

6th Meeting of the Focal Points of the
Regional Marine Pollution Emergency
Response Centre for the Mediterranean
Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.21/10
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Agenda Item 10.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE BIENNIUM 2004 – 2005

Note by REMPEC

Introduction

1. The new Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol) was adopted on the 25 January 2002 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (Malta, 24-25 January 2002). The same Conference adopted Resolution II on Interim Arrangements which invited the Executive Director of UNEP to establish cooperation with relevant regional and international organizations, in particular IMO, in activities related to the implementation of the Protocol, and also called on the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, pending the entry into force of the Protocol, to commence preparations for its implementation at both the national and regional levels.

2. The Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points should deliberate and decide on the activities for the 2004 - 2005 biennium, which will be implemented within the framework of MAP Phase II. A preliminary draft programme, which takes into consideration the adoption of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol and the related Conference Resolution on Interim Arrangements referred to above, as well as the new objectives and functions of REMPEC adopted by the 12th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Monaco, 17 November 2001), is set out in Annex I to this document. The programme, which includes activities in the fields of prevention and preparedness and response, has been prepared taking into consideration the Centre's draft strategy for the prevention of and response to the pollution of the marine environment from sea-based activities (REMPEC/WG.21/10) which is being proposed for discussion in the present meeting. Hence, the emphasis on prevention activities in the proposed draft programme of activities for the biennium 2004 – 2005.

Prevention of Pollution from Ships

3. The following are the general orientations of the proposed future activities and actions of the Centre for the prevention of ship generated pollution of the marine environment in the Mediterranean. It should be noted that not all listed activities and actions will be addressed during the forthcoming biennium.

A. **Analysis of current situation**

- i) analyse, as far as possible, marine pollution prevention policies and actions in the Mediterranean;

- ii) assess the current situation of pollution of the Mediterranean marine environment from ships;
- iii) assess the risks of marine environment pollution in the region relating to present and projected maritime traffic in the Mediterranean.

B Capacity building at national, sub-regional and regional levels

- i) assist the development of national administrative systems and legislation to effectively implement and enforce international conventions for the prevention of pollution from ships through:
 - training courses;
 - delivery of information and expert assistance including access to technology transfer and methods thereof;
 - pilot programmes;
- ii) support the development of required infrastructural resources through:
 - technical and pre-investment studies;
 - pilot projects.

C. Development of regional co-operation

- i) provide the framework for organizing consultations and co-ordinating actions at all levels: sub-regional , regional and global (in IMO) concerning specific issues such as: anti-fouling paints, navigation in sensitive areas, ballast water, traffic separation schemes, etc.;
- ii) develop and facilitate the implementation of programmes that require concerted action and measures at the regional and sub-regional levels on issues such as: reception facilities, aerial surveillance, prevention of pollution from pleasure craft;
- iii) study and co-ordinate actions on matters of regional interest, such as salvage and emergency towing capacities in the Mediterranean;
- iv) study the feasibility of harmonizing national policies for sanctioning offences of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78; it is to be noted that, in the Mediterranean, penalties for violations of the regulations of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78 vary considerably.

4. In more specific terms, it is proposed that during the biennium 2004-2005 REMPEC carries out the following activities in the field of prevention of pollution from ships:

- i) assist and co-operate with Mediterranean coastal States in the implementation of marine pollution prevention policies in conformity with the priorities established at the level of IMO;
- ii) complete the European Commission financed MEDA Project on Port Reception Facilities for Collecting Ship-Generated Garbage, Bilge Water and Oily Wastes (MED.B7.4100.97.0415.8);
- iii) finalise and seek funding for the project proposal entitled "Mare Nostrum", developed with Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI), Unione Petrolifera Italiana (UPI), Blue Plan/RAC and other partners, which proposes the execution of an in dept study on Maritime Transportation in the Mediterranean Sea with particular reference to the transport of oil and chemicals by sea;

