



IMO-OMI



UNEP-PNUE

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



8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Focal Points of the  
Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response  
Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.28/4  
02 April 2007

Malta, 7-11 May 2007

Original: English

Agenda Item 4

**PROGRESS REPORT ON REMPEC'S ACTIVITIES  
SINCE THE 7<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF REMPEC FOCAL POINTS**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**Introduction**

1. This document aims at providing an overview of the activities carried out by the Centre since the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points held in April 2005 and to highlight developments related to the administration of the Centre that took place during the same period.

**Status of ratification of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol**

2. During the period under review, Greece ratified the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention and this Protocol has now been ratified by eight Contracting Parties. The status of ratifications of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol at the time of writing this document is provided in **Annex I** to the present document.

**Activities carried out since the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points**

3. In line with the objectives and functions of the Centre adopted in 2001 by the 12<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Monaco (UNEP (DEC)/MED IG.13/8, Annex IV, Appendix 1), the activities of the Centre since the last Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points continued to focus on prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships. These activities included those agreed upon by the 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (UNEP (DEPI)/MED IG. 16/13) and financed by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) as well as those carried out by REMPEC within the framework of externally funded projects and programmes. In implementing its activities, the Centre has taken into account the recommendations approved by the last Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties and the objectives contained in the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, approved by the said Meeting of Contracting Parties.

4. It should be pointed out that the implementation of the large number of activities carried out by REMPEC within the framework of its MTF programme of activities and externally funded projects and programmes, would not have been possible without additional contributions of the Contracting Parties and financial provisions of externally funded projects which enabled the reinforcement of the personnel of the Centre.

### **Assistance to countries in the field of preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution**

#### Contingency Planning

5. On 20th June 2005, the Agreement concerning the Sub-Regional Contingency Plan for Preparedness and Response to Accidental Marine Pollution in the South- Western Mediterranean was concluded and signed in Algiers by Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. The Centre has assisted in the development of this plan and corresponding agreement through financial support provided by IMO's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) which supplemented REMPEC's own resources. The First Meeting of National Operational Authorities was held on 21 June 2005 whilst the Second Meeting took place in Rabat, Morocco between 23 - 24 January 2007. During the Second Meeting, the level of implementation of the Agreement was reviewed and some common activities were planned. In June 2006, Algeria organized a two-day exercise within the framework of the Sub-Regional Agreement.

6. On 9 November 2005, at the time of the 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Croatia, Italy and Slovenia signed the Agreement on the Sub- Regional Contingency Plan for Prevention of, Preparedness for and Response to Major Marine Pollution Incidents in the Adriatic Sea, which was prepared with the technical assistance and support of REMPEC.

7. On the 20 November 2006, REMPEC participated in a National Meeting in Bar, Montenegro, which agenda included the discussion on the draft National Contingency Plan being prepared within the framework of the programme "Development of national capacities of Serbia-Montenegro for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships" (*vide* paragraph 9).

#### Training Activities

8. Since the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, participants from all the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention participated in various training events organized by the Centre in the field of preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution. During this period, REMPEC organized the following training activities in this field:

- Regional Seminar on the Use of Remote Sensing in Oil Pollution Control (MEDEXPOL 2005), Nicosia, Cyprus, 17-20 October 2005 (45 participants from 17 Contracting Parties attended);
- Sub-Regional Training Course on Preparedness for and Response to Accidental Marine Pollution for On-scene Commanders and/or Supervisors from the Arabic speaking Mediterranean coastal States, Alexandria, Egypt, 3 - 7 July 2005. (22 participants from 6 Arab speaking Contracting Parties attended this training course which was delivered in the Arabic language);

- Sub-Regional Training Course on Preparedness for and Response to Accidental Marine Pollution for Government Administrators and Senior Managers (IMO OPRC Level III), Casablanca, Morocco, 20 – 22 March 2007 (14 participants from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia attended this training course which was delivered in the French language);
- National Seminar on Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, Lattakia, Syria, 31 October -1 November 2005 (26 representatives of relevant Ministries/Departments attended);
- National Awareness Workshop on Prevention of, Preparedness for and Response to Marine Pollution Emergencies, Tripoli, Libya, 23 November 2005 (25 representatives of relevant Ministries/Departments attended);
- National Training Course on Preparedness and Response to Marine Pollution for Government Administrators and Senior Managers, Bar, Montenegro, 21 – 23 November 2006 (25 representatives of relevant Ministries/Departments attended);
- National Training Course on Preparedness and Response to Marine Pollution, Dürres, Albania, 13 – 15 December 2006 (25 representatives of relevant Ministries/Departments attended).

