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REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY
RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)

CENTRE REGIONAL MEDITERRANEEN POUR L'INTERVENTION
D'URGENCE CONTRE LA POLLUTION MARINE ACCIDENTELLE (REMPEC)

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN
PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE



7th Meeting of Focal Points of the
Regional Marine Pollution Emergency
Response Centre for the Mediterranean
Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.26/11
28 April 2005

Original: English

Malta, 25-28 April 2005

REPORT
OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF FOCAL POINTS OF THE
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)

Malta, 25-28 April 2005

INTRODUCTION

1. The Seventh Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) was convened in Sliema, Malta from the 25 to 28 April 2005, pursuant to the decision of the Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which agreed that a Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points be organized during 2004/2005 (UNEP (DEC)/MED IG.15/11, Catania, Italy, 11 – 14 November 2003). The Meeting was held at the Crowne Plaza Malta hotel in Sliema.

2. The principal objectives of the Seventh Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points were:

- a) to examine the implementation of the programme of activities of REMPEC since the Sixth Focal Points Meeting;
- b) to approve the final Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships; and
- c) to discuss and propose the programme of priority activities of REMPEC for the biennium 2006-2007 and the relevant budget of the Centre.

3. All REMPEC official Governmental Focal Points were invited to participate in the Meeting. Taking into consideration the adoption 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) to the Barcelona Convention and the mandate of the Centre which covers prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships, and bearing in mind the importance of the issues to be discussed by the Meeting, it was suggested that each Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention be represented in the Meeting by representatives of the national authorities in charge of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships, having good knowledge of both environmental and maritime affairs, and in a position to provide REMPEC with technical advice on behalf of their respective national authorities. Contracting Parties were also invited to include in their delegations observers representing their respective oil, chemical and shipping industries. The invitation to attend the Meeting was also extended to the specialized agencies of the United Nations, other governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as to the international professional organizations and associations whose activities are relevant for the work of REMPEC.

4. The Meeting was attended by delegations from the following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention:

ALBANIA	LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA
ALGERIA	MALTA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	MONACO
CYPRUS	MOROCCO
EGYPT	SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	SLOVENIA
FRANCE	SPAIN
GREECE	SYRIA
ISRAEL	TUNISIA
ITALY	TURKEY
LEBANON	

by representatives from the following United Nations Organizations:

- INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)
- UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME / MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP)

by the following MAP partners/non-governmental organizations,:

- GREENPEACE
- INSTITUT DU DROIT ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER DE MONACO (INDEMER)
- INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION LTD. (ITOPF)
- MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MIO-ECSDE)
- MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP (MOIG)

by the following international organization:

- INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION COMPENSATION FUNDS

and by the following other organization:

- REGIONAL CENTRE FOR ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF (RCADR)

5. A complete list of participants is attached in **Annex I** to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. The Meeting was opened by Rear Admiral Roberto Patrino, Director of REMPEC, on Monday, 25 April 2005 at 09.00 hours. The Director of the Centre welcomed all the delegations to the Meeting and invited the Honourable Mr. Censu Galea, Minister for Competitiveness and Communications of Malta, to deliver the welcome address. The full text of the address of the Honourable Minister is attached as **Annex II** to the present report.

7. The MAP Co-ordinator, Mr. Paul Mifsud, welcomed all participants to the Meeting and augured successful deliberations. He stated that this Meeting was an important Meeting as it will be reviewing the results of the activities carried out since the last REMPEC Focal Points Meeting and, in this regard, the Co-ordinating Unit of MAP looks forward to the results of this Meeting particularly the finalization of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships.

8. Mr. Miguel Palomares, Senior Deputy Director, Marine Environment Division, IMO, conveyed the greetings of the Secretary-General of IMO who also wished participants successful endeavours. He stated that the Seventh Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points was extremely important particularly in view of the expected endorsement by the Meeting of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships. He further stated that the Strategy is quite ambitious and its implementation will place a very heavy burden on REMPEC. In this regard, IMO will endeavour to provide the necessary support to the Centre. However, it was pointed out that the implementation of the Strategy required both the political will and the commitment of the Contracting Parties. Mr. Palomares then referred to the recent loss of the MV Fahim off Nahariya which resulted in loss of life and he offered the deepest sympathies to the people of Syria and of the other affected countries. He stated that this incident is a stark reminder of the urgent need for action to avoid loss of life and pollution of the environment.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Rules of Procedure

9. The Meeting decided to apply, *mutatis mutandis*, 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).

2.2 Election of Officers

10. After thanking the host country, MAP and IMO for the support offered in the preparation of the Meeting, the Tunisian delegation expressed the gratitude to the Centre for the excellent job done in the preparation of the Meeting and proposed Algeria as the Chair of the Meeting, Egypt as the Vice-chair, and Italy as the Rapporteur. The proposal of the Tunisian delegation was seconded by Turkey and Cyprus, and the Meeting unanimously decided to elect the following officers of the Meeting:

Dr. Abdelhafid Laouira (Algeria)	Chairperson
Dr. Mohamed Aly Borhan (Egypt)	Vice – Chairperson
Comm. Nicola Carlone (Italy)	Rapporteur

2.3 Working Languages

11. The working languages of the Meeting were English and French. Simultaneous English/French interpretation was provided during the Meeting. The working documents prepared by REMPEC were also available in both official languages of the Centre, i.e. English and French.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

12. The French delegation congratulated the Chair for the election. It proposed that the Provisional Agenda, contained in document REMPEC/WG.26/3/3/Rev.1, which was rich and demanding, be adopted. However, it requested the Secretariat to inform the Meeting why the Report on the activities of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG), was not included in the Agenda.

13. The Director of REMPEC explained that the Report on the MTWG was not included in the Agenda since the tasks assigned by the 6th Meeting of Focal Points to MTWG were not completed as yet. However, the Director indicated that the Chairman of MTWG expressed the hope that the planned tasks would be concluded in the near future, and that the Contracting Parties will be duly informed of the results of the MTWG's work

14. The Meeting adopted the Agenda reproduced in **Annex III** of the present report. The list of documents is presented in **Annex IV**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PROGRESS REPORT ON REMPEC'S ACTIVITIES SINCE THE 6TH MEETING OF REMPEC FOCAL POINTS

15. The Director of the REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.26/4 and presented the main objectives of REMPEC actions during the period under review, as well as the main groups of the Centre's activities. He also provided additional details on the activities outlined in document REMPEC/WG.26/4. In particular the Director of REMPEC provided the Meeting with detailed information on the external sources of financing, which to a great extent helped the Centre to complete the tasks carried out since the 6th Meeting of Focal Points.

16. In addition to providing the Meeting with detailed information on specific activities implemented by REMPEC since February 2003, the Director of the Centre also informed the Meeting on the current status of the REMPEC premises, the revision of the host country agreement between the Government of Malta and IMO, the revision of the standing arrangements on the management of REMPEC as well as on internship programme of the Centre.

17. Following the presentation of the Director of REMPEC, several national delegations congratulated REMPEC on the results achieved since the last Meeting of Focal Points and provided the Meeting with the additional information on relevant issues and developments in their respective countries.

18. The Algerian delegation informed the Meeting that a new law on major risks and response to emergencies was recently adopted by the Algerian authorities, and that the national system for preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution "Tel Bahr" will be incorporated into the new

national disaster relief plan. As regards the Sub-regional Agreement and Contingency Plan for the Southern Western Mediterranean the Algerian delegation indicated that its preparation has reached the final stage and that the last comments of Tunisia were being incorporated into the texts. The signing of the Sub-regional Agreement is expected to take place in June 2005 in Algiers.

19. It also informed the Meeting that several accidents occurred in the Algerian ports and terminals and along the Algerian coasts during the years 2003 and 2004, and that the risk of such events was likely to increase due to the expansion of some of the main terminals. Although the recorded accidents were not major ones in terms of pollution, some of these unfortunately resulted in loss of human life. In particular, in the case of a recent accident that resulted in the loss of life, fruitful co-operation with the Spanish authorities enabled saving at least some of the victims. Such situation relates to safety of navigation and requires strict application of additional preventive measures in line with the proposed Regional Strategy.

20. The French delegation precised that MEDIPOL 2003 was organized by REMPEC concomitantly with the European Workshop on Satellite Imagery and Illicit Oil Spills in Europe and in the Mediterranean, which was organized by CEDRE.

21. The French delegation noted that the Report indicated that the Centre was at an important crossroad, and emphasized the importance of cooperation with other MAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs) in particular in the field of sensitivity mapping and identification of potential Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs). France also noted that the interdisciplinary approach to the Centre's activities was both important and desirable.

22. Welcoming the importance that REMPEC attaches to development of sub-regional operational agreements, the French delegation informed the Meeting that within the framework of the RAMOGE, a new operational agreement (Plan RAMOGEPOL) entered into force in January 2005.

23. In particular, the French delegation emphasized the importance of designation, by Mediterranean coastal States, of ecological protection areas, allowing the coastal States to sanction offenders of the national legislation implementing the MARPOL Convention. France informed the Meeting that it had established such an area in the Mediterranean and had promulgated a law strengthening criminal sanctions applicable to offenders.

24. The Turkish delegation thanked REMPEC for its assistance in organizing in 2004 two training activities in Mersin and Istanbul respectively. It also briefed the Meeting about recent legislative developments in Turkey in the fields of maritime safety and marine environment protection highlighting the promulgation of new regulations concerning prevention of and response to marine pollution and new regulations regarding port reception facilities. Finally, the Turkish delegation informed the Meeting of various initiatives being undertaken in Turkey related to capacity building and which were linked to the country's future accession to the European Union.

25. The Tunisian delegation also informed the Meeting that the process for the accession to the Prevention and Emergency Protocol has already been launched. In addition the Tunisian delegation provided the Meeting with some information concerning a minor accident that occurred in February in Bay of Tunis. The regional (area) contingency plan (for the Nabeul governorate) was activated, and the vessel was refloated and towed to a shipyard for repairs. Tunisian authorities informed REMPEC and subsequently made use of the technical information provided by the Centre. One of the lessons learnt was that more importance in such events should be given to the relations with the media, which in that particular case were not always adequate.

26. Tunisia noted with pleasure that the initiative for development of the Sub-regional Contingency Plan and Agreement that was launched in 2000 was reaching the completion. The work on this project proved that each Sub-regional contingency plan and operational agreement was different and that these could not just be copied from one sub-region to another. It expressed its gratitude to REMPEC and IMO for the constant support to this project, and to Algeria and Morocco for the cooperation in the preparation of the SRCP.

27. The Tunisian delegation informed the Meeting of an ongoing project financed by the World Bank. It concerns Integrated Coastal Area Management of the Gulf of Gabes, and contains various components including the preparation of an operational contingency plan for the region (area), and a

system for ship ballast water management concerning four ports in the area, based on the experience of IMO. Another project currently being prepared in Tunisia aimed at establishing coastal VTS, as well as the acquisition of surveillance aircraft and an ocean going tugboat.