- iv) develop, finalise and seek financing for a project proposal on preventing operational marine pollution in the Mediterranean in collaboration with other interested project partners;
- v) develop and seek funding for a small geographically limited pilot project on the surveillance and detection of illicit pollution of the marine environment;
- vi) further develop co-operation with ERS/RAC and other specialized institutions in the field of Earth Observation (EO), and facilitate the implementation of the EO technologies and results in the prevention of pollution from ships;
- vii) collaborate with the Institute du Droit Economique de la Mer de Monaco (INDEMER) in further developing and integrating the work already carried out by this organization and by REMPEC in the field of prevention of pollution from pleasure craft with a view to taking co-ordinated action within the framework of the Barcelona mechanism;
- viii) initiate and develop contacts with representative organizations of the shipping industry with a view to facilitating the development of co-operation between governments and industry both at a regional level and possibly also at a national level;
- ix) initiate contacts with the SPA/RAC concerning possible activities and co-ordinated action on important issues within the mandate of both Regional Activity Centres such as harmful aquatic organisms and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA's).

Preparedness, response and co-operation in the event of accidental marine pollution (continuation of the already established activities)

5. The general orientations of REMPEC proposed activities and actions related to accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and co-operation should, in the forthcoming biennium, focus on the following main groups of issues:

- further strengthening of the regional mechanisms for co-operation and assistance, in particular in case of emergency;
- developing sub-regional systems for preparedness and response, including in particular bilateral or multilateral operational agreements among the neighbouring countries, and
- maintaining and/or developing, as appropriate, national capacities for dealing with marine pollution incidents.

6. The concrete activities in each of these fields, that are proposed to be carried out during the period under consideration, are the following:

A **Strengthening regional mechanisms**

- i) maintain the achieved level of intervention readiness of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit;
- ii) expand the Mediterranean Assistance Unit by including additional fields of expertise and a wider range of participating institutions;
- iii) extend active co-operation and undertake new initiatives with the relevant organizations working in the field of preparedness and response to accidents involving both, oil and hazardous substances other than oil, in particular in port areas and their approaches;

- iv) draft new guidelines and recommendations aimed at facilitating co-operation and mutual assistance in case of emergency, and/or consolidate the ones that were already adopted;
- v) strengthen co-operation with organizations representing oil, chemical and shipping industries in order to develop closer co-operation between governments and industry.

B Developing sub-regional systems

- i) support and facilitate joint activities by countries participating in existing subregional agreements on preparedness, response and co-operation in case of emergency;
- ii) promote and assist the preparation and signing of new subregional agreements within the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

C Maintaining and developing national capacities

- i) assist the remaining coastal States, which still do not have in place adequate national systems for preparedness and response, to establish such systems for dealing with major oil spills, including in particular the national contingency plans;
- ii) provide assistance, in the form of short term advisory services, to the individual coastal States, which so request, in strengthening their existing national capacities, including in particular technical advice regarding the acquisition of pollution response equipment and the setting up of emergency response units at port/local/national levels;
- iii) provide technical advice to the competent national authorities of the Contracting Parties, which so request, in case of marine pollution emergency.

7. In addition to the above outlined specific activities aimed at facilitating the implementation in the Mediterranean region of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol, REMPEC envisages the continuation and strengthening as necessary of the activities in two important fields of capacity building, namely information and training. These are presented separately since they are expected to encompass both main goals of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, namely prevention of pollution from ships and response to marine pollution incidents affecting or likely to affect the marine environment in the Mediterranean, regardless of their origin.

Training

8. It is suggested that the training activities organized by REMPEC during biennium 2004-2005 focus on the following issues:

A Seminars/Workshops

Instead of organizing classical regional training courses of MEDIPOL or MEDEXPOL type, REMPEC proposes that the funds made available through the Mediterranean Trust Fund be utilized during the forthcoming biennium for organizing seminars or workshops aimed at discussing current issues in the fields of prevention, preparedness and response to marine pollution.

These would enable an interactive discussion of the most relevant issues between the representatives of the Mediterranean coastal States and external speakers, and have an added value of providing a forum for suggesting future orientations of REMPEC activities, within the framework of its agreed strategy.