9. A comprehensive programme entitled “Development of national capacities of Serbia-Montenegro for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships” was prepared in the second half of 2005 in order to assist Montenegro to enhance its capacities in the fields of prevention of and preparedness for and response to marine pollution. A Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of part of the programme, financed through MTF, was signed at the end of 2005 and its implementation started in 2006 (vide paragraphs 7, 19, 21, 25 and 31). Due to the major political changes that have recently taken place, the implementation of the programme was delayed and the Memorandum was extended.

#### Exercises

10. In December 2006, within the framework of the European Chemical Industry’s Responsible Care Programme (ICE), the Centre, together with CEFIC, organized a communication exercise (sophisticated test) between the Hellenic Coastguard and BASF.

11. During the period under review, the Centre also took part in an alert and communication exercise organized by the competent national authorities of Algeria (April 2005), Israel (September 2005) and Morocco (June 2006). Moreover, REMPEC also participated in the following exercises:

- International Spill Response Exercises and Round Table “Mediterranean 2005” organised by the competent national authorities of Spain (Spain, 11 – 12 May 2005);
- POLLUX 2006 Exercise organised within the framework of the RAMOGE Agreement (France, 16 – 18 May 2006);
- Joint Oil Spill Response Exercise OB SR 2006 organised by the competent national authorities of Algeria within the framework of the South Western Mediterranean Sub-Regional Contingency Plan (Algeria, 20 -21 June 2006).

### Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU)

12. The three Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with CEDRE, ICRAM, and FEDERCHIMICA for the participation of these organizations in the MAU have all been renewed for a further period of two years.

13. For the first time since the M/V "NASSIA" incident in March 1994, the Centre officially activated the MAU following a request received on the 6 August 2006 from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, whose southern shoreline was affected by oil slicks. Mr Ezio Amato, an expert from ICRAM, was deployed under the MAU for an assessment mission in Syria between 8 – 11 August 2006 (*vide* REMPEC/WG.28/9/2).

### Assistance to countries in case of emergency

14. Following a request received from Libyan Authorities, the Director and the Senior Programme Officer (OPRC) visited the GSP Libyan Arab Jamahiriya between 7 – 8 March 2006 to provide technical advice to the competent Libyan Authorities following a spill in the port of Misurata.

15. As extensively reported in document REMPEC/WG.28/9/2, during the second half of 2006, the Centre was heavily involved in the response to the marine pollution incident that took place in the Eastern Mediterranean. In particular, in close co-operation with the competent national authorities in the region, REMPEC co-ordinated, at the regional level, the response operations to the oil spill that occurred in Lebanon.

### Assistance in the field of prevention of pollution from ships

16. The activities of the Centre in the field of prevention of pollution from ships focused on some of the specific objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (hereinafter referred to as the "Regional Strategy"). Moreover, the Centre is also implementing the EU-funded MEDA Regional Project "Euromed Cooperation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships – SAFEMED", which is primarily related to the field of prevention of pollution from ships (*vide* REMPEC/WG.28/5). Some of the activities of the SAFEMED Project also fall within the scope of some of the specific objectives of the Regional Strategy, and taking this into consideration, a number of project activities have been extended to other Contracting Parties which are not benefiting from the Project.

17. The Regional Strategy was endorsed by the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points in April 2005 and subsequently approved by the Contracting Parties at their 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting. During the same Meeting, the Contracting Parties also adopted the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) which refers to the Regional Strategy as a tool to achieve sustainable development with regard to shipping activities in the Mediterranean region.

