

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

REMPEC/WG.21/3/2
5 December 2002

Original: English

Malta, 12-15 February 2003

Agenda item 3.

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

1. The 6th Meeting of Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) has been convened in Malta from 12 to 15 February 2002, pursuant to the decision of the Twelfth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which agreed that a Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points be organized during 2002/2003 (UNEP (DEC)/MED IG.13/8, Monaco, November 2001).

2. The main objectives of the Focal Points' Meeting will be:

- a) to examine the implementation of the programme of activities of REMPEC for the biennium 2000/2002;
- b) to review the process of ratification of the new Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol) to the Barcelona Convention;
- c) to discuss and propose the strategy for the prevention of and response to the pollution of the marine environment from sea based activities, for the period 2004-2014;
- d) to discuss and propose the programme of priority activities of REMPEC for the biennium 2004-2005 and the relevant budget of the Centre.

3. All REMPEC official Governmental Focal Points have been invited to participate in the Meeting. Taking into consideration that the present Meeting is the first one organized after the adoption of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol, and in order to enhance the discussion of issues related to the prevention of pollution from ships and to ensure the quality of decisions taken in this field, the Focal Points were invited to nominate in their respective delegations at least two representatives: one representing the national authorities responsible for the environment and the other one representing national authorities in charge of maritime affairs. They were also invited to include in national delegations the representatives of their respective oil, chemical and shipping industries. The invitation to attend the Meeting was further extended to the relevant United Nations Organizations and other Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations. Finally, the representatives of international professional organizations and associations were also invited to attend the Meeting as observers.

4. In order to assist the Meeting in its work REMPEC prepared the following annotations to the proposed agenda of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 - Opening of the Meeting

5. The Focal Points' Meeting will be opened at 09.00 hours on Wednesday, 12 February 2003.

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.21/3/1 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.21/3/3.

Agenda Item 4 - Progress report on REMPEC's Programme of Activities (2000-2002)

10. The Focal Points' Meeting will be informed of the present status of implementation of REMPEC's Programme of Activities for the period 2000 - 2002.

The Director of REMPEC will introduce document REMPEC/WG.21/4: Progress report on REMPEC's programme of activities (2000-2002), 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 October 2000 (REMPEC/WG.18/14) and relevant information on budget expenditures in 2002. The report will focus 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 - Mediterranean Technical Working Group

11. In accordance with the recommendation of the 11th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points held in Malta in October 2000 decided to establish the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG), approved the method of its work, and agreed on the topics to be addressed by the Group during the biennium 2001/2002. The Meeting also agreed that the lead country for that period would be Italy and approved Dr. Ezio Amato as the Chairman of MTWG.

12. The Chairman of the MTWG will present the document REMPEC/WG.21/5 that contains the information on the activities of the MTWG during the period under observation and the results of these activities.

The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited:

- a) to discuss and express its views on of the activities of the MTWG during the last two years;
- b) to endorse the results of the work carried out by the MTWG;
- c) to decide on the topics to be addressed by the MTWG during 2003-2004 biennium;
- d) to elect the lead country/ies and the Chairperson/s for the activities planned for the 2003-2004 biennium.

Agenda Item 6 - Adoption and ratification process of the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution From Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol)

13. Secretariat will present a summary document (REMPEC/WG.21/6) outlining the process of the revision of the 1976 Emergency Protocol that led to the adoption in January 2002 of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol. National Focal Points will be invited to present the status of the ratification process of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol in their respective countries.

The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited:

- a) to take note of the work carried out by the Centre in relation to the revision of the Emergency Protocol and the adoption of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol
- b) to take note of the status of the process of ratification of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

Agenda Item 7 - Developments within IMO related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC

14. The representative of IMO will inform the Meeting of the latest developments at the level of his Organization in the fields of protection of the marine environment and safety of navigation. He will be invited to address in particular the recent activities of IMO in preventing operational pollution, reducing accidents, reducing consequences of accidents, and assisting in the implementation of existing treaties and regulations. Special reference will be made to 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.

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

Agenda Item 8 - Implications of recent accidents

15. Bearing in mind the occurrence since the last REMPEC Focal Points' Meeting of several shipping incidents, within and outside the Mediterranean, that caused or were likely to cause marine pollution and which provoked considerable attention of both general public and policy makers, the Secretariat will present the document REMPEC/WG.21/8 which contains the summary information on these incidents and on the Centre's activities related to them. The representatives of the European Community are expected to present the initiatives taken at the EC level as the result of these incidents, and in particular the way in which the agreed and planned EC policy interacts with the Barcelona Convention. The representatives of IMO and IOPC Fund are also expected to inform the Meeting on activities in progress in their respective organizations with regard to the implications these incidents might have in the domains of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution incidents.

The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited:

- a) to take note and comment on the information provided;
- b) to express its views on actions that might be taken at the regional level by the Mediterranean coastal States and by the Centre, with the view increasing the level of preparedness for responding to similar incidents in the Mediterranean, taking into consideration the initiatives ensuing from the recent shipping incidents.

Agenda Item 9 - Discussion and proposal of the new strategy for the prevention of and response to the pollution of the marine environment from sea-based activities

16. The Director of REMPEC will present the document REMPEC/WG.21/9 prepared by the Secretariat and containing the elements of the new strategy for the prevention of and response to the pollution from sea-based activities of the marine environment in the Mediterranean, as well as an outline of this strategy for the forthcoming decade (2004-2014). The document is being prepared on the basis of REMPEC's considerations and of certain preliminary discussions and consultations carried out by the Centre with a view to formulating a realistic strategy aiming at fulfilling the expectations of the Contracting Parties regarding the implementation of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol and achieving its goals. The future strategy will take into account the commitments of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention expressed in the relevant components of MAP Phase II, as well as the strategic orientations of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) regarding the promotion of the safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment, and its ongoing co-operation with UNEP within the framework of the Regional Seas Programme.

17. It is expected that following the endorsement by the Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, and prior to the submission for the final approval by the Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the agreed strategy will be presented for consideration to the MAP Focal Points Meeting.

The Focal Points' Meeting will be invited to consider, discuss, amend as necessary, and propose the strategy for the prevention of and response to the pollution from sea-based activities in the Mediterranean, to be submitted to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties;

Agenda Item 10 - **Proposed programme for the 2004/2005 biennium and budget estimates**

18. The Director of REMPEC will present a proposed programme of activities to be conducted by REMPEC during the 2004/2005 (REMPEC/WG.21/10) 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 2004/2005 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 11 - **Other Business**

19. The Focal Points' Meeting may wish to consider any submission which could be made under this agenda item or have a brief discussion on subjects related to the activities of the Centre and the related activities of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

Agenda Item 12 - **Approval of the Report**

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

Agenda Item 13 - **Closure of the Meeting**

21. The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairman at 16.00 hours on 15 February 2003.