The following seminars and workshops should be considered for organization during the 2004-2005 biennium:

- i) a regional workshop on the implementation of Annexes I and V of MARPOL 73/78 geared to the requirements of the region, which should serve as the catalyst for the organization, at a later stage, of sub-regional and national MARPOL 73/78 implementation workshops;
- ii) a regional workshop on the implications of and the lessons learnt from the recent major accidents:
- iii) a regional seminar aimed at providing participants from Mediterranean coastal States with information on newly adopted international conventions in the field of the prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships such as the Bunker Convention and the AFS Convention in order to assist States with their preparations for the adoption, implementation and enforcement of these conventions. (The organization of this seminar will be directly depending on the financial support that could be provided by the external sources of financing).

B Exercises

The importance of exercises for testing and improving the functioning of the regional system for mutual assistance and co-operation has been often emphasized. At least a relatively complex communication and alert exercise is envisaged to be organized during the biennium. Depending on the availability of the support from one or more of the Contracting Parties, or alternatively oil, chemical or shipping industry, and in particular on the availability of financial means to support the travel and DSA of the participants, REMPEC might organize the participation of observers from the coastal States in full scale exercises organized by either Governments or industry.

In addition REMPEC might explore with the Secretariats of the Bonn Agreement and Helsinki Convention the possibility of extending the invitation to the Mediterranean coastal States to attend as observers exercises organized within the framework of these two regional agreements. It is envisaged that participation in such exercises would be beneficial for the participants from the Mediterranean region, in particular in the exercises focusing on aerial surveillance and/or remote sensing.

C Training of trainers

The courses aimed at training of trainers should offer the participating countries a certain degree of self-dependence and sustainability in satisfying their needs for the personnel trained in pollution response related matters. The Centre organized the first such course in May 2000, within the framework of the LIFE Third Countries project for the development of the spill response capacities of Cyprus, Egypt and Israel. It is believed that the positive results of this first course on training of trainers should be explored in order to provide the coastal States with an additional capacity for increasing the number of personnel trained in pollution response skills.

Taking into consideration the importance of language skills in this type of training, such courses should be prepared separately for English and French speaking countries. Therefore it is suggested that these courses should be organized at the sub-regional level, bringing together a relatively small group of trainees from neighbouring countries, using either English or French as their second language. Future trainers should have a sufficient previous knowledge in pollution preparedness and response related matters, and therefore it is envisaged that the appropriate candidates should have been trained through other REMPEC training activities organized over the past two decades.

It is realistic to expect that REMPEC could organize

- i) the first sub-regional course for training of trainers during the forthcoming biennium.

D Training at national and sub-regional levels

REMPEC is committed to further assisting the Mediterranean coastal States in organizing training activities at national and sub-regional levels. It is suggested that most of these should be organized within the projects financed by either the EC or by the Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme

(ITCP) of IMO. The funds made available through the MTF should be utilised for a limited number of specific training activities requested by the individual Contracting Parties or groups of them, giving priority to those countries who need the most this type of support in their capacity building efforts.

E Development of a comprehensive training programme in the field of prevention of pollution from ships

This activity would include the initial actions regarding the preparation of such programme of training, that should eventually include courses on specific subjects, for different categories of personnel, that could be delivered at national, sub-regional or regional levels.

Information

9. Development of the information technology provides the opportunity for a much wider distribution of knowledge on specific subjects falling under the mandate of REMPEC, and on the other hand for increasing the visibility of the Centre as an active component of MAP. The actions in the field of dissemination of information are therefore primarily envisaged in the areas outlined below.

Further development of the Centre's website

Although the present REMPEC website (www.rempec.org) of the Centre already contains a significant quantity of relevant information, the Centre proposes to include during the forthcoming biennium more technical information, in particular that contained in the Regional Information System. At the same time, the Centre intends to develop a more interactive site. Should the Focal Points agree, a page might be created on which the national Focal Points could directly present their own written contributions. However, it should be noted that the proposed development of the Centre's website will largely depend on the availability of necessary financial resources.

In addition to the improvements suggested above, the results of all completed and ongoing projects funded by the external sources of financing (such as the EC/LIFE Third Countries, MEDA, ITCP) will also be posted on the Centre's website.

Restructuring of the Regional Information System (RIS)

Further to the restructuring of the Regional Information System approved by the 2000 Meeting of Focal Points, REMPEC proposes additional modifications in the contents of RIS as indicated in Annex II and related Appendices.