18. The Regional Strategy, being a comprehensive and detailed document, will serve as the roadmap for REMPEC's future activities in line with the Centre's objectives, functions and core activities. During the period under review, some tasks of the Regional Strategy have been implemented either through REMPEC's programme of activities or through externally funded projects, most notably, the SAFEMED Project. In order to facilitate the presentation and reporting of the activities carried out in the field of prevention of pollution from ships, in the present document, a reference to the relative Specific Objectives of the Regional Strategy is being made next to the title of the activities.

Ratification of relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment (Specific Objective 1 of the Regional Strategy)

19. One of the activities included in the programme “Development of national capacities of Serbia-Montenegro for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships” were aimed at assisting the competent national authorities of Montenegro in the ratification and transposition of relevant international maritime conventions particularly MARPOL and OPRC’90. Likewise, specific training activities carried out in Albania in 2006 were aimed at facilitating the ratification and implementation of the said conventions.

20. With a view to familiarising representatives of Mediterranean coastal States with the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 (hereinafter referred to as “the Bunkers Convention, 2001”) and related international conventions, and to encourage the ratification and implementation of the said convention in the Mediterranean region, between the 5 – 7 June 2006, the Centre organised, within the framework of the SAFEMED Project and of REMPEC’s programme of activities for 2006 – 2007, a Regional Training Course on the Bunkers Convention 2001. **Annex II** to the present document provides the status of ratification of relevant international maritime conventions.

Ensuring effective maritime administrations (Specific Objective 2 of the Regional Strategy)

21. One of the activities included in the programme “Development of national capacities of Serbia-Montenegro for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships”, referred to above, aim at strengthening and enhancing the performance of the maritime administration in Montenegro, by assessing the existing situation and proposing recommendations for an improved organisation of the maritime administration.

22. In order to improve the knowledge and expertise of maritime administration officials (including ship inspectors) in the Mediterranean region on relevant international maritime conventions, during the period under review, REMPEC commissioned the World Maritime University (WMU) to prepare a Comprehensive Training Programme on Prevention of Pollution from Ships. The objective of preparing this training programme, which was financed from funds made available by IMO’s Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) 2004-2005, was to ensure that REMPEC has a structured programme of training in the field of prevention of pollution from ships which would facilitate the systematic training of personnel in the Mediterranean region by the Centre. The training programme provides the framework for the delivery of general and specific short training courses aimed at training different categories of personnel and it covers the subject matter with six basic distinct courses. It includes the training course objectives, outline, detailed programme, subject areas to be covered, and practical sessions (if any) to be carried out.

Mediterranean Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Port State Control (Specific Objective 3 of the Regional Strategy)

23. At the invitation of the Turkish Authorities, which were hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting of the Mediterranean MoU on Port State Control, one officer of the Centre attended the meeting which took place from 17 – 19 April 2006.

Port Reception Facilities (Specific Objective 4 of the Regional Strategy)

24. As a follow-up of the activities already carried out by REMPEC in the field of port reception facilities, within the framework of Task 3.2 P of the EU-funded SAFEMED Project currently being implemented by REMPEC, the Centre commissioned a report to identify possible sources of financing for the establishment of port reception facilities. The report which was prepared by a consultant who was previously employed by the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and has extensive experience in

the financing of transport infrastructures, was finalised at the end of 2006 and disseminated to all Contracting Parties at the end of March 2007.

25. An activity included under the programme "Development of national capacities of Serbia-Montenegro for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships" (*vide* paragraph 9) consisted of an assessment of port reception facilities in the port of Bar, Montenegro, as well as proposing optimum solutions for the collection and treatment of oily wastes and garbage from ships. The final report of this activity was delivered in April 2007.

#### Monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges at sea (Specific Objective 6)

26. A pilot project called AESOP (Aerial and Satellite Surveillance of Operational Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea), which was prepared by the Centre in the first half of 2005, was carried out in the Adriatic Sea in 2005 and 2006 together with various partners including ERS/RAC (subsequently renamed INFO/RAC), the Italian Ministry of Environment, the Italian Coast Guard, ICRAM and the European Commission Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC). This project had two phases: the first one being an assessment of the reliability of information related to operational discharges provided by satellite imagery, which was carried out in the Summer of 2005, and the second phase, which took place in Summer 2006, was based on near-real-time intervention as soon as a satellite detection of a possible operational discharge was transmitted to the Command and Control Centre of the Italian Coast Guard.

