

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

REMPEC/WG.18/9
20 July 2000

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Agenda Item 9

ACCIDENTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Note by REMPEC

1. During the period between the last Meeting of Focal Points and the end of June 2000 there were no major marine pollution accidents in the Mediterranean region that would necessitate international co-operation in dealing with their consequences. All registered oil spills in the Mediterranean were of a very limited size and had been dealt with by the competent national authorities or clean-up contractors respectively. On the other hand some accidents involving hazardous materials other than oil were of more significant proportions. In some cases competent national authorities requested REMPEC for technical advice and the Centre was able to provide such assistance, either utilizing its own expertise and resources, or external sources of information.
2. During the period under observations some Contracting Parties to the Emergency Protocol that have coasts on more than one sea (e.g. France, Turkey), were affected by serious marine pollution accidents that occurred outside the Mediterranean.
3. REMPEC regularly collected information concerning accidents that caused or were likely to cause the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by oil and other harmful substances. Alerts and accidents, recorded in the Mediterranean until the end of December 1999, are presented in Section 4 of Part C of the Regional Information System, which also gives an analysis of the situation regarding the accidental marine pollution in the region.
4. Like in previous years, in most cases REMPEC received the first notification of accidents that had occurred from Lloyd's Casualty Reporting Services, and only exceptionally the first information came from the Centre's national Focal Points.
5. The countries that were affected by marine pollution accidents since the last Meeting of Focal Points are invited to inform the Meeting of the experience gained through such emergencies that might be of interest for the other Contracting Parties.

Action Requested of the Meeting of Focal Points

6. The Meeting is invited to take note of the information provided by the Secretariat and by the representatives of the Contracting Parties.