28. Finally, the Tunisian delegation thanked REMPEC, IMO, and MAP for their assistance and constant support.

29. The Moroccan delegation thanked REMPEC and IMO for the assistance in the preparation of a draft Contingency Plan for Nador. It informed the Meeting that as a follow up an exercise was organized in Nador in 2004. In addition the Moroccan authorities, in cooperation with France, recently launched an ambitious training programme.

30. With regard to the development of a national law on illicit discharges from ships, which started recently, the Moroccan delegation requested the assistance of REMPEC.

31. The Spanish delegation informed the Meeting of the new acquisitions made by the Spanish authorities including two multipurpose rescue vessels (tugs / oil spill response vessels) of 124 tonnes bollard pull each, two multipurpose rescue vessels (tug/oil spill response vessels) of 224 tonnes bollard pull each, and three fixed wing aircraft (CN-235-300) equipped for aerial surveillance. In addition to surveillance of oil pollution these long range aircraft will also perform duties related to Search and Rescue (SAR), safety at sea, and maritime traffic monitoring. The cost of the three aircraft was expected to be 82.5 million EURO. The first of the vessels will be commissioned in the beginning of summer 2005, and the rest of the vessels and aircraft within the next two years. The vessels will be stationed in Galicia, in the Mediterranean, in the Strait of Gibraltar and in Canary Islands.

32. Spain considered these new acquisitions to be very important for increasing the national capacities for prevention of accidents, preparedness and response to marine pollution incidents. The Algerian representative welcomed the information provided by Spain and considered this initiative as a major contribution to the protection of the marine environment on the regional level.

33. The Spanish delegation referred to document REMPEC/WG.26/INF.3 and informed the Meeting that it offered to REMPEC, as its contribution to CLEANMED project, to design, develop and maintain an internet-based information system containing data related to the prosecution of offenders of rules concerning illicit discharges from ships.

34. Spain also informed the Meeting of the Round Table that will be organized during the international oil spill response exercise Mediterraneo 2005, which will be held in May 2005 with the participation of France, Italy and Monaco. The Round Table was convened to discuss the advantages of having a sub-regional agreement on aerial surveillance in the Western Mediterranean.

35. Italy congratulated Spain for its very ambitious programme and informed the Meeting that Italy also has aircraft for oil spill surveillance. A call for tenders was recently launched for the renewal of the contract with the private sector for marine pollution control related activities.

36. Algeria also congratulated Spain and expressed its hope that these Spanish vessels and aircraft will extend the possibility for co-operation in the Mediterranean, taking into consideration that it had the biggest transit area for the tankers, and suffered a great deal from illicit discharges.

37. France indicated that it already had aerial surveillance aircraft equipped with sophisticated surveillance equipment, for surveying the ecological protected area declared by France.

38. The EC delegation informed the Meeting of the recent initiatives by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) within the framework of its 2005 Action Plan. EMSA was set up primarily to assist the EU member States, respecting the existing EU framework, and its role was still limited to these countries. In order to fulfill its responsibilities in the field of protection of the marine environment, the Agency has recently launched the process for chartering four stand-by response vessels, one of which should be stationed in the eastern Mediterranean by the first half of 2006. It is expected that in the coming years an additional vessel will be deployed in the eastern part of the Mediterranean and another one in its western part. In 2006 EMSA intends to contract a satellite imagery service for monitoring illegal discharges and supporting major spill response operations. The

EC delegation reiterated the intention to extend, through EMSA and its activities, the co-operation with the Barcelona Convention and REMPEC in particular. The EC representative recalled that there were mechanisms already in place within the EU which could assist in case of marine pollution incidents, prior to EMSA becoming fully operational. He informed the Meeting that on 12 April 2005 the EC agreed upon a proposal for establishing a rapid response and preparedness instrument for major emergencies, covering 2007-2013 period, which will be considered by the European Parliament and the Council.

39. The representative of the EC also recalled that recent and planned enlargements of the EU will extend its membership to almost half of the Mediterranean coastal States, which either already apply or will soon apply EU legislation related to maritime safety and pollution prevention. Therefore the objective to reduce the gap between the countries who apply the international legal framework and those who apply it in a harmonized manner was greatly justified.

40. The representative of MOIG informed the Meeting of the conclusion of MOIG session held in GSP Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in April 2005, which considered that the recent incident of MV Al Amine, in Tunisia, could have been avoided if the ship master gave distress signal in time. The Meeting noted that in some recent accidents the masters of ships involved failed to alert in time the national authorities of the coastal State, and was of the opinion that the request for assistance by ships in distress, in particular, near the coast, must be made compulsory and that assistance in such cases should be made available without delay. France recalled that in terms of the Intervention 69 Convention, the coastal State could intervene on a ship in distress which might present a risk for its environment, and that France has transposed this Convention into its customary law.

AGENDA ITEM 5: DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN MAP RELATED TO THE OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF REMPEC

41. Whilst presenting document REMPEC/WG.26/5, in his capacity of Co-ordinator of MAP, Mr Paul Mifsud, emphasized the importance of the Meeting in view of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which will be held in Slovenia in November 2005. He mentioned the important role that REMPEC should play in assisting the Contracting Parties to ratify and implement the Prevention and Emergency Protocol and stressed that in this regard the adoption of the Regional Strategy would be a fundamental step forward. Mr Mifsud highlighted the full involvement of REMPEC in the preparation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) with regard to operational and accidental pollution from ships. He also highlighted the strong existing relationship between UNEP/MAP, IMO and the EC, proof of this being the SAFEMED project likely to be carried out by REMPEC over a three year period after the signing of the relative contract between the EC and IMO.

42. The Co-ordinator referred to the MAP Evaluation Exercise mandated by the last Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Catania, aimed at improving the relevance of MAP in the region. He also referred to the future EU Maritime Policy and expressed the intention of MAP to position itself at the forefront of the consultation process that will be launched by the EU Maritime Policy Task Force including the preparation of the Green Paper.

43. The MAP Co-ordinator also noted the positive developments related to the relocation of the premises of REMPEC and conveyed his thanks to the Maltese authorities for identifying new premises for the relocation of REMPEC.

44. Finally, the Co-ordinator of MAP informed the Meeting that process for the recruitment of the new Director of REMPEC will soon be initiated. In this regard, he warmly acknowledged the valid contribution and achievements of Rear Admiral Patruno, the present Director of REMPEC, during his seven year term of office. He stated that under his direction the Centre has seen an increase in activities, attracted external funding for numerous activities, enjoyed increased recognition amongst the Contracting Parties, and also benefited from his experience and total commitment.

45. The representative of EC informed the Meeting that this year also marks the 10th anniversary of launching of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and appealed to the Mediterranean coastal States to work towards embracing a pollution-free Mediterranean policy. He stated that a calendar was set up at the EU level for progressive phasing out of pollution, and in particular the marine pollution, by

2020, and called for full cooperation and partnership with Mediterranean countries in achieving this goal. In particular, he requested delegations of the Euro-Mediterranean partners to liaise with their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs with a view to supporting this idea at the forthcoming Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers of Euromed partners that has been scheduled in Luxemburg on 30-31 May 2005.

46. The EC delegation reassured the Meeting that all EU legislation in the field of maritime safety and marine pollution prevention strictly observed the provisions of UNCLOS, and that consequently there should be no concerns regarding the application by the Mediterranean EU member States of the relevant EU legal framework.

47. The representative of Algeria updated the Meeting on the ratification by his country of the 1976 Barcelona Convention, as amended in 1995, as well as of the OPRC 90 Convention, and stressed the role that REMPEC, and in particular its Director, played in the process of ratification of these two instruments. He also recalled the fruitful cooperation between Algeria and REMPEC, especially as far as implementation of national legislation was concerned. He further stated that the process of ratification of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol was in an advanced stage, and should be completed before the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties. The ratification process of the Intervention 69 Convention was also underway and it was now being considered by the competent national authorities.

AGENDA ITEM 6: DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN IMO RELATED TO THE OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF REMPEC

48. In introducing document REMPEC/WG.26/6, Mr. Miguel Palomares, the representative of IMO recalled that regulatory measures concerning shipping are elaborated and adopted at the international level and that the IMO international regulatory framework should prevail in any regional measures.

49. Mr. Palomares informed the Meeting of the latest developments at the level of IMO in the fields of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships. He provided the Meeting with a summary of the main decisions emanating from the 51st and 52nd sessions of IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) and which were of direct interest to the present Meeting. In particular, he referred to the work of the OPRC-HNS Technical Group, the plan of action for the development of guidelines in preparation for the implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, the ongoing work on ship recycling, the revision of MARPOL Annexes I and II and the consequential amendments to the International Bulk Chemical Code, the adoption of guidelines on the transport of vegetable oils, amendments to MARPOL Annexes IV, V and VI, and the designation of new Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs).

50. Mr. Joe Nichols, the representative of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds, presented recent developments within the international regime on liability and compensation for oil pollution damage. He introduced the applicable international conventions and outlined their main features. He pointed out that the 1992 regime was recently reviewed and that a new supplementary fund increasing the total amount of compensation to USD 1.1 billion entered into force on 5 March 2005. In his presentation Mr. Nichols informed the Meeting of the recent initiatives by the IOPC Funds including in particular training courses on presentation of claims for compensation, revision of the Fund's Claims Manual, and the review of the claims handling process.

51. The representative of IOPC Funds invited the Mediterranean coastal States which as yet did not accede to the 1992 CLC and Fund Conventions to do so as soon as possible.

52. The Meeting took note of the information provided by the representatives of IMO and IOPC Funds respectively and thoroughly discussed relevant issues.

53. The EC delegation stressed the need for ratification of the AFS Convention and stated that the EU legislation implementing the Convention is already in place. It also informed the Meeting that as from 1 January 2008, no ships using TBT (tributyltin) paints will be allowed to enter EU ports.

54. The French representative stated that his country had participated very actively in the OPRC-HNS Technical Group through CEDRE. He also pointed out that France attached great importance to the issues related to recycling of ships. Moreover, France will soon ratify the AFS Convention and has ratified MARPOL Annex VI. He further pointed out that the provisions of the proposed EU Directive on ship-source pollution and introduction of sanctions were in line with UNCLOS and MARPOL Convention.

55. The IMO representative also strongly recommended that Mediterranean coastal States ratify as soon as possible both the AFS and BWM Conventions.

56. The Meeting discussed the issue of PSSAs. Tunisia underlined the need to reach a common position on this matter to be presented to the next Meeting of Contracting Parties. The Co-ordinator of MAP stressed the importance, as far as the Mediterranean Sea is concerned, of addressing this issue within MAP and all its components. Several delegations mentioned the primary role that REMPEC, according to its Regional Strategy, should play in leading the necessary investigation for considering the possible designation of PSSAs in the Mediterranean, in close collaboration with SPA/RAC.