Enhancing contributions to MEDWAVES and other specialised publication

Taking into consideration that issues related to the prevention of pollution from ships, reducing the consequences of maritime accidents, and response to marine pollution incidents are often misunderstood by the general public, it is considered important to provide all interested parties with correct and updated information on these subjects. In order to increase the presence of articles addressing pollution from maritime related sources in relevant publications, during the 2004-2005 biennium REMPEC will endeavour to contribute more such articles to the specialised publications, and in particular to MEDWAVES.

Better presentation and wider distribution of the results of activities/projects

With a view to improving the presentation the written material produced by REMPEC, including in particular reports of activities, technical documents and the proceedings of seminars and workshops, The Centre would very much welcome the offers to sponsor specific publications. In combination with the intended wider distribution of such publications within various components of the civil society (including NGOs), professional bodies and other stakeholders (in addition to the continuation of their regular distribution to the competent national authorities of the Contracting Parties), the suggested improvements in the presentation are expected to enhance the visibility of the work on the prevention of and response to marine pollution from maritime related sources undertaken by REMPEC and within the framework of MAP in general.

Concluding remarks

10. With a view to sharing the experience of the Mediterranean region concerning issues falling within the mandate of REMPEC, the Centre intends to continue and intensify co-operation with the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP and with the similar Centres in other regions.

11. Taking into consideration the extended scope of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, as compared to the 1976 Emergency Protocol, and in order to facilitate its implementation as far as the prevention of pollution from ships is concerned, it is proposed that the Meeting considers including competent national authorities responsible for maritime affairs, of the Mediterranean coastal States, among the official contacts of REMPEC.

12. It is also of paramount importance that all Contracting Parties actively participate in the meetings of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The understanding of activities undertaken within the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol by the national delegates in MEPC is essential for achieving the co-ordinated approach of the region at this most important international forum for discussing the matters of relevance in the field of the protection of marine environment.

13. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the proposed programme of activities for the biennium 2004-2005 it is necessary to ensure that the present staff of REMPEC is complemented as described in paragraphs 33, 34, 35 of the Progress Report presented under Agenda Item 4 (REMPEC/WG.21/4), and, if the new operational role for the Centre is approved, as in paragraph 37.

14. The budgetary allocations for the proposed programme of activities are not included in the present document. Nevertheless, it is expected that REMPEC budget in Euro, which the Contracting Parties approved for the biennium 2002-2003 during their 12th Ordinary Meeting held in Monaco, 14-17 November 2001 (UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.13/8, Annex V, page 3) will not change. The budget allocations for each proposed activity will be presented to the next Meeting of MAP Focal Points, tentatively scheduled for September 2003, prior to their submission for approval to the 13th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, tentatively scheduled for November 2003.

The Meeting of Focal Points is invited to:

- a) examine and approve the draft programme of activities for 2004–2005 that will be presented to the next Meeting of MAP Focal Points and subsequently submitted for approval to the Contracting Parties at their 13th Ordinary Meeting;
- b) endorse the proposal that the national authorities responsible for maritime affairs be included in the list of official contacts of REMPEC.

ANNEX I : PRELIMINARY DRAFT PROGRAMME

ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	BUDGET SOURCE
Prevention of pollution from ships		
<u>Analysis of current situation</u> "Mare Nostrum" Project Proposal on maritime transportation in the Mediterranean	To assess the risks of marine environment pollution in the Mediterranean in relation to maritime traffic.	External Sources
<u>Capacity building</u> Implementation of marine pollution prevention policies MEDA Project on Port Reception Facilities Extension of MEDA Project on Port Reception Facilities to Contracting Parties not participating in the Euro Mediterranean Partnership. Project Proposal or preventing operational marine pollution in the Mediterranean. Geographically limited pilot project on the surveillance and detection of illicit pollution of the marine environment Provide short term advisory services to individual coastal States which so request	To assist the development of national administrative system and legislation to effectively implement and enforce international conventions for the prevention of pollution from ships. To support the development of required infrastructural resources through technical and pre-investment studies. To enable Contracting Parties to comply with MARPOL 73/78 Annex I and V. To support the development of required infrastructural resources through technical and pre-investment studies. To enable Contracting Parties to comply with MARPOL 73/78 Annex I and V. To assist the development of national administrative system and legislation to effectively implement and enforce international conventions for the prevention of pollution from ships. To assess the viability and effectiveness of the utilisation of remote sensing generated data for the enforcement of MARPOL 73/78 Annex I To provide legally acceptable evidence for prosecution of offenders To serve as a basis for the development of a Regional Pollution Monitoring and Warning System. To assist Contracting Parties facing specific problems related to the protection of the marine environment.	MTF EC MEDA Fund MTF / External sources External Sources (to be identified) External Sources (to be identified) MTF

