

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

REMPEC/WG.21/11/Rev. 1
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Agenda Item 11

PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM PLEASURE CRAFT

Note by REMPEC

1. Aware of the importance of tourism for the economy of the Mediterranean region and of the need for protecting the marine environment in the region from damages that might be caused by pollution generated by pleasure craft, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention approved at their Eleventh Ordinary Meeting (Malta, 27-30 October 1999), *inter alia* the following two recommendations:

- "to provide the necessary support to enable the Secretariat to start the process of considering the issue of the prevention of pollution from non-commercial pleasure-craft activities" and
- "to request the Secretariat (REMPEC and MEDU) to endeavour to obtain the necessary external funds to start the process of considering the issue of the prevention of pollution from non-commercial pleasure-craft activities".

2. In conformity with these recommendations the last Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, held in Malta, 25-28 October 2000, initiated discussion of the issue of prevention of pollution from pleasure craft as referred to in the Report of the Meeting (REMPEC/WG.18/14 paragraphs 89-92). The Meeting agreed on the need to follow up work on the subject and to investigate the status of and measures taken for the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft related activities in the Mediterranean region.

3. The Meeting also took note of the draft legal instrument on pleasure craft navigation ("Projet de Convention sur la navigation de plaisance en mer Méditerranée", REMPEC/WG.18/INF.4) presented by the Institute du Droit Economique de la Mer de Monaco (INDEMER).

4. With a view to assessing the current situation REMPEC subsequently conducted a survey of national and local (port) regulations applicable to the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft and environmentally adverse effects of their activities. The survey was complemented by an analysis of the international and regional rules and regulations related to the matter already developed by IMO, EU and certain regional agreements (Baltic, Caribbean).

5. Under the overall guidance of REMPEC staff the work was carried out between October 2000 and June 2001 by a French law graduate who was subsidized by the Regional Council of Brittany, France.
6. As a result REMPEC prepared a set of draft recommendations, which covered priority fields of pollution prevention and protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean from the adverse effects of pleasure craft related activities. The Recommendations were based on the rules and regulations and relevant arrangements developed within the framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, avoiding the creation of a new legal framework.
7. The document entitled "Recommendations for the prevention of pollution and adverse environmental effects from pleasure craft in the Mediterranean Sea", prepared in both English and French languages, was disseminated in February 2002 to the Governmental and Operational Focal Points of REMPEC, for their consideration.
8. The Twelfth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Monaco 14-17 November 2001 *inter alia* requested REMPEC and MEDU "to endeavour to obtain the necessary external funds to move ahead with the process of studying suitable actions to prevent pollution from pleasure craft".
9. Monaco, which currently presides over the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, informed the last Meeting of the Bureau (Monaco, 17-18 October 2002) that in collaboration with INDEMER it continued to work on the problems raised by the development of leisure activities. Initial studies indicated that these problems might be the subject of a legal document that could ultimately become part of the Barcelona system. Monaco undertook to make a more detailed proposal, after a technical consultation with the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention, to the next Bureau Meeting, that could subsequently be put forward to the Contracting Parties.
10. Following the kind invitation of the Government of Monaco REMPEC attended on 21-22 January 2003 in Monaco a meeting of experts organized in order to examine the latest draft Convention on pleasure craft navigation in the Mediterranean Sea prepared by INDEMER. After examining the draft document the meeting agreed that its further development should focus on the environmental aspects of pleasure craft navigation. Taking into consideration work carried out by REMPEC on the preparation of Recommendations for the prevention of pollution and adverse environmental effects from pleasure craft in the Mediterranean Sea, the Centre was requested to inform the present Meeting of its Focal Points of the ongoing work on the pleasure craft navigation. The Monaco Meeting was of the opinion that it would be appropriate to continue the preparatory work within the framework of MAP. It was suggested to organize another meeting of experts in April 2003 in Monaco, in order to harmonize the work carried out on one hand by REMPEC and on the other by IFREMER, provided that the present Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points confirms that this initiative is pertinent.

The Meeting of Focal Points is invited to

- a) take note of the information provided by REMPEC and of the work carried out by the Centre on the preparation of the Recommendations for the prevention of pollution and adverse environmental effects from pleasure craft in the Mediterranean Sea;
- b) give guidance to the Director of REMPEC concerning continuation of work within the framework of MAP on the issue of pleasure craft navigation and its effects on the marine environment in the Mediterranean, in accordance with the above outlined proposal.