27. During the period under review, REMPEC was invited to participate in a project entitled MARCOAST (MARine and COASTal Environmental Information Services) funded by the European Space Agency (ESA). The project is providing operation services in satellite based water quality and oil spill detection and drift forecast services. The envisaged role of the Centre in the MARCOAST project is to co-ordinate the assessment of the reliability of satellite images by transmitting the images to selected Mediterranean coastal States in order to check the accuracy of the detection and take appropriate action.

#### Improving the level of enforcement and prosecution of offenders (Specific Objective 7)

28. In 2005, REMPEC considered several potential financing mechanisms for components of the CLEANMED Project on prevention of operational pollution and prosecution of illegal oil discharges in the Mediterranean, which was formulated by the Centre during the period 2003-2004. Following various discussions with MAP's Co-ordinating Unit (MEDU), in December 2005, it was agreed to include the project's component addressing the enforcement of regulations related to operational pollution from ships and prosecution of offenders in the Global Environment Facility (GEF) UNEP/MAP "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean" project proposal which was being submitted by MEDU for GEF's consideration and eventual financing. However, in 2006, REMPEC was informed that the inclusion of the CLEANMED Project component in the GEF UNEP/MAP Strategic Partnership project was finally rejected.

29. Notwithstanding this negative development, the Centre is planning to implement parts of the CLEANMED Project through externally funded projects or through its programme of activities. In this regard, as part of the SAFEMED Project, the Centre will carry out a study on the level of enforcement of MARPOL, focusing *inter alia* on operational pollution. It is planned to extend this study, based on a questionnaire and on needs assessment missions, to the other Contracting Parties not benefiting from SAFEMED in order to have a full picture of the state of play in the Mediterranean on this important issue. Moreover, in view of the limited budget allocation, the Centre has decided to combine the planned regional workshop on the enforcement of maritime regulations on operational

pollution with MEDEXPOL 2007. This workshop is now scheduled to be held at the end of November 2007.

Reducing pollution generated by pleasure craft activities (Specific Objective 8)

30. Following the endorsement by the last Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points of the draft Set of Principles to be taken into consideration for the preparation of Guidelines on prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities, the 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties approved the said Set of Principles and further requested the Centre to develop Guidelines based on the Set of Principles. The Centre, with the assistance of a consultant, prepared Draft Guidelines concerning Pleasure Craft Activities and the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean, which were submitted to a Meeting of National Experts held in Monaco between the 13 - 15 February 2007 (REMPEC/WG.27/6). The Meeting, organized in collaboration with and thanks to the support of the Government of Monaco, agreed upon a revised text of the Draft Guidelines, which are being presented to the present Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points for endorsement and onward transmission to the 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, for approval (*vide* REMPEC/WG.28/7).

Procedures for the designation of places of refuge (Specific Objective 12)

31. With a view to assisting Mediterranean coastal States in designating places of refuge, REMPEC has, within the framework of the SAFEMED Project, commissioned a consultant to prepare a set of procedures and guidelines that could be followed by Mediterranean coastal States during the decision making process concerning the designation of places of refuge for ships in need of assistance. The consultant's study, containing procedures, guidelines and other relevant information, was presented and discussed during a three day Regional Workshop on Places of Refuge organised by REMPEC in Barcelona, Spain between the 28 and 30 November 2006, and attended by 52 participants from 19 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. On the basis of the Consultant's study and taking into consideration the comments and proposals made by representatives of the Contracting Parties during the Regional Workshop, REMPEC prepared draft Guidelines on the Decision Making Process for Granting Access to a Place of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance, which are being proposed for endorsement by REMPEC Focal Points in this present Meeting, with a view to their submission and subsequent approval by the next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (*vide* REMPEC/WG.28/6).