<p><u>Development of regional co-operation</u></p> <p>Development of regulations concerning prevention of pollution from pleasure craft</p> <p>Development and application of Earth Observation (EO) techniques in the field of marine pollution from sea based sources.</p> <p>Development of criteria and guidance concerning specific issues related to the protection of the marine environment (e.g. AFS, ballast water, PSSAs, places of refuge, emergency towing).</p>	<p>To take concerted action and measures at the regional level.</p> <p>To assess the viability and effectiveness of the utilisation of EO technologies for the enforcement of MARPOL 73/78 Annex I and Annex II and as a tool for planning and conducting response activities. To serve as a basis for the development of a Regional Pollution Monitoring and Warning System.</p> <p>To provide a harmonised approach by Contracting Parties to these issues.</p>	<p>MTF / External Sources</p> <p>External Sources</p> <p>MTF/External Sources (to be identified)</p>
Preparedness, response and co-operation in the event of accidental marine pollution		
<p><u>Strengthening regional mechanism</u></p> <p>i) Mediterranean Assistance Unit:</p> <p>a) maintaining the achieved level of intervention readiness;</p> <p>b) including additional fields of expertise and a wider range of participating institutions;</p> <p>ii) guidelines and recommendations aimed at facilitating co-operation and mutual assistance in case of emergency, and/or consolidation of the adopted ones.</p>	<p>To rapidly provide Contracting Parties (CP) with advisory services in case of marine pollution emergency (oil and HNS). To reduce the consequences of pollution incidents. To extend types of expertise available to the CPs in case of emergency.</p> <p>To facilitate the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol To facilitate mutual assistance in case of emergency. To reduce the loss of time when rendering /receiving assistance in case of emergency</p>	<p>MTF</p> <p>MTF</p> <p>MTF</p>

<p><u>Developing subregional systems</u></p> <p>i) supporting and facilitating joint activities within existing subregional agreements: Cyprus, Egypt, Israel Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia</p> <p>ii) promoting and assisting in the preparation and signing of new subregional agreements (within the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol). Croatia, Italy, Slovenia Italy, Malta, [Tunisia]</p>	<p>To ensure the necessary level of preparedness within such subregional systems.</p> <p>To increase the level of preparedness of the CPs to respond to major pollution incidents. To enhance pollution response capabilities of individual CPs.</p>	<p>MTF</p> <p>MTF ITCP¹ EC/LIFE¹</p>
<p><u>Maintaining and developing national capacities</u></p> <p>i) assisting CPs to establish adequate national systems for preparedness and response, including in particular national contingency plans;</p> <p>ii) providing short term advisory services, to individual coastal States, which so request;</p>	<p>To ensure that all CPs are able to provide at least the initial response to major pollution incidents. To facilitate mutual assistance in case of emergency. To ensure compliance with the requirements of OPRC and OPRC/HNS Protocol. To reduce the consequences of pollution incidents.</p> <p>To increase the level of preparedness of the CPs to respond to major pollution incidents.</p>	<p>MTF ITCP¹ EC/LIFE¹</p> <p>MTF</p>

