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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



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

REMPEC/WG.28/8/2  
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Agenda Item 8

**IMO'S PORT RECEPTION FACILITY DATABASE (PRFD)**

**Submitted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO)**

1. The present document describes the development of IMO's internet based port reception facilities database (PRFD) with a view that it will assist and encourage the wider dissemination of information on port reception facilities.
2. Article 11 of the MARPOL Convention, entitled "Communication of information", states in paragraph 1(d) that: "The Parties to the Convention undertake to communicate to the Organization: (d) a list of reception facilities including their location, capacity and available facilities and other characteristics;". Therefore, Member States have been providing the Organization with information on reception facilities located within their jurisdiction and the Secretariat, until March of 2006, had been publishing this information in two Circulars: MEPC.3/Circ.4 (for facilities for oily wastes) and MEPC.4/Circ.5 (for facilities for noxious liquid substances). It is worth also noting that until 2006 no information was published for reception facilities for garbage, sewage, ozone-depleting substances and exhaust gas cleaning residues.
3. In March 2005, the Flag State Implementation (FSI) Sub-Committee at its 13th session considered a proposal for replacing the publication of the two MEPC Circulars by an internet-based database, which would facilitate free public access to information on port reception facilities around the world and which would improve the accuracy of that data. FSI 13 agreed to propose to the Marine Environment Protection Committee the development of the Port Reception Facility Database.
4. MEPC 53 in July 2005 endorsed the FSI Sub-Committee's instructions to the Secretariat regarding the proposed outline of the PRFD and agreed that the PRFD would replace the paper documents in the series MEPC.3/Circ (facilities in ports for the reception of Oily wastes from ships) and MEPC.4/Circ (facilities in ports for the reception of Noxious Liquid Substances residues from ships carrying chemicals in bulk), and would also cover reception facilities for garbage, sewage and air pollutants. MEPC 53 also requested Member States to start uploading and maintaining the required information as soon as the database became operational, and thus to discontinue the practice of communicating this information in hard copy to IMO.

5. The system was developed to satisfy all the above requirements and became operational on 1st March 2006 as a module of IMO's GISIS (Global Integrated Shipping Information System). The initial records contained in the PRFD were input by the Secretariat using the information contained in MEPC.3/Circ.4 and MEPC.4/Circ.5, and therefore initially no information was available on the PRFD for reception facilities for garbage, sewage, ozone-depleting substances and exhaust gas cleaning residues, nor were any contact details available of national Authorities responsible for handling reports on alleged inadequacies. Following the launch of the PRFD, MEPC 54 in March 2006 agreed that circular series MEPC.3 and MEPC.4 should be discontinued.

6. The PRFD system now provides data on facilities for the reception of all categories of ship-generated waste. Data for reception facilities can be updated only by the respective Member States via a log-in password, while the public is allowed free access, following a simple initial registration, to all the information on a view-only basis (<http://gisis.imo.org/Public/>). Information on password administration for Member States has been made available in Circular letter No.2639 of 8 July 2005 (GISIS – Manual for Administration on the use of reporting facilities) and in Circular letter No.2683 of 30 November 2005 (GISIS – port reception facilities database).

**The Meeting of Focal Points is invited to** note the information provided and take action as appropriate with a view that the information and data in GISIS on reception facilities in their respective countries are updated and maintained.