57. The French representative informed the Meeting of the long process leading to the designation of PSSAs within the framework of IMO in accordance with the relevant IMO Guidelines. In this regard, the IMO representative informed the participants that, in view of the recent requests for the designation of PSSAs, the relevant IMO Guidelines will be revised at MEPC 53 in order to improve the criteria for the designation of such areas.

AGENDA ITEM 7: EC/ MEDA FINANCED PROJECT ON EUROMED CO-OPERATION ON MARITIME SAFETY AND PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (SAFEMED)

58. Mr. Jonathan Pace, Programme Officer (Prevention) introduced document REMPEC/WG.26/7 containing an outline of the SAFEMED project which is expected to be implemented by REMPEC between 2005-2008. The project, which is valued around four million Euro, was developed within the framework of Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, and will be implemented in ten Mediterranean Partner countries. SAFEMED will address a number of important issues in the field of maritime safety and security and prevention of pollution from ships taking the utmost advantage of the achievements of IMO and the added value created by the EU legislative framework.

59. Mr. Pace informed the Meeting that the main objective of the SAFEMED project is to mitigate the existing imbalance in the application of marine legislation in the region between the Mediterranean Partners that are not members of the EU and those that are members, through promoting a coherent, effective and uniform implementation of the relevant international conventions and rules aimed at better protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean region by preventing pollution from ships.

60. The Programme Officer (Prevention) stated that the EC felt that the role of IMO in the development and implementation of maritime transport related conventions and the important role and activities of REMPEC merited the involvement of these bodies in the project. In this regard, in 2004, the EC approached REMPEC to develop a project proposal based on guidelines approved by the Euromed Transport Forum and offered to the Centre to manage and implement the project. Mr. Pace informed the Meeting that the EC intended to conclude a service contract with IMO, on behalf of REMPEC, for the management and implementation of the SAFEMED project.

61. Mr. Pace stated, that during 2004 REMPEC prepared, with the assistance of a Consultant, the technical annex and the budget of the project which was subsequently amended in conformity with the comments of the relevant services of the EC and IMO. He further informed the Meeting that at the time of the present Meeting the final draft of the technical annex of the project was being finalized and that the implementation of the project was subject to the conclusion and signing of a service contract between the EC and IMO, which was expected to take place shortly. Mr. Pace invited the Meeting to take note of the information provided on the SAFEMED project and to take it into consideration during the deliberations on Agenda Item 9 (Regional Strategy for prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships) and Agenda Item 10 (Proposed programme of activities and budget estimates for biennium 2006/2007). In this regard, he pointed out that the proposed programme of activities of

REMPEC was prepared on the assumption that the SAFEMED project will be approved for implementation by the Centre during the period 2005-2008 and consequently a number of activities complementing some tasks of the SAFEMED project were included in the proposed programme of activities to be carried out in the non-MEDA countries.

62. Several countries and in particular Algeria and Tunisia welcomed the initiative of the SAFEMED project and expressed their appreciation to the EC for funding this project.

63. In replying to queries raised by the delegations of France, Libya, Tunisia and Turkey, Mr. Pace reassured the Meeting that REMPEC will endeavour to utilize MTF funds to carry out equivalent activities in the Mediterranean coastal States not benefiting from the SAFEMED project. He also informed the Meeting of the main expected outputs of the project.

64. The EC delegate indicated that the financing of the project will remain within the framework of the Euromed partnership and therefore only Euromed Partners would be direct beneficiaries of the project. However, he emphasized that the EC very much appreciated efforts of REMPEC to associate to the project through the MTF budget the Contracting Parties that were not Euromed Partners. The EC representative also noted that when the Project was prepared it was taken into consideration not to go beyond the current REMPEC's objectives and functions.

65. Finally, the EC delegation pointed out that SAFEMED was an excellent example of co-operation and that the EC insisted that SAFEMED be implemented under the supervision of REMPEC based on the positive experience of the MEDA Project on Port Reception Facilities implemented by REMPEC between 2002 and 2004. It indicated that all technical issues were already agreed upon and that only a few administrative issues needed to be resolved prior to the signing of the relative contract.

AGENDA ITEM 8: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND RESPECT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT BY PLEASURE CRAFT ACTIVITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

66. Ms. Lilia Khodjet El Khil, Temporary Technical Officer, REMPEC, introduced document REMPEC/WG.26/8 containing updated information on the work carried out by the Centre in the field of prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities since the Sixth Meeting of Focal Points, as well as the Annex to the document. She recalled the collaboration between the Centre and the Institut du Droit Economique de la Mer (INDEMER) that led to the preparation of a draft legal regional instrument, with a view to submitting it to the Thirteen Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.15/11, Catania, 11-14 November 2003).

67. She recalled the decision of the Contracting Parties to proceed with the preparatory work for drafting a legal regional instrument on prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean Sea and the subsequent organisation, thanks to the financial and logistic support of the Government of Monaco, of a Meeting of National Experts on the Feasibility of a Legal Regional Instrument on Prevention of Pleasure Craft Activities in the Mediterranean (REMPEC/WG. 24/6, Monaco 8-10 December 2004). The said Meeting discussed and considered the feasibility of the proposed draft legal instrument within the Barcelona System.

68. Ms. Khodjet El Khil explained that after having reviewed several possible options, the Meeting of National Experts decided to have a non-mandatory instrument rather than a legally binding instrument, which would take the form of a Resolution containing a set of Principles to be taken into consideration for the preparation of Guidelines on prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities. The Meeting of National Experts further discussed and agreed upon six sets of Principles to serve as a frame for the development of the Guidelines.

69. Finally, Ms. Khodjet El Khil outlined the future steps for the adoption of these Guidelines, namely the submission of the Draft Resolution to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption, and the subsequent preparation of Guidelines by REMPEC, which would eventually be submitted to the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007.

70. The Meeting took note of the information provided.

71. The IMO representative introduced document REMPEC/WG.26/8/1, containing some minor amendments to the text of the Resolution. The Meeting agreed with the editorial changes proposed by IMO, and decided to modify the eleventh Preamble paragraph of the draft Resolution as follows: “*Desirous* to undertake the necessary actions enabling the control of these activities;”.

72. In reply to a query of the representative of the EC to include in the Preamble of the draft Resolution a reference to existing EU legislation, the Secretariat proposed that the following wording be added at the end to the first paragraph of the said Preamble, as follows: “..., as well as other existing rules, in particular those applicable to European Union Member States;”. After careful consideration, the proposal was accepted by the Meeting which decided to amend the first paragraph accordingly.

73. The Meeting endorsed the text of the Draft Resolution for the Sustainable Development and Respect of the Marine Environment by Pleasure Craft Activities in the Mediterranean Sea, as amended.

AGENDA ITEM 9: REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS

74. Mr. Jonathan Pace, Programme Officer (Prevention), presented document REMPEC/WG.26/9/1 outlining the process of preparation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Pollution from Ships which led to the adoption of the Final Draft of the Regional Strategy by the Second Meeting of National Experts on the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships which was convened in Malta immediately prior to the present Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points (REMPEC/WG.25/7). He pointed out that the Final Draft of the Strategy was attached as Annex IV to the Report of the Second Meeting of National Experts which was circulated to the present Meeting as document REMPEC/WG.26/9/2.

75. The Programme Officer (Prevention) also informed the Meeting that, pursuant to the request of the First Meeting of National Experts on the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, and thanks to funds provided specifically for this purpose by UNEP, REMPEC engaged a consultant to carry out an assessment of the cost of implementation of the proposed Regional Strategy. He explained that the Consultant, Mr. Glafkos Constantinides, presented the study concerning the estimate of costs of the implementation of the Regional Strategy (REMPEC/WG.25/6) to the Second Meeting of National Experts on the Regional Strategy. Finally, Mr. Pace invited the Meeting to endorse the Final Draft of the Strategy as finalized by the Second Meeting of National Experts and to mandate the Secretariat to submit it to the next Meeting of MAP Focal Points, prior to being presented to the Fourteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

76. The delegations of Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia noted that some of the actions included in the Regional Strategy required substantial financial commitments by the Contracting Parties and requested REMPEC to investigate the possibility of sourcing some of the required funds at the global level. In this regard, these delegations underlined the importance of periodically presenting to the Meetings of REMPEC Focal Points the status of implementation of the activities included in the Strategy and, in particular, of updating the timetable for the implementation of the Strategy.

77. In reply to some queries raised by the delegations of Algeria and Tunisia, the Consultant, Mr. Glafkos Constantinides, explained the methodology used for the preparation of the study regarding the estimate of costs of the implementation of the Strategy and pointed out that the study did not exclude bilateral or multilateral financing.

78. The delegation of Turkey referred to Specific Objective 4.6 (Improved follow-up of pollution events as well as monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges) of the Regional Strategy and, whilst acknowledging the importance of monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges for combating operational pollution, expressed some concerns on the implementation of action paragraph (b) of this Specific Objective related to the establishment of sub-regional systems, including procedures to over-fly the waters under the jurisdiction of a neighbouring State. The Turkish delegation stated that over-flights cannot be permitted over conflicted waters even if there is the consent of two States. In view of

the above, the delegation of Turkey reserved its position on paragraph (b) of Specific Objective 4.6 of the Regional Strategy.

79. The delegations of Greece and Cyprus reserved their position on the statement of the Turkish delegation: "over-flights cannot be permitted over conflicted waters even if there is the consent of two States".

80. The delegation of Turkey also made reference to action paragraph (d) of Specific Objective 4.7 (To improve the level of enforcement and the prosecution of discharge offenders) which was included in the Final Draft of the Regional Strategy during the Second Meeting of National Experts and which referred to the establishment of ecological protected areas in accordance with international law as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 (UNCLOS). It informed the Meeting that during the discussion on this issue in the Second Meeting of National Experts, the representative of Turkey had pointed out that the inclusion of this action paragraph required consultations with her competent national authorities. The delegate of Turkey stated that, since Turkey is not a party to UNCLOS, the application of relevant international law to which Turkey is subject could be applied. In view of the above, the delegation of Turkey reserved its position on paragraph (d) of Specific Objective 4.7 of the Regional Strategy.

81. The Co-ordinator of MAP emphasized the importance of consensus on the Final Draft of the Regional Strategy which had to be approved by the next Meeting of MAP national Focal Points prior to being submitted to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

82. The Director of REMPEC, whilst associating himself with the remarks of the MAP Co-ordinator, pointed out the importance of the Contracting Parties assuming ownership of the Regional Strategy and fulfilling their commitments. He stated that whilst the Centre would assist the Contracting Parties in implementing these commitments, the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Regional Strategy rested with the Contracting Parties.

83. The delegation of Tunisia, referring to the last paragraph of Section 3 (General Objectives) of the Regional Strategy, pointed out that this paragraph should either be deleted or redrafted as it stated that the specific objectives of the Strategy have not been costed. Algeria supported this proposal.