Training		
i) Workshops/seminars		
a) a regional workshop on the implementation of MARPOL 73/78 (Annexes I and V).	To increase the capacity of the Contracting Parties to enforce applicable regulations.	MTF
b) a regional workshop on implications and lessons learnt from recent accidents	To facilitate transfer of knowledge. To enable the updating of national/subregional preparedness and response systems.	MTF
c) a regional seminar on new international conventions	To facilitate transfer of knowledge To facilitate adoption by the Mediterranean coastal States of new international regulations.	External sources (to be identified)
ii) Exercises		
a) an alert and communication exercise	To test the efficiency of the regional communication and alerting system	MTF
b) participation in a full scale equipment deployment exercise	To facilitate the transfer of knowledge and provide officers in charge of spill response operations with experience in testing national systems for preparedness.	External sources (to be identified)
iii) Training of trainers		
- a subregional course on training of trainers	To assist CPs in developing self-dependency and sustainability in the field of training on accidental marine pollution preparedness and response.	MTF
iv) National/subregional training courses		
- support to two specialized training courses	To assist CPs which so request in organizing training activities.	MTF
v) Development of a comprehensive training programme on prevention of pollution from ships.	To enable systemic training of personnel at national, subregional and regional levels (in the field of prevention of pollution from ships)	External sources (to be identified)

Information		
Development of information system and technology (e.g. website, MIDSIS, Library , RIS, databases, publications)	To improve the availability of information on issues related to preparation, preparedness and response to marine pollution from sea based sources To improve the visibility of REMPEC and MAP activities in these fields	MTF External sources (to be identified)
Meeting of Focal Points		
Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points	To examine REMPEC activities (2003 – 2004) To give guidance for the activities to be carried out during 2006-2007	MTF

¹ to be approved by the respective funding mechanism

ANNEX II

REVISION OF THE REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (RIS)

1. At the last Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, which was held in Malta in October 2000, modifications were agreed to the list of sections making up Part D of the RIS (REMPEC/WG.18/11, Annexes I-II). To date, the RIS consists as follows:

PART A: BASIC DOCUMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES CONCERNING ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

PART B: DIRECTORIES AND INVENTORIES

SECTION 1 Directory of competent national authorities in charge of accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance and other relevant information.

SECTION 2 Inventory of Centres of Expertise and Centres of Resources which can be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of a State, which so requests, in cases of emergency.

SECTION 3 Directory of Mediterranean Meteorological Centres.

SECTION 4 Directory of companies offering services in the Mediterranean in case of emergency.

PART C: DATABANKS AND INFORMATION SERVICES

SECTION 1 Description of the Centre's databank on hazardous substances and information services provided by the Centre.

SECTION 2 Alerts and Accidents in the Mediterranean.

SECTION 3 Database on the transport of chemical substances - TROCS.

PART D: OPERATIONAL GUIDES AND TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS

SECTION 1 Guide for combating accidental marine pollution in the Mediterranean.

SECTION 2 Guidelines for the use of dispersants for combating oil pollution at sea in the Mediterranean region.

SECTION 3 Concise dictionary of marine anti-pollution terms.

SECTION 4 The significance of a Material Safety Data Sheet.

SECTION 5 Personal protective equipment and monitoring devices for maritime chemical emergencies.

SECTION 6 The TROCS database and its use in response to lost packages washed ashore.

SECTION 7 Theory and practice of foams in chemical spill response.

SECTION 8	Standardised classification system for chemicals accidentally spilt at sea.
SECTION 9	Risks of gaseous releases resulting from maritime incidents. Risks of gaseous releases resulting from maritime incidents - Supplement.
SECTION 10	Impact of spilled hazardous substances on human life and the marine environment.
SECTION 11	Compendium of notes on preparedness and response to maritime pollution emergencies involving hazardous substances.
SECTION 12	Practical guide for marine chemical spills. Practical guide for marine chemical spills - Supplement.

2. In the preparation of the various sections, in particular those belonging to Part D - Operational Guides and Technical Documents, the preparation of a specific technical document was very much dependant on the reference material the Centre was able to collect on the subject. Since the Centre relies heavily on the acquisition of reference material at limited or no financial cost, no priority has been given to the preparation of a document over another, other than the limitation of having enough reference material in hand to prepare the technical document concerned.