Training Activities

32. During the period under review, REMPEC organized and/or supported the organization of the following training activities in the field of prevention of pollution from ships:

- Regional Training Course on the Bunkers Convention 2001, Malta, 5 - 7 June 2006 (45 participants from 20 Contracting Parties, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority attended);
- Regional Workshop on Places of Refuge, Barcelona, Spain, 28 - 30 November 2006 (52 participants from 19 Contracting Parties attended);
- National Training Course on MARPOL Annex I for Ship Inspectors, Haifa, Israel, 4 – 6 July 2005 (32 representatives of relevant Ministries/Departments attended);
- National Training Course on the MARPOL Convention, Durrës, Albania, 25 - 27 October 2006 (20 representatives of relevant Ministries/Departments attended);

33. As part of the comprehensive programme for the development of national capacities of Serbia-Montenegro, a national training course on the MARPOL Convention is scheduled to be held in Montenegro in June 2007.

### **Dissemination of information**

34. Since the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, the Centre continued to carry out activities in this field trying as much as possible to use innovative methods and tools and new means of information technology. However, REMPEC is considering a complete review of its information system and this matter will be addressed under Agenda Item 10 of the present Meeting (*vide* REMPEC/WG.28/10).

35. Meanwhile, REMPEC endeavoured to disseminate to the maximum extent the results of the activities and studies it carried out. In that respect, the Centre posted all reports and studies on its website. Moreover, at the end of 2005, REMPEC produced a specific publication entitled "Port Reception Facilities – A Summary of REMPEC's Activities in the Mediterranean Region", outlining the activities carried out by the Centre in the field of port reception facilities and their results. A French version of the publication was also prepared and disseminated in February 2007. Copies of the publication (in both languages) were forwarded to REMPEC Prevention and OPRC Focal Points, which were invited to ensure wide dissemination to all interested parties.

### **Participation in Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) fora**

36. Since the last Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points held in April 2005, REMPEC has actively participated in various meetings organised within the framework of MAP and which are relevant to the activities carried out by the Centre. These include meetings related to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), the MAP Evaluation, and the on-going work on reporting under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Moreover, the Centre also developed working relations with other MAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs) whose goals are related to the mandate of the Centre.

37. As regards the MSSD, the Centre has been requested to coordinate the work of a thematic working group on the implementation of the Regional Strategy. However, at the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD), held in Athens on 9 March 2007, the Director of REMPEC questioned the relevance of such thematic working groups in view of the fact that the Regional Strategy includes clear objectives, action points and target dates. It has been decided by the Steering Committee to report on this issue at the next 12<sup>th</sup> MCSD meeting to be held from 30 – 31 May 2007 in Istanbul, Turkey.

38. At their 13<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting held in Catania in November 2003, the Contracting Parties had decided to request the MAP Secretariat to engage in a thorough review of the Barcelona Convention implementation and the MAP process. This evaluation exercise includes the role of the MAP Coordinating Unit (MEDU), the relations between RAC's and MEDU, the mandate of the RACs, and the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Contracting Parties. An Extraordinary Meeting of MAP Focal Points was convened in Catania in November 2006, to consider the report of the consultant engaged to carry out the evaluation and to review the proposals and recommendations contained in his report. It has to be noted that, as far as REMPEC was concerned, there was a general appreciation of the work carried out by the Centre and several participants expressed their wish that any new developments should not have negative effects on the good functioning of the Centre. The evaluation process is still ongoing and the next Meeting of MAP Focal Points scheduled in October 2007 will further consider the matter and related recommendations.



### **Co-operation with other organisations and participation in other fora**

39. During the period under review, the Centre continued to co-operate with a number of specialized national, regional and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations. This co-operation proves to be very useful particularly when the Centre is requested to assist in cases of emergency as was the case in the Summer of 2006 when the Centre was co-ordinating the response to the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean. Within the framework of this co-operation, in December 2005, REMPEC concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Ocean Institute (IOI).

40. REMPEC also continued to liaise and co-operate with other regional agreements in order to exchange experiences on the various issues which are relevant to the mandate of the Centre. This inter-regional cooperation has been also eased by the initiative taken by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) to host exchange meetings of the various regional agreements. Moreover, in May 2006, REMPEC actively participated in the IMO/UNEP Forum on Regional Co-operation in Combating Marine Pollution.

41. The Centre's long standing close co-operation with the oil industry also continued through *inter alia* its co-operation with the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG). The co-operation with the oil industry enabled the Centre to benefit from the services of a French Junior Programme Officer who was seconded by the French oil company TOTAL SA under the French Government's mechanism known as *Volontariat International Scientifique* (vide paragraph 46).

