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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.26/3/2
14 March 2005

Original: English

Malta, 25-28 April 2005

Agenda Item 3

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

1. The 7th Meeting of Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) has been convened in Malta from the 25 to 28 April 2005, pursuant to the decision of the 13th 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).
2. The principal objectives of the 7th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points will be:
 - a) to examine the implementation of the programme of activities of REMPEC since the 6th Focal Points Meeting;
 - b) to approve the final Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships;
 - 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 have been invited to participate in the Meeting. Taking into consideration the adoption of the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol and the new mandate of the Centre which now 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 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. Furthermore, the participation in national delegations of observers representing the oil, chemical and shipping industries has been strongly encouraged. 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. In order to assist the Meeting in its work, REMPEC prepared the following annotations to the proposed provisional agenda of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 **Opening of the Meeting**

5. The 7th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points will be opened at 09.00 hours on Monday, 25 April 2005.

Agenda Item 2 **Organization of the Meeting**

2.1 **Rules of Procedure**

6. The Rules of procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the deliberations of this Meeting.

2.2 **Election of Officers**

7. The Meeting of Focal Points will be invited to elect a Chairperson, a vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur.

2.3 **Working Languages**

8. Simultaneous English/French interpretation will be provided during the Meeting. The working documents will be available in both official languages of the Centre, i.e. in English and in French.

Agenda Item 3 **Adoption of the Agenda**

9. The agenda, as proposed in document REMPEC/WG.26/3/1/Rev.1 and annotated in the present document, will be proposed for adoption by the Meeting of Focal Points. The Meeting will be invited to agree on a timetable to carry out its work. A draft timetable is proposed in document REMPEC/WG.26/3/3/Rev.1.

Agenda Item 4 **Progress report on REMPEC's activities since the 6th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points**

10. The Focal Points' Meeting will be informed of the present status of implementation of REMPEC's activities since the 6th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points.

11. The Director of REMPEC will introduce document REMPEC/WG.26/4: Progress report on REMPEC's activities since the 6th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, which contains an outline of the activities carried out by the Centre since the last Meeting of the Focal Points held in Malta in February 2003 (REMPEC/WG.21/12). The report will focus on the following main areas of activities:

- Dissemination of information
- Capacity building, including training
- Assistance in the development of national and sub-regional systems for preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships
- Co-operation and mutual assistance in case of emergency
- Assistance in the field of prevention of pollution from ships
- Other activities and matters of interest

12. The Chairperson will invite the Contracting Parties to inform the Meeting of any relevant activities carried out in their respective countries or within the EC since the 6th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points.

The Meeting of Focal Points will be invited to comment and take note of the progress made in the implementation of the REMPEC workplan.

Agenda Item 5 **Developments within MAP related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC**

13. The representative of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) will present the most important initiatives taken by the MAP since the last Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points. He will address in particular the process of development of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) which is expected to be adopted by the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention scheduled for November 2005, as well as the progress of the evaluation of the Mediterranean Action Plan and the co-operation between MAP and the European Union.

The Meeting of Focal Points will be invited to take note of the information provided by the representative of the Mediterranean Action Plan, and to comment it, if necessary.

Agenda Item 6 **Developments within IMO related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC**

14. The representative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) will inform 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 will be invited to address in particular the recent activities of IMO in preventing operational pollution, reducing accidents, reducing consequences of accidents, and assisting in the implementation of existing treaties and regulations. Special reference will be made to the activities of IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) and its OPRC-OPRC/HNS Technical Group that were carried out since the last Focal Points' Meeting.

15. The Meeting will also be informed of the latest developments in the field of compensation for ship-source pollution damage and in particular on the entry into force on the 3 March 2005 of the Protocol of 2003 to the 1992 FUND Convention (Supplementary Fund Protocol). The representative of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds 1971 and 1992 will be invited to inform the Meeting of the implications for the Mediterranean coastal States of this new international pollution compensation regime.

16. In order to provide the representatives of the Contracting Parties with more detailed information concerning the provisions of the 2003 Supplementary Fund Protocol and other relevant issues related to compensation of pollution damage caused by spills of oil and other hazardous and noxious substances, **a special session on pollution compensation** will be organized on Thursday, 28 April 2005 at 09.00.

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

Agenda Item 7 **EC/MEDA financed project on Euromed cooperation on maritime safety and prevention of pollution from ships (SAFEMED)**

17. During 2004 REMPEC has been involved in the development of a comprehensive three year project on maritime safety and prevention of pollution from ships (SAFEMED) to be financed under the MEDA mechanism of the European Community. The Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.26/7 which contains an outline of the SAFEMED project, which is expected to be implemented by REMPEC during the period 2005-2008. The implementation of the project will be subject to the conclusion and signing of a service contract between the European Commission (EC) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on behalf of REMPEC. The project, which was developed within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, will be implemented in ten Mediterranean Partner countries and will address a number of important issues taking the utmost advantage of the achievements of IMO and the added value created by the EU legislative framework.

The Meeting of Focal Points will be invited to take note of the information provided 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 REMPEC activities and budget estimates for biennium 2006/2007).

Agenda Item 8 **Sustainable development and respect of the marine environment by pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean Sea**

18. The Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.26/8 which provides information on developments on the issue of prevention of pollution from pleasure craft in the Mediterranean and outlines the work carried out by the Centre since the 6th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points. In particular, the document focuses on the preparatory work done in relation to the development of a legal regional instrument on prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean Sea, as mandated by the 13th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. The Secretariat will introduce the draft Resolution containing the set of principles that was agreed upon during the 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), and which is annexed to document REMPEC/WG.26/8.

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

Agenda Item 9 **Regional Strategy for prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships**

19. The Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.26/9/1 outlining the process leading to the preparation of the final draft Regional Strategy for prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships. The Secretariat will also introduce document REMPEC/WG.26/9/2 containing the Report of the 2nd Meeting of National Experts on the Regional Strategy that was convened in Malta immediately prior to the present Meeting.

20. The Chairperson will invite the Meeting to consider and discuss in particular the financial implications of the implementation of the proposed Strategy, taking into consideration the cost estimates presented in document REMPEC/WG.25/6, as well as the information provided under Agenda Item 7.

The Meeting of Focal Points will be invited to endorse the final draft of the Regional Strategy and to propose it for the 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**

21. The Director of REMPEC will present a proposed programme of activities to be conducted by REMPEC during the biennium 2006/2007 (REMPEC/WG.26/10) together with the budget estimates for the implementation of the proposed programme. The programme has been prepared taking into consideration the draft Regional Strategy and assuming that the proposed SAFEMED project will be approved for implementation by the Centre during the period 2005-2008.

The Meeting of Focal Points will be invited:

- a) to consider, discuss and agree upon the proposed programme of REMPEC activities for the 2006/2007 biennium, to be submitted to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties; and
- b) to consider, discuss and agree on the a proposed budget estimates for the implementation of this programme.

Agenda Item 11 **Other Business**

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

Agenda Item 12 **Approval of the Report**

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

Agenda Item 13 **Closure of the Meeting**

24. The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairperson at 13.00 hours on 28 April 2005.