3. Since it was first presented in 1989 (ROCC/WG.1/5), with the exception of the recent modifications made in October 2000 to Part D of the RIS mentioned in paragraph 1 above, there has not been a thorough re-organisation of the current list of sections making up the four Parts of the RIS . The Meeting might wish to consider that in view of the work carried out to date by the Centre on the RIS and the current state-of-the-art in prevention, preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution from oil and other harmful substances existing at the global and reached at the regional and national levels, there might be a need to re-structuring the RIS as well as reconsider the contents of the different Parts so that it might better serve the Contracting Parties to prepare, organize, initiate and conduct response operations as well as facilitate mutual assistance.

4. Taking into account the aforementioned, at Appendix I is a description of the current status of the RIS, with proposed minor modifications to the RIS and brief explanations for the proposed modifications, whilst for easy reference, Appendix II contains the proposed modified list of the RIS, both of which have been prepared by the Centre to assist the deliberations of this Meeting.

Action requested of the Meeting of Focal Points

5. The Meeting is invited:

- (a) to take note of the progress to date;
- (b) to give guidance and suggestions on the re-structuring of the RIS, as necessary.

Appendix I

**Status of Regional Information System, Proposed Modifications and Explanations for the Modifications
(oil and other harmful substances)**

TITLE	LANGUAGE	STATUS	EXPLANATIONS/REMARKS
PART A: BASIC DOCUMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES CONCERNING ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS	Bilingual.	Updated January 2002.	It is regularly brought up to date in conformity with the decisions of the Meetings of Contracting Parties. Propose to RETAIN.
PART B: DIRECTORIES AND INVENTORIES		The Title was changed in October 2000.	
SECTION 1: Directory of competent national authorities in charge of accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance and other relevant information.	Bilingual.	Updated December 2002.	Propose to RETAIN.
SECTION 2: Inventory of Centres of Expertise and Centres of Resources, which can be put, under certain conditions, at the disposal of a State, which so requests, in cases of emergency.	Bilingual.	Updated February 1999 (in the process to be updated).	Propose to RETAIN.
SECTION 3: Directory of Mediterranean Meteorological Centres.	Bilingual.	Updated October 1992 (preliminary version) .	With the setting up of the Marine Pollution Emergency Response Support System by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), with a view to providing in a globally co-ordinated way ,the meteorological and related oceanographic support required for marine pollution emergency operations at sea, where the Mediterranean Sea has been designated, among 14 others, as Marine Pollution Incident (MPI), Area

			<p>III, with the subsequent designation of METEO FRANCE and the Hellenic National Meteorological Service as Area Meteorological Co-ordinators (AMCs) for the western and eastern sections of the Mediterranean region respectively, the need for up-dating the respective preliminary form of the document and providing a full technical document became unnecessary .</p> <p>Propose to DELETE.</p>
SECTION 4: Directory of companies offering services in the Mediterranean in case of emergency.	Bilingual.	Updated February 1999 (in the process to be updated)..	Propose to RETAIN
PART C: DATABANKS, AND INFORMATION SERVICES		The Title was changed in October 2000.	
SECTION 1: Description of the Centre's databank on hazardous substances and information services provided by the Centre.	Bilingual.	Updated July 1992.	Propose to RETAIN with a possible update to reflect current holdings at the Centre.
SECTION 2: Alerts and Accidents in the Mediterranean .	Bilingual.	Updated December 2002.	Propose to RETAIN.
SECTION 3: Database on the Transport of Chemical Substances - TROCS.	Bilingual.	Updated December 2002(available on CD-ROM).	<p>Propose to change name to " Mediterranean Integrated Decision Support Information System (MIDSIS-TROCS).</p> <p>To RETAIN.</p>