42. Since the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, the Centre participated in a number of important meetings which are relevant to its objectives and functions. In particular, REMPEC participated in the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) and in its OPRC-HNS Technical Group, with a view to be in a position to disseminate accurate information on the work carried out by the Committee and its Technical Group to the Contracting Parties which are not attending these meetings. The Centre also participated in Meetings of the European Group of Experts on Satellite Monitoring and Assessment of Sea-Based Oil Pollution (EGEMP).

### **Issues related to the administration of the Centre**

#### **Personnel**

43. Since the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of REMPEC Focal Points held in April 2005, the following changes in the personnel of the Centre have occurred.

#### **Professional staff**

44. In August 2005, Ms Lilia Khodjet El Khil, a Tunisian national, was appointed as Programme Officer (Marine Environment Protection). Ms Khodjet El Khil is a lawyer by education and had previously worked at the Centre when she had been recruited as a Technical Officer within the framework of the EU-funded MEDA Regional Project on Port Reception Facilities.

45. On 31 December 2005, Rear Admiral (Italian Coast Guard) Roberto Patrino retired from his position of Director of the Centre and the Secretary General of IMO, in consultation with the UNEP/MAP Coordinator, appointed Mr Frédéric Hébert, a French national, as Director of the Centre.

46. In February 2006, Ms Pascale Bouveret, Junior Programme Officer, was seconded to the Centre by the French oil company TOTAL SA under the French Government's mechanism known as *Volontariat International Scientifique*.

47. On 15 July 2006, Mr Darko Domovic retired from the post of Senior Programme Officer (OPRC) after 24 years of outstanding service to the Centre. He was replaced by Mr Gabino Gonzalez Deogracia, a Spanish national, who was appointed Programme Officer (OPRC). Mr Gonzalez Deogracia was previously IMO consultant for the RAC/REMPEITC-Carib in Curçaçao, Netherlands Antilles and thereafter coordinator of the IMO/IPIECA Global Initiative Project for the Western and Central Africa (WACAF) region, a wide IMO/IPIECA joint initiative in order to improve preparedness and response along the African shoreline.

48. On 1 March 2007, following a selection process amongst Italian nationals, Ms Cristina Farchi was appointed as a Programme Officer, a position funded by a voluntary contribution from Italy. Ms Farchi previously worked with ICRAM and, at that time, she also had the opportunity of working on short assignments at the Centre on pilot projects involving satellite technologies.

#### General Service staff

49. In May 2005, Mr Anthony Zerafa retired after 26 years of service. He was replaced as Technical Assistant (Logistics) by Mr Mario Bonello.

50. In July 2005, Ms Ruth Mizzi resigned from her position of Bilingual Secretary, which position was funded up to the end of 2005 by a voluntary contribution from the Government of Italy.

51. In December 2005, Ms Michelle Mangion filled the vacant post of Assistant to the Director.

#### SAFEMED Project staff

52. The three year EU-funded SAFEMED Project, which the Centre started implementing in 2006 on the basis of a service contract signed in October 2005 between the European Commission (EC) and IMO on behalf of REMPEC, has budget allocations for the recruitment of three long- term experts and one administrative assistant. In this regard, the following personnel were recruited within the framework of this project:

- Mr Albert Bergonzo – Project Officer (Maritime Administration) in April 2006;
- Mr Joseph Zerafa – Project Officer (Maritime Safety) in May 2006;
- Mr Souhail Ben Mosbah – Project Officer (Accounting and Administration) in September 2006;
- Mr André Sammut - Administrative Assistant in January 2006.

53. In the second part of 2006, during the co-ordination of the response to the oil spill in Lebanon, the Centre received temporary human resources support in order to strengthen its capacity to assist the Lebanese Authorities whilst at the same time implementing its other scheduled activities. Support was received from the Environmental Emergencies Division of Environment Canada (Mr Stéphane Grenon), the UK Maritime Coast Guard Agency (Mrs Kelly Reynolds), the European Commission/European Maritime Safety Agency (Mrs Saskia Session) and the French Navy (Ms Lorane Thomas).

