres of expertise for their participation in the MAU.

**The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided by REMPEC.

**Agenda Item 13** - **Proposed programme for the 2002/2003 biennium and budget estimates**

26. The Director of REMPEC will present a proposed programme of activities to be conducted by REMPEC during the 2002/2003 (REMPEC/WG.18/13) together with the budget estimates for the implementation of the proposed programme.

**The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited:**

- a) to consider, discuss and agree upon the proposed programme of REMPEC activities for the 2002/2003 biennium, to be submitted to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties;
- b) to consider, discuss and agree on the a proposed budget estimates for the implementation of this programme.

**Agenda Item 14** - **Other Business**

27. The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited to consider any submissions that could be made under this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 15** - **Approval of the Report**

28. A draft report of the Meeting will be submitted to the participants for adoption.

**Agenda Item 16** - **Closure of the Meeting**

29. The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairman at 18.00 hours on 28 October 2000.