84. The representative of France concurred with the intervention of the representative of Tunisia and stated that, whilst this paragraph could be deleted, the commitment of the Contracting Parties to implement the Regional Strategy should be reflected in the Resolution accompanying the Strategy. He added that the need to seek the necessary external funding for the implementation of the Strategy could be included in the report of the present Meeting.

85. The Meeting, concurring with the request of Tunisia and the proposal of France, decided to delete the last paragraph of Section 3 of the Regional Strategy, and agreed to insert the following new twelfth preambular paragraph in the Resolution accompanying the Strategy, that reads: "**Commit** themselves firmly to implement the Regional Strategy in its regional, sub-regional and national components;"

86. The Meeting discussed in detail the proposal of the Egyptian delegation concerning the role of REMPEC in identifying external sources of funding. Taking into consideration the remarks made by the MAP Co-ordinator that the Centre already plays a significant role in this field, the Meeting agreed to invite the Centre to organize a regional meeting involving Contracting Parties' representatives and potential donors.

87. The Director of REMPEC stated that the Centre will endeavour to organize such a regional meeting. He however pointed out that such a meeting could only be organized if the competent national authorities of the Contracting Parties submitted to REMPEC their national action plans and budget estimates for the implementation of the Regional Strategy which would enable the Centre to prepare the relative regional requirements.

88. The representative of Israel referred to the Consultant's study on the cost estimates of the implementation of the Regional Strategy and in particular to the estimates of costs related to air surveillance of illicit discharges. He pointed out that there are other effective but less expensive methods of air surveillance and he particularly referred to unmanned aircraft.

89. Whilst referring to the intervention of the representative of Israel, the French representative stated that, according to the experience gained on this issue in his country, despite huge technological developments, visual observation was still necessary.

90. The representative of Turkey associated itself with other delegations who spoke about the need of funds for the implementation of the commitments of the Regional Strategy. It also referred to section 4.4 of Chapter 4 of the Consultant's study on the costs estimates of the implementation of the Regional Strategy (REMPEC/WG.25/6) which referred to possible cooperative initiatives in different regions of the Mediterranean. She stated that Turkey preferred that the first group of countries identified for possible cooperative initiatives be referred to as "Coastal States in the Eastern Mediterranean", and that the reference to the proposed cooperation between Greece and Turkey should specifically concern the Aegean Sea.

91. The EC delegation proposed that reference be made in the first preambular paragraph of Specific Objective 4.4 (Provision of reception facilities in ports) of the Strategy to the Resolution adopted by the participants to the Regional Seminar on Port Reception Facilities for Collecting Ship-Generated Garbage, Bilge Waters and Oily Wastes in the Mediterranean (Malta, 24 – 26 November 2004) organized by REMPEC within the framework of the EC financed MEDA Project on Port Reception Facilities in the Mediterranean.

92. On a proposal of the Secretariat, the Meeting agreed to amend the last sentence of the first preambular paragraph of Specific Objective 4.4 as follows: "The topic has been the subject of a number of studies and was addressed by a MEDA project implemented by REMPEC (2002 – 2004). In this regard, the Resolution on the implementation of the results of the MEDA project adopted by the participants to the Regional Seminar on Port Reception Facilities for Collecting Ship-Generated Garbage, Bilge Waters and Oily Wastes in the Mediterranean (Malta, 24 – 26 November 2004) organized by REMPEC within the framework of the said project, should be taken into consideration while implementing the Strategy."

93. The Meeting agreed to endorse the Final Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships as amended by the present REMPEC Focal Points Meeting and requested the Secretariat to propose it for approval by the next Meeting of National Focal Points of MAP.

AGENDA ITEM 10: PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF REMPEC ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE BIENNIUM 2006/2007

94. The Director of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.26/10 on the proposed programme of REMPEC activities and budget estimates for biennium 2006/2007, and its two annexes containing a preliminary draft programme of REMPEC activities for the biennium 2006/2007 and the status REMPEC Staff respectively. The Director recalled the rationale and elements on which the proposed programme was based, namely the activities originating from the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol, priority issues set out in the Catania Declaration, as well as the needs of the Contracting Parties in the fields of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships, that were identified during the preparation of the Regional Strategy. He indicated that the ongoing activities and projects initiated in 2004-2005 biennium, such as CLEANMED and AESOP projects, activities related to prevention of pollution from pleasure craft, as well as activities expected to be carried out by REMPEC within the SAFEMED Project were also taken into account for the preparation of the proposed programme. The programme focused on three main areas in which the assistance of the Centre was needed, namely prevention of pollution from ships, cooperation in preparedness and response to accidental pollution, and capacity building and information. It also reflected the general orientations provided by the 6th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points for these three main areas.

95. The Director of REMPEC presented envisaged sources of financing for the proposed activities, as indicated in Annex I to the document. As far as activities planned in the field of Prevention were concerned, he explained that a significant part of these were expected to be financed by the EC/MEDA financed SAFEMED Project and would be complemented by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) budget for the countries not participating in the Euromed Partnership. Certain projects in this group (e.g. AESOP) would be co-financed through partnerships with participating institutions and the Italian government. Activities expected to be carried out within Preparedness and Response area would also be financed, completely or partly, by different sources, including MTF budget, IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP), as well as possible voluntary contributions of individual Contracting Parties and partnership with other MAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs). Finally the cost of implementation of Capacity Building and Information related activities was also expected to be borne by various sources of financing, including MTF budget, SAFEMED budget, Global Environmental Facility (GEF) as well as by external sources to be identified. In addition to the meetings planned in 2006-2007, the 8th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Point would be financially supported by MTF budget, while external sources should be identified in order to organize the Meeting of experts on guidelines for pleasure craft.

96. Within the context of the proposed work plan, the Director of REMPEC also outlined the present and envisaged personnel component of the Centre and pointed out that effective implementation of the proposed programme of activities for the biennium 2006-2007 certainly required complementing the present staff of REMPEC. In this regard he informed the Meeting that while SAFEMED project proposal envisaged the employment of three professional and one general staff members, on the other hand the contracts of five present temporary staff of the Centre were due to expire during 2005. These included two Junior Programme Officers seconded by TOTAL (France) and ICRAM (Italy) respectively who will terminate their assignments at the end of April 2005, and the Temporary Technical Officer whose contract expires in May 2005. A new Junior Programme Officer will be seconded by TOTAL (France), following the approval by the French authorities. The contracts of two general service staff, whose recruitment was made possible thanks to the voluntary contribution of the Italian Government, will expire in December 2005.

97. In particular, the Director informed the Meeting that he would reach the legal retirement age at the end of 2005 and that the present Senior Programme Officer informally indicated his intention to take early retirement at the same time.

98. The Meeting took note of the information provided by the Director of REMPEC and discussed various issues addressed in the report.

99. Regarding the staff of REMPEC, the Meeting expressed concern that the expected significant changes in staff, as outlined by the Director, could influence the implementation of the proposed Centre's plan of activities for the next biennium, and of the Regional Strategy in general.

100. The representative of Egypt noted that the implementation of the work plan proposed for the biennium 2006-2007, of the future Regional Strategy, as well as of SAFEMED and CLEANMED projects would need certain continuity. In this regard he proposed that the possibility of extending the contract of the present Director for at least another year be explored, if legally possible, and suggested that the present Senior Programme Officer should reconsider his intention to take an early retirement.

101. The delegations of Algeria, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and, Serbia and Montenegro supported the proposal for the extension, if possible, of the appointment of the present Director of REMPEC.

102. The MAP Coordinator informed the Meeting that he already requested the Secretary General of IMO to consider the possibility of extending the appointment of the present Director of REMPEC for another year. He however pointed out that the final decision rested with the Secretary General of IMO.

103. The representative of the EC noted that with regard to the forthcoming implementation of SAFEMED, IMO and UNEP should endeavour to put REMPEC in the best possible position to implement the project.

104. The representative of IMO informed the Meeting that he would report to the IMO Secretary General on the subject and indicated that the implementation of not only SAFEMED, but of the Regional Strategy as a whole, will be taken into consideration when taking decisions regarding the future staffing of the Centre.

105. The Italian delegation informed the Meeting that the voluntary contribution of the Italian Government, aimed at strengthening the Centre's staff component, would continue for the next three years and would be increased from the present 45,000 EURO/year to 60,000 EURO/year, on condition that it would be partly utilized for employing a Junior Programme Officer of the Italian nationality.

106. The Meeting welcomed the statement made by the Italian delegation, and the Director of REMPEC thanked the Italian delegation on behalf of the Centre. MAP Coordinator expressed the appreciation of the Coordinating Unit, for the generous offer of Italy.

107. As regards the work programme proposed by REMPEC the delegation of France noted that while it should correspond to the goals of the Regional Strategy, it was inevitable that some parts of it correspond to the provisions of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol without clearly appearing in the programme of the Strategy. Commenting the delivered information on the envisaged sources of financing of the activities proposed for the next biennium, the French delegation pointed out that a non negligible part of the MTF budget would be dedicated to complementary activities to be carried out in non-MEDA countries, in parallel with those planned under the SAFEMED Project. It was recalled that no increase in the MTF budget was planned at the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties. Referring specifically to the implementation of Component 2 of the CLEANMED Project, to be financed by GEF, the French delegation requested additional information of the current status of the GEF project document. MAP Coordinator provided the requested information and outlined the process leading to the approval by GEF Secretariat of the project document. He indicated that the latter was currently being developed and that the implementation of the planned activities was expected to start in 2007.

108. The French delegation also suggested that the title of the third column of the table in Annex I to document REMPEC/WG.26/10, named "budget sources", should be modified to "budget sources in addition to national financial sources". The proposal was accepted by the Meeting.

109. The Tunisian delegation encouraged REMPEC to post on its website all documents and reports produced by the Centre. The Director of REMPEC confirmed that with the recent restructuring of the Centre's website and with the creation of its French version, the action suggested by Tunisia was already in progress and will certainly continue.

110. The delegation of Serbia-Montenegro requested the assistance of the Centre in completion of the national preparedness and response system (National Contingency Plan), as already announced at the last Meetings of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, with a view to enable inclusion of Serbia-Montenegro into sub-regional operational agreements in the Mediterranean.

111. The Turkish delegation requested REMPEC to organize two Regional Seminars on the implementation of BWM and AFS Conventions respectively. In his reply, the Director of REMPEC stated that activities related to the implementation of these two Conventions were include in the SAFEMED project proposal.

112. The Algerian delegation, also on behalf of Morocco and Tunisia, requested REMPEC to include into its work programme activities related to further development and maintenance of the Sub-regional Contingency Plan for the South Western Mediterranean such as a meeting of National Operational Authorities and a sub-regional exercise for testing the Plan. It also requested the support for the Algerian national plan Tel-Bahr including joint activities with EC/JRC related to prevention of operational pollution, standardization of measures on sensitivity mapping, and the development of national regulations on the use of dispersant.