54. **Annex III** to the present document provides the Centre's staff component structure as at the 1 March 2007.

55. Although the staff of the Centre has greatly increased in number, which is beneficial for the organization of activities and for the administration of the Centre, the issue of human resources needs to be thoroughly addressed. A distinction has to be drawn between basic needs and supplementary staff to deal with specific projects or emergencies.

56. As far as the basic administrative needs of the Centre are concerned, the present situation is not entirely satisfactory as regards its sustainability. The administration of the Centre relies on one professional officer post (P1) and two general service staff posts (one for finance and the other for administration and logistics). The professional post (P1) has remained vacant and it is doubtful whether a P1 level is appropriate. With regard to the two general service staff posts, one is presently financed under the SAFEMED Project and the other one is partly financed by an appropriation from the P1 post and a contribution from the IMO. Previously, one post (Administrative/Financial Assistant) was financed from MTF and IMO, whilst the other post (Administrative Assistant) was financed through a voluntary contribution, which was however not renewed for this post. This situation needs to be addressed at least to ensure that, in the short term, the Centre retains the two general service staff posts and secures their long term funding.

#### **Internal audit of the Centre**

57. For the first time since the establishment of REMPEC, in May 2005, an internal audit of the Centre's processes and records was carried out by an internal audit team from IMO's Audit and Internal Oversight Section. The audit covered the period January 2003 - March 2005 and the final report containing recommendations was received at the end of July 2005. Some of the recommendations were implemented whilst others are currently being implemented.

#### **Premises of the Centre**

58. As REMPEC Focal Points have already been informed at their last meeting held in April 2005, on the 6 August 2004, the Government of Malta officially informed the Centre and IMO that REMPEC would relocate to "Maritime House" in Valletta once that this building becomes vacant on the relocation of the Malta Maritime Authority's Merchant Shipping Directorate to new offices. In view of the fact that this relocation was expected to take place in early 2007, in October 2006, the Centre visited the building and prepared a list of necessary works that it expected to be carried out before REMPEC moves to the new premises. The list of works was officially forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a view to establishing a work plan for its execution and setting a date for the relocation of the Centre. Despite the fact that two meetings were held with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the time of writing this present document, the Centre was still waiting for a timetable for the execution of the works at "Maritime House".

59. Pending the relocation to the new premises, in early 2006, certain urgent works had to be carried out in Centre's present premises. The cost of the latter works were financed by the Government of Malta.

#### **IMO – Malta Host Country agreement on REMPEC**

60. In view of the forthcoming move of the offices of REMPEC, the 1990 IMO - Malta Host Country Agreement on REMPEC has also to be reviewed and updated. After some preliminary work done by the Centre, the proposed new draft of the agreement was considered and reviewed by the IMO Legal Division, and officially transmitted to the Maltese Authorities by the Secretary-General of IMO on the 6 November 2006. No official feedback

on the proposed new Host Country Agreement has as yet been received from the Maltese Government.

**The Meeting of Focal Points is invited to** take note of the information provided in this document and to comment as appropriate.

ANNEX I

**STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF THE 2002 PREVENTION AND EMERGENCY  
PROTOCOL TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION**

<b>Contracting Parties</b>	<b>Prevention and Emergency Protocol Ratification Date</b>
<b>Albania</b>	-
<b>Algeria</b>	-
<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</b>	-
<b>Croatia</b>	1 October 2003
<b>Cyprus</b>	-
<b>European Commission</b>	25 June 2004
<b>Egypt</b>	-
<b>France</b>	2 July 2003
<b>Greece</b>	27 November 2006
<b>Israel</b>	-
<b>Italy</b>	-
<b>Lebanon</b>	-
<b>Libya</b>	-
<b>Malta</b>	18 February 2003
<b>Monaco</b>	3 April 2002
<b>Morocco</b>	-
<b>Serbia &amp; Montenegro</b>	-
<b>Slovenia</b>	16 February 2004
<b>Spain</b>	-
<b>Syria</b>	-
<b>Tunisia</b>	-
<b>Turkey</b>	4 June 2003