TITLE	LANGUAGE	STATUS	EXPLANATIONS/REMARKS
PART D: OPERATIONAL GUIDES AND TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS			
SECTION 1: Guide for combating accidental Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean.	Bilingual.	Updated October 2000 (E). Updated April 2002 (F).	To RETAIN.
SECTION 2: Guidelines for the use of dispersants for combating oil pollution at sea in the Mediterranean region.	Bilingual.	Published October 1998.	To RETAIN.
SECTION 3: Concise dictionary of Marine Anti-pollution Terms.	Bilingual.	Published June 1988.	To RETAIN.
SECTION 4: The significance of a Material Safety Data Sheet.	Bilingual.	Published March 1991(F). Published August 1991(E).	To RETAIN.
SECTION 5: Personal protective equipment and monitoring devices for maritime chemical emergencies.	English only.	Published April 1995 (E) Published October 2002(F).	French version was made available by October 2002 To RETAIN.
SECTION 6: The TROCS database and its use in response to lost packages washed ashore.	English only.	Published December 1992.	It is going to be revised ,in order developments within this domain since 1992 to be reflected, with both the English and French versions to be made available by December 2004. To RETAIN.
SECTION 7: Theory and practice of foams in chemical spill response.	Bilingual.	Published May 1992.	To RETAIN.
SECTION 8: Standardised classification systems for chemicals accidentally spilt at sea .	English only.	Published May 1991.	To RETAIN.

SECTION 9: Risk of gaseous releases resulting from maritime incidents.	Bilingual.	Published May 1996.	To RETAIN.
Risk of gaseous releases resulting from maritime incidents - Supplement.			<p>This supplement to the previous document, aimed at consisting of a series of footprints for the spreading of gases after their release into the marine environment. Reference material is not readily available, while with the recent development by REMPEC of the Mediterranean Integrated Support Decision Information System (MIDSIS-TROCS), a respective tool is made available in order to respond to emergency situations deriving from gaseous releases, as well.</p> <p>To DELETE.</p>
SECTION 10: Impact of spilled hazardous substances of human life and the marine environment.			<p>Impact consequence assessment of released hazardous substances on human life as well as ecological risk assessment for the marine environment are based on the outcome of specific risk assessment - At this time, implementation of standardised methodologies for carrying out risk assessment studies on a world-wide basis is non-existent in order to support the preparation of a technical publication by REMPEC.</p>

			To DELETE.
SECTION 11: Compendium of notes on preparedness and response to maritime pollution emergencies involving hazardous substances.	English only.	Compendium of relevant notes was published in October 1996 (MEDIPOL 96).	At this time, there may not be sufficient information available to serve as reference material for an up-dated technical publication that could be used as background information for training courses. To DELETE.
TITLE	LANGUAGE	STATUS	EXPLANATIONS/REMARKS
SECTION 12: Practical guide for marine chemical spills.	Bilingual.	Updated January 2000.	To RETAIN.
Practical guide for marine chemical spills (Basic Calculations) - Supplement.			At this time, there is not enough information available to prepare a technical publication To DELETE.

Appendix II

**Proposed Modified List of the Regional Information System
(oil and other harmful substances)**

PART A: BASIC DOCUMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES CONCERNING ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS

PART B: DIRECTORIES AND INVENTORIES

SECTION 1 Directory of competent national authorities in charge of accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance and other relevant information.

SECTION 2 Inventory of Centres of Expertise and Centres of Resources which can be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of a State, which so requests, in cases of emergency.

SECTION 3 Directory of companies offering services in the Mediterranean in case of emergency.

PART C: DATABANKS, AND INFORMATION SERVICES

SECTION 1 Description of the Centre's databank on hazardous substances and information services provided by the Centre.

SECTION 2 Alerts and Accidents in the Mediterranean.

SECTION 3 Mediterranean Integrated Decision Support Information System (MIDSIS-TROCS)

PART D: OPERATIONAL GUIDES AND TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS

SECTION 1 Guide for combating accidental Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean.

SECTION 2 Guidelines for the use of dispersants for combating oil pollution at sea in the Mediterranean region.

SECTION 3 Concise dictionary of marine anti-pollution terms.

SECTION 4 The significance of a Material Safety Data Sheet.

SECTION 5 Personal protective equipment and monitoring devices for maritime chemical emergencies.

SECTION 6 The TROCS database and its use in response to lost packages washed ashore.

SECTION 7 Theory and practice of foams in chemical spill response.

SECTION 8 Standardised classification system for chemicals accidentally spilt at sea.

SECTION 9 Risks of gaseous releases resulting from maritime incidents.

SECTION 10 Practical guide for marine chemical spills.