113. The Director of REMPEC took note of the request of the Algerian delegation and indicated that it was not necessary to list these activities in the programme, since they all fall under headings already included in the proposed programme. He reiterated that it also applied to all other national or sub-regional agreements.

114. Referring to REMPEC's website, the Director of REMPEC invited the Contracting Parties which did not as yet filled in their respective "Country Pages" to do so as early as possible.

115. The Meeting took note of the comments made by various delegations, requested the Secretariat to make the necessary amendments in the proposed programme of REMPEC activities and to reproduce the personnel component of REMPEC as from 2006 in **Annex V** and the amended programme of activities in **Annex VI** to the Report of the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 11: OTHER BUSINESS

116. The Chairman of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG), Dr. Ezio Amato (Italy), outlined the activities carried out within the MTWG since the 6th Meeting of Focal Points. He pointed out that only France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Monaco and Syria provided relevant data on seaborne trade of HNS, and that only France and Italy provided information on penalties for the infringements of MARPOL rules. Collected data were not homogeneous with respect to their details and categorization, therefore not allowing the elaboration of data at regional level.

117. However Dr. Amato emphasized the need to continue this challenging project and stressed that more information regarding the quantity and type of HNS entering and leaving the Mediterranean ports would certainly increase the capacities of the coastal States for preventing incidents involving such substances. He invited the Contracting Parties to designate contact points for the Working Group and to consider the possibility of convening a short dedicated workshop back-to-back with future Meetings of Focal Points or other REMPEC organized meetings.

118. The Egyptian delegation suggested that the EC might wish to consider organizing a seminar, for non-EU Mediterranean countries, on EU environmental legislation. The French delegation considered this proposal as very relevant and supported it.

119. The representative of the EC agreed that the idea could be considered, in particular in the context of the 10th anniversary of the Euromed partnership, and promised to pass the message to the relevant EC offices for consideration.

120. Following the request of the delegation of the GSP Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, MAP Coordinator informed the Meeting on the current status of the Offshore Protocol to the Barcelona Convention that still did not enter into force.

121. The Director of REMPEC invited delegations of the Contracting Parties who did not as yet ratified the Prevention and Emergency Protocol to inform REMPEC as soon as possible, and not later than by mid May, on the progress of the ratification process, with a view to enabling REMPEC to report to MEDU on the status of ratification by the beginning of June 2005.

AGENDA ITEM 12: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

122. The Meeting adopted the present Report, together with its Annexes, on Thursday, 28 April 2005.

AGENDA ITEM 13: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

123. In his closing address the Director of REMPEC emphasized that the Regional Strategy and the programme of activities of the Centre for the biennium 2006-2007, which the Meeting endorsed and which will be proposed to the Contracting Parties for adoption, were both ambitious and should significantly contribute to fulfilling the needs of the Mediterranean coastal States. However, he stressed that the successful implementation of the Strategy and the Centre's work programme would strictly depend on the commitment and the determination of the Contracting Parties.

124. Rear Admiral Patruno expressed his deep thanks to all delegates for the kind words expressed during the Meeting, in relation to the termination of his mandate as Director of REMPEC. He however pointed out that the Centre's achievements during this last seven years were also due to all the REMPEC staff who worked hard and provided him with a loyal support.

125. The Director recalled once again that several temporary staff members would be leaving the Centre shortly after the conclusion of the Meeting. He expressed his thanks to Ms. Christina Farchi and Mr. François Leotoing who were seconded to the Centre by ICRAM (Italy) and TOTAL (France) respectively and who contributed to the work of REMPEC in no small terms. He also thanked Ms. Lilia Khodjet El Khil, maritime lawyer who spent at REMPEC three and a half years, and whose contribution to the Centre's work, particularly in the field of prevention of pollution of ships, was exceptional.

126. In particular, the Director of REMPEC informed the Meeting that Mr. Anthony Zerafa, the Technical Assistant (Logistics) would retire immediately after the present Meeting. Mr. Zerafa joined ROCC, which was the original name of the Centre, in April 1979 and has been one of the pillars of the Centre responsible for day-to-day maintenance of the office, reproduction of documents, all logistic support to REMPEC, and last but not least, for the preparation of the only enjoyable beverage available at the Centre – the coffee. REMPEC staff and the generations of REMPEC delegates will remember Tony as the person who contributed to the success of Meetings organized by the Centre, ensured that all documents were properly produced and delivered in time, and whose humble but friendly character will certainly be fondly remembered by all those who knew him.

127. The Meeting paid tribute to Mr. Zerafa, expressed its appreciation for the sterling service that he provided to the Centre over the past 26 years, and wished him a long, healthy and happy retirement. The Meeting decided to reflect this in the Report.

128. Before closing the Meeting the Chairman expressed his appreciation to the participants for their productive discussions and to the Secretariat for its support.

129. The Chairman closed the Meeting at 13.00 hours, on Thursday, 28 April 2005.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

MALOKU Arben

Specialist
Directory of Maritime Transport
Ministry of Transport and Telecommunication
S.S. Toptani Street Nr. 4
Tirana

Tel: **+355 (4)** 220 479
Fax: **+355 (4)** 220 479
E-mail: beni2000al@yahoo.com

ALGERIA / ALGERIE

LAOUIRA Abdelhafid

Conseiller au Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Environnement
Av. des Quatre Canons
Alger

Tel: **+213 (21)** 432 857
Mob: **+213 (61)** 501 886
Fax: **+213 (21)** 432 848/ 432 857
E-mail: alaouira@yahoo.fr

GUELLIL Djillali

Chef du Bureau de la Sécurité de la Navigation Maritime
Ministère des Transports
1 Chemin El Mouiz (ex Poirson)
Alger

Tel: **+213 (21)** 92 98 81
Fax: **+213 (21)** 92 60 96
E-mail: djillaliguellil@yahoo.fr

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE ET HERZEGOVINE

ALIC Ramiza

Environment Economist
Hydro-Engineering Institute
1 Stjepana Tomica Street
P.O. Box 405
71000 Sarajevo

Tel: **+ 387 (33)** 212 466 / 7
Fax: **+ 387 (33)** 207 949
E-mail: ramiza.alic@heis.com.ba
heis@heis.com.ba

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

MICHAELIDES Michael A.
Marine Surveyor A
Department of Merchant Shipping
Kylinis Street, Mesa Geitonia
4007 Lemesos

Tel: + 357 25848100
Fax: + 357 25848200
E-mail: mmichaelides@dms.mcw.gov.cy

EGYPT / EGYPTE

BORHAN Mohamed
Director General
Coastal and Marine Management Division
Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency (EEAA)
30 Misr-Helwan Agricultural Road
Maadi, Cairo

Tel: +20 (2) 525 64 83
Tel (Mobile): +20 (10) 122 51 40
Fax : +20 (2) 525 64 94
E-mail: noscp@link.net

MAREI Mohamed
Director of Safety and Environment
Maritime Transport Sector
Ministry of Transport
4, Ptolemy Street
Alexandria 21514

Tel: +20 (3) 484 20 58
+20 (3) 484 21 19
Mobile: +20 (10) 312 92 44
Fax : +20 (3) 484 20 41
+20 (2) 484 20 96
E-mail: mmt@idsc.net.eg

KHALIL Mohamed
Second Secretary
Embassy of Egypt
10 Vjal Sir Temi Zammit
Ta'Xbiex MSD 11

Tel : +356 21 314 158
Fax : +356 21 319 230
E-mail: embegmlt@onvol.net
makegypt1@hotmail.com

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY / COMMUNAUTE EUROPEENNE

DE DIEU Jacques

Deputy Head of Unit
Maritime Policy and Maritime Safety Unit
Directorate-General Energy and Transport
European Commission
Rue de Mot 28
1040 Brussels
Belgium

Tel: **+32 (2) 296 83 74**
Fax: **+32 (2) 296 90 66**
Email: Jacques.De-Dieu@cec.eu.int

ENCABO Santiago

Technical Officer Pollution Response
European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)
G-12 03/103
Rue de Geneve, 12
B-1049 Brussels, BELGIUM

Tel: **+32 (2) 702 020 231**
Fax: **+32 (2) 702 020 418**
E-mail: Santiago.encabo@emsa.eu.int

FRANCE / FRANCE

SILVESTRE Daniel

Chargé de Mission/Administrateur Civil
Secrétariat Général de la Mer
Service du Premier Ministre
16, Boulevard Raspail
75007 Paris

Tel: **+33 (1) 536 34 153**
Fax: **+33 (1) 536 34 178**
E-mail: daniel.silvestre@sgmer.pm.gouv.fr

DEMARTINI Caroline

Chargée de Mission « Conventions Internationales »
Ministère de l'Ecologie et du Développement Durable
Direction de l'Eau – Bureau de la Mer
20, avenue de Ségur
75007 Paris

Tel: **+33 (1) 42 19 12 66**
Fax: **+33 (1) 42 19 13 33**
E-mail: caroline.demartini@ecologie.gouv.fr

FRANCE / FRANCE (Cont./..)

PARTHIOT François Pierre
Délégué pour la Méditerranée
CEDRE
c/o IFREMER de Toulon
Zone portuaire de Bregailon
83507 La Seyne sur Mer - Cedex

Tel: +33 (4) 94 30 48 87 / 48 78
Fax: +33 (4) 94 30 44 15
E-mail: francois.parthiot@cedre.fr

LAVIGNE CLEMENT
TOTAL
Lutte Antipollution & Environnement
51, Esplanade du Général de Gaulle
92907 Paris La Défense

Tel : +33 (1) 41 35 9823
Fax : +33 (1) 41 35 6445
E-mail : clement.lavigne@total.com

GREECE / GRECE

KRIONERITIS Dimitrios
Marine Environment Protection Directorate
Hellenic Ministry of Mercantile Marine
109 Ipsilantou Street
18535 Piraeus

Tel: +30 (210) 419 13 51 / 422 07 01
Fax: +30 (210) 422 04 40 / 422 04 41
E-mail: dpthap@mail.yen.gr

ISRAEL / ISRAEL

AMIR Ran
Director, Marine and Coastal Environment Division
Ministry of Environment
15a Pal Yam Street
31007 Haifa

Tel: +972 (4) 863 35 00
Fax: +972 (4) 863 35 20
E-mail: rani@sviva.gov.il
rikis@sviva.gov.il

ITALY / ITALIE

DE ANGELIS Patrizia

Dirigente della Divisione VI
Direzione per la Protezione della Natura
Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio
Via Capitan Bavastro, 174
00154 Roma

Tel: **+39 (06) 57228510 / 8004**
Fax: **+39 (06) 57228390**
E-mail: DPN-Div6@minambiente.it

BELLINI Mauro

Consultant
Ministry of Environment
Viale Cristoforo Colombo, 44
Rome

Tel: **+39 (06) 57 22 1**
Fax: **+39 (06) 57 22 34 91**
E-mail: blinus@sysnet.it

ZANARDI Ermanno

Expert
Ministry of Environment
Via Cristoforo Colombo 44
Rome

Tel: **+ 39 (06) 57 22 1**
Fax: **+ 39 (06) 57 22 34 91**
E-mail: zanardi.ermanno@minambiente.it

MAGNIFICO TOMMASO

Officer
Ministry of Environment
Via Cristoforo Colombo Nr: 44
Rome 00149

Tel: **+39 (06) 57 22 53 08**
Fax:
E-mail: magnifico.tommaso@minambiente.it

CARLONE Nicola

Capitano di Vascello (CP)
Capo Ufficio Piani
3° Reparto P.O.
Viale dell'Arte, 16
Comando Generale delle Capitanerie di Porto
Guardia Costiera
00144 Rome

Tel: **+ 39 (06) 59 08 48 83**
Fax: **+ 39 (06) 59 08 49 30**
E-mail: nicola.carlone@infrastrutturetrasporti.it

ITALY / ITALIE (Cont../..)