## ANNEX II

## STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONVENTIONS

	SOLAS Convention 74	SOLAS Protocol 78	SOLAS Protocol 88	LOAD LINES Convention 66	MARPOL 73/78 (Annex I/II)	MARPOL 73/78 (Annex III)	MARPOL 73/78 (Annex IV)	MARPOL 73/78 (Annex V)	MARPOL Protocol 97 (Annex VI)	STCW Convention 78	STCW-F Convention 95	COLREG Convention 72	TONNAGE Convention 69	ANTI FOULING Convention 01	OPRC Convention 90	OPRC/HNS 2000	INTERVENTION Convention 69	INTERVENTION Protocol 73	SALVAGE Convention 89	CLC Convention 69	CLC Protocol 76	CLC Protocol 92	FUND Convention 92	FUND Protocol 2003	HNS Convention 96	LLMC Convention 76	LLMC Protocol 96	BUNKERS CONVENTION 01	BALLASTWATER 2004	ILO CONVENTION 76	
Albania	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x						x	x	x	x				x	x				
Algeria	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x		x					d		x	x							x	
Bosnia & Herzegovina																															
Croatia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	d		x	x	x			x	x			x
Cyprus	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x						d	x	x	x			x	x	x			x
Egypt	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x					x
France	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	d	x	x	x	x			x				x
Greece	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x				x	d	x	x	x	x			x				x
Israel	x	x		x	x	x				x		x	x		x							x	x								x
Italy	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	d	x	x	x	x							x
Lebanon	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x			x		x					x		x									x
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x		x					x											
Malta	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x	x		x	x					d	d	x	x				x				x
Monaco	x			x	x	x	x					x	x				x			d		x	x								
Montenegro	x	x		x	x	x	x		x		x	x					x	x		x											
Morocco	x	x		x	x	x	x		x		x	x		x			x	x		d		x	x		x						x
Serbia	x	x		x	x	x	x		x		x	x					x	x		x											
Slovenia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x		x	x	x	d		x	x	x	x				x		x
Spain	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	d	x	x	x	x		d	x	x	x	x	x
Syrian Arab Republic	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x			x	x						x	x				
Tunisia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x		x			x	x		d		x	x								
Turkey	x			x	x			x		x		x	x		x							x	x			x					

**x = accession**  
**d = denunciation**

ANNEX III

LIST OF REMPEC PERSONNEL

(as at 01.03.2007)

Name, Title	Grade	Financed by
<b>PERMANENT STAFF</b>		
<b>Mr. Frederic Hebert</b> Director	D1	MTF
<b>Mr. Jonathan Pace</b> Programme Officer (Prevention)	P4	MTF
<b>Ms. Lilia Khodjet El Khil</b> Programme Officer (Marine Environment Protection)	P3	MTF
<b>Mr. Gabino Gonzalez Deogracia</b> Programme Officer (OPRC)	P3	MTF
<i>Administrative Officer – Vacant</i>	<i>P1</i>	<i>MTF</i>
<b>Ms. Doreen Stellini</b> Information Assistant / Documentalist	G7	MTF
<b>Mr. Christopher Sacco</b> Administrative / Financial Assistant	G7	MTF/IMO
<b>Ms. Michelle Mangion</b> Assistant to the Director	G7	MTF
<b>Ms. Amanda Bonavia</b> Secretary / Administrative Assistant	G5	MTF
<b>Ms. Francesca Borg</b> Clerk / Secretary	G4	MTF
<b>Mr. Mario Bonello</b> Technical Assistant (logistics)	G4	MTF
<b>TEMPORARY STAFF</b>		
<b>Mr. Joseph Zerafa</b> Project Officer (Maritime Safety)	L4	SAFEMED
<b>Mr. Albert Bergonzo</b> Project Officer (Maritime Administration)	L3	SAFEMED
<b>Mr. Souhail Ben Mosbah</b> Project Officer (Accounting & Administration)	L3	SAFEMED
<b>Ms. Cristina Farchi</b> Programme Officer	L3	ITALIAN GOVT
<b>Ms. Pascale Bouveret</b> Junior Programme Officer VIS	---	TOTAL SA
<b>Mr. Andre Sammut</b> Administrative Assistant	G6	SAFEMED