AMATO Ezio

Senior Researcher
Central Institute for Applied Marine Research (ICRAM)
Via di Casalotti, 300
00166 Rome

Tel: **+39 (06) 615 70 455**
Fax: **+39 (06) 615 61 906**
E-mail: e.amato@icram.it

GIORDANO Giuseppe

Emergency Response Manager
ENI
P.le E. Mattei, 1
Rome

Tel: **+39 (06) 59821**
Fax: **+39 (06) 598861/8**
E-mail: giuseppe.giordano@eni.it

LEBANON / LIBAN

AL HASHEM Michel

Navy Officer
Lebanese Navy Headquarters
Beirut

Tel: **+961 (1) 58 33 60**
Tel (Mobile): **+961 (3) 303 832**
Fax: **+961 (1) 587 416**
E-mail: michhash@hotmail.com

GSP LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA / JAMAHIRIYA ARABE LIBYENNE

AMER Mohamed Massoud

Head, Office of Planning and Emergency
Environment General Authority (EGA)
P.O. Box 83618
El-Gheran
Tripoli

Tel (Mobile): **+218 (91) 213 52 91**
Fax: **+218 (21) 361 28 36**
E-mail: DR_AMERT@yahoo.com

MALTA / MALTE

MICELI Giovanni

Director
Multilateral Affairs Directorate
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Palazzo Parisio
Merchants Street
Valletta

Tel: **+356** 21 241705 / 25968 249
Fax: **+356** 21 251520
E-mail: giovanni.miceli@gov.mt

BUTTIGIEG John

First Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Palazzo Parisio
Merchants Street
Valletta

Tel: **+356** 25 968 255
Fax: **+356** 21 251520
E-mail: john.buttigieg@gov.mt

MIFSUD Mario

Research and Development Manager
Merchant Shipping Directorate
Malta Maritime Authority
Maritime House
Lascaris Wharf
Valletta VLT 01

Tel: **+356** 21 250 360
Fax: **+356** 21 241 460
E-mail: mario.mifsud@mma.gov.mt

CINI Victor

Ports Officer
Ports Directorate
Malta Maritime Authority
Marina Pinto
Valletta VLT 01

Tel: **+356** 21 22 22 03
Fax: **+356** 21 444 19
E-mail: victor.cini@mma.gov.mt

MONACO / MONACO

BOUCHET Pierre
Adjoint Directeur
Direction des Affaires Maritimes
Quai Jean Charles Rey
B.P. 468
MC-98012 Monaco Cedex

Tel: + 377 (-) 93 15 86 78
Fax: + 377 (-) 93 15 37 15
E-mail: pbouchet@gouv.mc

MOROCCO / MAROC

DAHOU Mohammed
Chef de Service des Stratégies d'Intervention
Département de l' Environnement
36 Avenue El Abtal
Agdal Rabat

Tel: +212 (37) 68 10 02
Fax: +212 (37) 77 26 58 / (37) 77 27 56
+212 (37) 77 88 25
E-mail: mdahhou1@caramail.com

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO / SERBIE ET MONTENEGRO

RAKOČEVIĆ Veljko
Senior Advisor
Maritime Security Department
Maršala Tita br.7
85000 Bar, Montenegro

Tel: +381 (85) 303 352
Fax: +381 (85) 313 274
Email: msd.intreg@cg.yu

SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE

KOREN Stanka
Director of Water Management Office
Ministry for Environment and Spatial Planning
Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia
Vojkova cesta 1b
1000 Ljubljana

Tel: +386 (1) 478 40 31 / 478 40 00
Fax: +386 (1) 478 40 52
E-mail: stanka.koren@gov.si

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

TEJO MORA-GRANADOS Pilar

Director of the Spanish Maritime Safety Agency
SASEMAR
C/Fruela, 3
28011 Madrid

Tel: **+34 (91) 755 9100**
Fax: **+34 (91) 755 9104**
E-mail: dir.madrid@sasemar.es

RODRIGUEZ CARBONELL Sergio

Senior Technician of the Spanish Maritime Safety Agency
SASEMAR
C/ Fruela, 3
28011 Madrid

Tel: **+34 (91) 755 9100**
Mob: **+34 (63) 005 9562**
Fax: **+34 (91) 755 9104**
E-mail: lcc@sasemar.es

SARASUA German

Director MRCC / Oil Pollution Response
Spanish Maritime Safety Agency
SASEMAR
Muelle Alfonso XIII, S / N
11002 Cadiz

Tel: **+34 (956) 21 42 53**
Fax: **+34 (956) 22 60 91**
E-mail: jefecentro.cadiz@sasemar.es

SYRIA / SYRIE

AL SOLEMAN SHAKA

Engineer in Chemicals Safety Directorate
Ministry of Local Administration and Environment
General Commission for Environmental Affairs
Almazra'a, Aleman Mosque
Damascus

Tel: **+963 (11) 444 37 29**
Tel Mob : **+963 (93) 58 33 14**
Fax: **+963 (11) 444 37 29**
E-mail: shaka@mail.sy

TUNISIA / TUNISIE

SMAOUI Malek

Directeur de la Conservation de la Nature et du Milieu Rural
Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable
Immeuble ICF
El Menzah 1080
Tunis

Tel: **+216 (71) 703 394**
Tel (Mobile): **+216 (98) 32 35 77**
Fax: **+216 (71) 704 340**
Email: **malek.smaoui@voila.fr**

TURKEY / TURQUIE

ONUR Saniye

Head of Marine Environment Department
Undersecretariat for Maritime Affairs
General Directorate for Maritime Transport
GMK Bulvari No.128
Maltepe – Ankara

Tel: **+90 (312) 232 09 22**
Fax: **+90 (312) 231 33 06**
E-mail: **saniye.onur@denizcilik.gov.tr**

ARSLAN Meryem

Chemical Engineer
Ministry of Environment and Forestry
General Directorate of Environmental Management, Marine and Coastal Area Department
Mediterranean and Aegean Branch
Eskisehir Yolu 8km Bilkent Kavşagi
06100 Lodumlu - Ankara

Tel: **+90 (312) 287 99 63 / 20 16**
Fax: **+90 (312) 285 5875**
E-mail: **jmeryem@yahoo.com**

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS
ORGANISATIONS DES NATIONS-UNIES

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)
ORGANISATION MARITIME INTERNATIONALE (OMI)

PALOMARES Miguel

Senior Deputy Director
Sub-Division for Pollution Response and T.C. Co-ordination
Marine Environment Division
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
UNITED KINGDOM

Tel: + 44 (207) 587 3142
Fax: + 44 (207) 587 3210
E-mail: MPALOMARES@imo.org

UNEP / CO-ORDINATING UNIT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)
PNUE / UNITE DE COORDINATION DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE (PAM)

MIFSUD Paul

Co-ordinator
Co-ordinating Unit for the MAP (MEDU)
P.O. Box 18019
Vas. Konstantinou 48
GR 11610 Athens
GREECE

Tel: + 30 (210) 727 3101
Fax: + 30 (210) 725 3196-7
E-mail: paul.mifusd@unepmap.gr

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN PARTNERS / NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

**PARTENAIRES DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERANEE /
ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNMENTALES**

GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL

KRISCHKE Sebastian

Campaign Assistant
6 Manol Mansions
De Paule Avenue
Balzan BZN 02
MALTA

Tel: **+356** 21490784
Fax: **+356** 21490782
E-mail: gpmedfv@diala.greenpeace.org

KUEMMEL Julia

Campaign Assistant
6 Manol Mansions
De Paule Avenue
Balzan
MALTA

Tel: **+356** 21490784
Fax: **+356** 21490782
E-mail: gpmedweb@diala.greenpeace.org

INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION LTD (ITOPF)

JOHNSON Richard

Senior Technical Advisor
The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Ltd (ITOPF)
1 Oliver's Yard
55 City Road
London EC1Y 1HQ
UNITED KINGDOM

Tel: **+44 (20)** 7566 6999
Fax: **+44 (20)** 7566 6950
E-mail: richardjohnson@itopf.com

INSTITUT DU DROIT ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER (INDEMER)

SACOTTE Jean-Charles
Président du Conseil d'Administration
Institut du Droit Economique de la Mer (INDEMER)
Villa «Girasole»
16, Boulevard de Suisse
MC 98030 Monaco Cedex
MONACO

Tel : **+377** 9315 87 41
Fax : **+377** 9315 87 98
E-mail : jsacotte@gouv.mc

MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MIO-ECSDE)

WALKER-LEIGH Vanya
Advisor
13 Dun Mikiel Rua
Sliema
MALTA

Tel : **+356** 21 33 09 24
Fax : **+356** 23 33 1117
Email : vanyaluc@waldonet.net.mt

MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP (MOIG)

DHAOUI Ridha
Director
MOIG
Le Bergs du Lac
1053 Tunis
TUNISIA

Tel : **+216 (71)** 965 359
Fax : **+216 (71)** 965 192
E-mail : dhaoui.moig@planet.tn

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS / ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES

INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION COMPENSATION FUNDS

NICHOLS Joseph

Deputy Director / Technical Advisor
IOPC Funds
Portland House
Stag Place
London SW1E 5PN
UNITED KINGDOM

Tel : **+44 (207) 592 7100**
Fax : **+44 (207) 592 7111**
Email : Joe_Nichols@iopcfund.org

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS / AUTRES ORGANISATIONS

REGIONAL CENTRE FOR ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF (RCADR)

BRITVIC Ranko

Director

BILIC Martin

Senior Advisor

Regional Center for Assistance and Disaster Relief (RCADR)
Vojarna Knez Trpimir br. 4
21 221 Divulje
CROATIA

Tel: **+385 (21) 309 617**
Fax: **+385 (21) 309 644**
E-mail: info@rcadr.org
ranko.britvic@rcadr.org
martin.bilic@rcadr.org

CONSULTANT TO REMPEC/ CONSULTANT AUPRES DU REMPEC

CONSTANTINIDES Glafkos

Consultant
3, Maria Syngletiki Street
Nicosia 1011
CYPRUS

Tel: **+357 (22) 667 655**
Fax: **+357 (22) 677 911**
E-mail: gconstan@spidernet.com.cy

CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS / INTERPRETES DE LA CONFERENCE

TITOUAH Rachid

Interpreter

MARCHETTA Simona

Interpreter

SECRETARIAT / SECRETARIAT

**REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)
CENTRE REGIONAL MEDITERRANEEN POUR L'INTERVENTION D'URGENCE CONTRE LA
POLLUTION MARINE ACCIDENTELLE (REMPEC)**

PATRUNO Roberto

Director

DOMOVIC Darko

Senior Programme Officer (OPRC)

PACE Jonathan

Programme Officer (Prevention)

KHODJET EL KHIL Lilia

Technical Officer

FARCHI Christina

Junior Programme Officer

LEOTOING François

Junior Programme Officer

STELLINI Doreen

Documentalist

SACCO Christopher

Administrator

SAMMUT André

Administrative Assistant

BONAVIA Amanda

Secretary

BORG Francesca

Secretary

MIZZI Ruth

Bilingual Secretary

ZERFA Anthony

Document Reproducer

REMPEC
Manoel Island
Gzira GZR 03
MALTA

Tel: **+356 21 33 72 96/7/8**
Fax: **+356 21 33 99 51**
E-mail: rempec@rempec.org

ANNEX II

WELCOME ADDRESS OF THE HON. MR. CENSU GALEA **MINISTER FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND COMMUNICATIONS** **OF MALTA**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to once again have the opportunity, as Minister responsible for shipping in Malta, the host country of REMPEC, to deliver the opening speech in the biennial Meeting of the official Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).

My presence here supports the extended mandate of REMPEC in the field of prevention of pollution from ships agreed to by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and formalized by the adoption of the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol) to the Barcelona Convention.

In addition to providing the legal framework for co-operative action for preparedness and response to marine pollution emergencies as was the case with the former Emergency Protocol, the Prevention and Emergency Protocol also includes the necessary framework for developing regional co-operation in the Mediterranean in the field of prevention of pollution from ships.

I believe that the Prevention and Emergency Protocol provides a new challenge not only to REMPEC, which is the Regional Centre charged with the facilitation of the implementation of the Protocol, but also to the Contracting Parties which now have the possibility to co-operate with each other, on a regional and sub-regional level, not only to respond to marine pollution incidents but also to prevent pollution from ships primarily through the effective implementation of relevant IMO international conventions. However, regional and sub-regional co-operation would first of all require action at the national level.

This Regional Strategy on Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships which the REMPEC Focal Points Meeting is expected to adopt will no doubt greatly assist the Contracting Parties to fully implement the provisions of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

The Meeting will also be discussing the Centre's programme of activities for the next two years which would continue to consolidate and develop REMPEC's activities in the region in the field of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships. In this regard, in view of the fact that shipping is of essence international, it is of utmost importance that the proposed common actions at the regional level be in line with the existing international regime.

REMPEC is undoubtedly doing sterling work to ensure better protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean. The fact that the Centre operates within the framework of the United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan but at the same time is administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), provides added value to its work and activity in the region. Malta has, since its inception, taken a keen interest and commitment in the activities of REMPEC and the fact that Malta hosts the Centre is proof of Malta's interest in this field.

When taking part in international fora through institutions such as the International Maritime Organization and the European Union, I always reinforce Malta's commitment that sub-standard shipping is a threat to safety of life at sea, the seafaring industry and its profession, and to the fair competition for the many ship owners and port authorities adhering to responsible operations.

The Maltese government has declared and practiced the promotion of quality shipping, also in line with the goals of the International Maritime Organisation to encourage and facilitate the general adoption of the highest practicable standards in matters concerning maritime safety and security and the prevention, and control, of marine pollution from ships.

With regard to safeguarding the sea around our island, the Ministry for Competitiveness and Communications, the Malta Maritime Authority, Civil Protection, Oil pollution Centre, Mepa Pollution Control division, and the Ministry for Resources and Infrastructure, with the support of REMPEC have stepped up cooperation to ensure that in case of an emergency each organization would have a specific role and the situation would be dealt with in a fast and efficient manner. This besides the continuous updating of the plans in existence.

REMPEC is undoubtedly one of the success stories of the United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan, the action-oriented cooperative project involving twenty Mediterranean coastal States and the European Union. Apart from the fact that Malta hosts the Centre, we are always keen to host activities pertaining to the protection of Marine environment is proof of Malta's interest in this field. In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that Malta will, as in the past, support fully and participate in the work of REMPEC. Despite having a large fleet, Malta follows a quality shipping policy and hence its interest in activities of REMPEC, particularly now that the preventive element has been added to this organisation.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the fact that shipping should be considered as an international activity and that whatever action is taken at the regional level is only part of a whole, complete action that has to be taken worldwide.

Thank you

ANNEX III

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organization of the Meeting
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Progress report on REMPEC's activities since the 6th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points
5. Developments within MAP related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC
6. Developments within IMO related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC
7. EC/MEDA financed project on Euromed cooperation on maritime safety and prevention of pollution from ships (SAFEMED)
8. Sustainable development and respect of the marine environment by pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean Sea
9. Regional Strategy for prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships
10. Proposed programme of REMPEC activities and budget estimates for biennium 2006/2007
11. Other business
12. Adoption of the Report
13. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.26/3/1	Provisional Agenda.
REMPEC/WG.26/3/1/Rev.1	Provisional Agenda.
REMPEC/WG.26/3/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda.
REMPEC/WG.26/3/3	Draft Timetable.
REMPEC/WG.26/3/3/Rev.1	Draft Timetable.
REMPEC/WG.26/4	Progress Report on REMPEC's Activities since the 6 th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points. (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.26/4/Corr.1	Corrigendum
REMPEC/WG.26/5	Development within MAP related to the Objectives and Functions of REMPEC. (Submitted by the Secretariat of MAP)
REMPEC/WG.26/6	Outcome of the 51 st and 52 nd Sessions of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC). (Submitted by IMO)
REMPEC/WG.26/6/1	The March 2005 Sessions of the Governing Bodies – In Brief. March 2005 (MEPC). (Submitted by the IOPC Funds)
REMPEC/WG.26/7	EC/MEDA Financed Project on EUROMED Cooperation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships (SAFEMED). (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.26/8	Sustainable Development and Respect of the Marine Environment by Pleasure Craft Activities in the Mediterranean Sea. (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.26/8/1	IMO Comments on the Draft Resolution for the Sustainable Development and Respect of the Marine Environment by Pleasure Craft Activities in the Mediterranean Sea, Agreed at the First Meeting of National Experts on the Feasibility of a Legal Regional Instrument on Prevention of Pollution from Pleasure Craft Activities in the Mediterranean, Monaco, 8-10 December 2004. (Submitted by IMO)
REMPEC/WG.26/9/1	Preparation of a Regional Strategy on Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships. (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.26/9/2	Report of the Second Meeting of National Experts on the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, Malta, 21-23 April 2005.
REMPEC/WG.26/10	Proposed Programme of REMPEC Activities and Budget Estimates for Biennium 2006/2007. (Note by REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.26/10/Corr.1	Corrigendum
REMPEC/WG.26/11	Final Report of the Meeting.

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.26/INF.1	Provisional List of Documents.
REMPEC/WG.26/INF.2	Provisional List of Participants.
REMPEC/WG.26/INF.3	Draft for the Creation of an Information System through Internet for the CLEANMED Project. (Submitted by Spain)
REMPEC/WG.26/INF.4	Spanish Maritime Safety Agency. (Submitted by Spain) (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.26/INF.5	The International Regime on Liability and Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage: Recent Developments. (Submitted by IOPC Funds) (English Only)

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

UNEP	Rules of procedures 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	Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols, 1976.
UNEP	Mediterranean Action Plan and Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Regions of the Mediterranean and its Protocols, 2002.
UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.15/11	Report of the Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols, Catania, Italy, 11-14 November 2003.
REMPEC	RIS/A: Basic Documents, Recommendations, Principles and Guidelines Concerning Accidental Marine Pollution Preparedness, Response and Mutual Assistance, as well as Prevention of Pollution from Ships, January 2004.
REMPEC	Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, 2002.
REMPEC/WG.21/12	Report of the Sixth Meeting of Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), Malta, 12-15 February 2003.
REMPEC/WG.23/7	Report of the First Meeting of National Experts on the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, Castelgandolfo (Rome), Italy, 8-10 July 2004.

U.N.	United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
IMO	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships. (MARPOL Convention).
IMO	MARPOL - How to do it (2002 Edition).
IMO	International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990. (OPRC Convention).
IMO	Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000. (OPRC-HNS Protocol).
IMO	International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, and its Protocol of 1988. (SOLAS Convention).
IMO	International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004. (BWM Convention).
IMO	Nineteenth Assembly Resolutions and other Decisions, 13-23 November 1995.
IMO	Resolutions of the 21 st Assembly and other decisions, 15-26 November, 15-26 November 1999.
IMO	Resolutions and other decisions of the 22 nd Assembly, 19-30 November 2001.
IMO	Resolutions and other decisions of the 23 rd Assembly, 24 November – 5 December 2003.
EU-EC	Council Directive 95/21/EC of 19 June 1995 concerning the enforcement, in respect of shipping using Community ports and sailing in the waters under the jurisdiction of the Member States, of international standards for ship safety, pollution prevention and shipboard living and working conditions (port State control).
EU-EC	Directive 2001/106/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2001 amending Council Directive 95/21/EC concerning the enforcement, in respect of shipping using Community ports and sailing in the waters under the jurisdiction of the Member States, of international standards for ship safety, pollution prevention and shipboard living and working conditions (port State control).
EU-EC	Directive 2000/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2000 on port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues.
EU-EC	Directive 2002/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2002 establishing a Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system and repealing Council Directive 93/75/EEC.

- EU-EC Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on ship-source pollution and on the introduction of sanctions, including criminal sanctions, for pollution offences. (Presented by the Commission). COM(2003) 92 final; 2003/0037 (COD).
- EU-EC Draft Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on ship-source pollution and on the introduction of sanctions for infringements. (Text with EEA relevance). Non official document based on 2003/0037 (COD).

ANNEX V

PERSONNEL COMPONENT OF REMPEC

(2006 - 2008)

TITLE	GRADE	Paid by	Remarks
PERMANENT STAFF			
Director	D1	MTF	
Senior Programme Officer (OPRC)	P4 ¹	MTF	
Programme Officer (Marine Environment Protection)	P4	MTF	
Programme Officer (Prevention)	P4	MTF	
Administrative Officer	P1 ²	MTF	
Information Assistant / Documentalist	G7	MTF	
Administrative / Financial Assistant	G7	MTF/IMO	
Assistant to the Director (bilingual)	G7	MTF	
Secretary / Administrative Assistant	G5	MTF	
Clerk / Secretary	G4	MTF	
Technical Assistant (logistics)	G4	MTF	
TEMPORARY STAFF			
Programme Officer	L3/P3	Italy ³	
Junior Programme Officer	P2	TOTAL ⁴	
STAFF TO BE RECRUITED UNDER SAFEMED PROJECT			
Long Term Expert (Programme Officer)	L4	SAFEMED	Sept. 2005 - 2008
Long Term Expert (Programme Officer)	L3	SAFEMED	Sept. 2005 – 2008
Long Term Expert (Accounting and administration)	L3	SAFEMED	Sept. 2005 – 2008
Administrative Assistant	G6	SAFEMED	Sept. 2005 - 2008

¹ In previous years the position was P5.

² Although the post of Administrator will be financed from SAFEMED project in the years 2006-2008, the post of Administrative Officer (P1) will be retained (as adopted by the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties).

³ Position to be financed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, from its voluntary contribution to MTF for REMPEC (60,000 EURO/year for three (3) years, with a possibility of extension).

⁴ Position to be financed by the French oil industry (TOTAL) under the "Volontariat international scientifique" mechanism.

ANNEX VI

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF REMPEC ACTIVITIES FOR THE BIENNIUM 2006/2007

ACTIVITY		OBJECTIVES	BUDGET SOURCE
1. PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS			
<u>Identified needs:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to promote through regional co-operation the implementation and the enforcement of the IMO Conventions for prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships. 			
1.1	Preparation by consultants of a study concerning the level of enforcement in the Mediterranean region of international regulations concerning prevention and control of operational pollution ¹	– To propose the establishment of a framework for regional cooperation in the field of prevention and control of operational pollution, including in particular monitoring of illegal discharges and related recommendations	SAFEMED (EXT), complemented by MTF
1.2	Development of comprehensive guidelines for the application of principles underlying the sustainable development and respect for the environment by pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean Sea	– To provide a basis for establishing in the Mediterranean region a regime for regulating pleasure craft activities with regard to sustainable development and respect for the environment	MTF
1.3	<i>Preparation of a study on maritime traffic flows in the Mediterranean Sea (with specific reference to transport of oil and HNS)</i>	– <i>To create a basis for actions aimed at improving the safety of navigation and at more effective protection of the Mediterranean marine environment from ship generated pollution</i>	SAFEMED (EXT)
1.4	<i>Identification of additional initiatives on port reception facilities (based on experience gained at the EU level through the implementation of EU Directive 2000/59)</i>	– <i>To prepare proposal concerning additional initiatives on port reception facilities</i>	SAFEMED (EXT)

¹ This activity, which complements SAFEMED Task 3.4 O, is to be carried out in 13 Mediterranean coastal States that are not eligible for funding under SAFEMED. It corresponds to **Component I** (improvement of the legislative framework) of the comprehensive **CLEANMED project** for improving detection of illegal discharges of oily waters and residues in the Mediterranean and prosecution of offenders.

ACTIVITY		OBJECTIVES	BUDGET SOURCE IN ADDITION TO NATIONAL FINANCIAL SOURCES
1.5	AESOP – a short term, geographically limited pilot project on surveillance and detection of illicit pollution of the marine environment (to be carried out in the Adriatic Sea as a preliminary activity for Component III of CLEANMED project)	– To define the possibility of introducing within the Mediterranean region a service aimed at both detecting oil pollution and monitoring the main shipping routes by means of remote sensing from satellites, complemented by aircraft surveillance	MTF (core activity) Partnerships with: - ERS/RAC (EXT) - EC/JRC (EXT) - Italian Gov. and public institutions (EXT) EXT (to be identified)
2. PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION ACCIDENTS			
<u>Identified needs:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To assist those Mediterranean coastal States which still do not have national capabilities for response to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, to develop such capabilities; ▪ To strengthen the capacities of the Mediterranean coastal States for responding to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, particularly in cases of emergency, in which there is grave and imminent danger to the marine environment, or when these can affect human lives; ▪ To facilitate co-operation among the Contracting Parties in order to respond to such events. 			
<i>Strengthening regional mechanism for mutual assistance and co-operation in case of emergency</i>			
2.1	Maintaining the level of preparedness of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU), for assisting the CPs in case of emergency	– To rapidly provide the CPs with advisory services in case of marine pollution emergencies (oil and HNS) – To reduce the consequences of pollution incidents	MTF
2.2	Organizing an alert and communication exercise	– To test and improve the efficiency and reliability of regional and sub-regional alert and communication system	MTF Ind. CPs (EXT)
<i>Assistance to the Mediterranean coastal States in developing, improving and maintaining local, national and sub-regional systems and operational arrangements for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution incidents</i>			
2.3	Preparation by consultants or consultancy firms of national legal acts, contingency plans, equipment lists, proposals for national spill response centres, training programmes, and other related technical or legal documents	– To increase response capabilities of individual CPs – To facilitate the accession of the CPs to the relevant International Conventions (OPRC. OPRC-HNS)	MTF ITCP (EXT) Ind. CPs (EXT)

ACTIVITY		OBJECTIVES	BUDGET SOURCE IN ADDITION TO NATIONAL FINANCIAL SOURCES
2.4	Provision by consultants or consultancy firms of requested advisory services to individual countries or groups of countries, aimed at development, improving and maintaining their local, national and sub-regional systems and operational agreements for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution incidents	– To increase the level of preparedness of the CPs for responding to major marine pollution incidents through developing, improving and maintaining local, national and sub-regional systems and arrangements for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution incidents	MTF ITCP (EXT) Ind. CPs (EXT)
2.5	Supporting the organization of joint activities aimed at revision, completion or updating of sub-regional operational agreements in the Mediterranean	– To ensure the effectiveness and proper functioning of the existing sub-regional operational agreements	MTF
2.6	Assistance to individual countries on specific issues, upon their request	– To increase the level of preparedness of the individual CPs to respond to major pollution incidents	MTF Ind. CPs (EXT) ITCP (EXT)
2.7	Development and upgrading of technical and decision support tools, in particular sensitivity maps, spill forecasting models and databases	– To facilitate making decisions by the competent national authorities in case of emergency – To improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of decision making process in case of emergency	MTF Partnerships with: other RACs (EXT) Ind. CPs (EXT) EXT (to be identified)
3. CAPACITY BUILDING AND CO-OPERATION (including TRAINING and DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION)			
<u>Identified needs:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The need to facilitate information exchange, technological co-operation and training; ▪ The need to provide a framework for exchange of information on operational, technical, scientific, legal and financial matters. 			
Training			
3.1	Organization and delivery of a regional workshop on places of refuge for ships in distress	– To identify appropriate procedures aimed at facilitating decision making when designating a place of refuge for a ship in distress – To facilitate the designation of places of refuge by the CPs	SAFEMED (EXT), complemented by MTF

ACTIVITY		OBJECTIVES	BUDGET SOURCE IN ADDITION TO NATIONAL FINANCIAL SOURCES
3.2	Organization and delivery of a regional training activity on 2001 Bunker Convention	– To increase the capacity of the CPs to enforce applicable International Conventions	SAFEMED (EXT), complemented by MTF
3.3	Organization and delivery of a regional training course / exercise (MEDEXPOL)	– To increase the level of knowledge on a specific aspect (to be decided) of marine pollution response	MTF
3.4	Organization and delivery of a regional workshop on regional partnership for enforcement of maritime regulations on operational pollution	– To prepare the implementation of Component II (reinforcement of human resources and setting up of a dedicated information network) of the CLEANMED project	MTF Partnership with: ERS/RAC (EXT) GEF (EXT)
3.5	Support to the organization and delivery of a national training course on oil spill response	– To increase the level of knowledge on main principles and techniques of oil spill response	MTF
3.6	Support to the organization and delivery of a national training course on prevention of pollution from ships	– To increase the level of knowledge on prevention of pollution from ships	MTF
3.7	Participation in a full scale exercise involving deployment of equipment	– To facilitate the transfer of knowledge and to provide officers in charge of spill response operations with experience in testing operational pollution response systems	EXT (to be identified)
Dissemination of information			
3.8	Development of REMPEC information system (website, interactive databases, ...)	– To facilitate access by the CPs and other partners to information concerning prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships – To increase the visibility of outputs and results of REMPEC and MAP activities in the areas of REMPEC's mandate	MTF EXT (to be identified)
Cooperation with other partners			
	SEE "CORE ACTIVITIES of REMPEC"		

ACTIVITY		OBJECTIVES	BUDGET SOURCE IN ADDITION TO NATIONAL FINANCIAL SOURCES
4. MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES			
4.1	8 th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To examine the progress of REMPEC activities in the biennium 2006/2007 – To discuss and give guidance on the program of activities for the biennium 2008/2009 	MTF Vol. contributions of ind. CPs (EXT)
4.2	Meeting on guidelines for pleasure craft activities	– To develop comprehensive guidelines based on the agreed principles underlying the sustainable development and respect for the environment by pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean Sea	EXT (to be identified)
4.3	Meeting of Contracting Parties' representatives and potential donors ³	– To identify possible external sources of financing of the implementation of the Regional Strategy	EXT (to be identified)
CORE ACTIVITIES OF REMPEC			
PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS			
Assistance to individual countries on the ratification / implementation of relevant IMO Conventions, upon their request		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To consolidate the legal basis for the protection of marine environment in Mediterranean from pollution from ships – To improve the level of enforcement of relevant international regulations 	MTF (core activity)
PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION ACCIDENTS			
Expanding the range of expertise available through MAU and including in it additional centres of expertise		– To extend the range of expertise readily available to the CPs in case of emergency	MTF (core activity)

² Only one Meeting of Focal Points was envisaged in the biennium due to budgetary limitations.

³ REMPEC will endeavour to organize the Meeting provided that it receives from the Contracting Parties, by the end of 2006, their respective national plans for the implementation of the Regional Strategy.

ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	BUDGET SOURCE IN ADDITION TO NATIONAL FINANCIAL SOURCES
Review of the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines for facilitating mutual assistance and co-operation in case of emergency, and identification of needs for the new ones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To facilitate mutual assistance in case of emergency - To facilitate implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol - To accelerate receiving/rendering assistance in case of emergency 	MTF (core activity)
Assistance by REMPEC to national authorities in case of emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To rapidly provide the CPs with advisory services in case of marine pollution emergencies (oil and HNS) - To reduce the consequences of pollution incidents - To facilitate mutual assistance in case of emergency 	MTF (core activity)
CAPACITY BUILDING AND CO-OPERATION (including TRAINING and DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION)		
Dissemination of information		
Updating of the Regional Information System, technical documents and teaching aids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide the CPs with the up-to-date information on issues related to prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships, and on regional co-operation 	MTF (core activity)
Cooperation with other partners		
Development of co-operation with the oil, chemical and shipping industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To strengthen the base for implementation of the Regional Strategy 	MTF (core activity)