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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**



9th Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional
Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre
for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.30/3/2
25 March 2009

Malta, 21-24 April 2009

Original: English

Agenda Item 3

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. The 9th Meeting of Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) has been convened in Malta between the 21 and 24 April 2009, pursuant to the decision of the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which agreed that a meeting of REMPEC Focal Points be organized during the 2008–2009 biennium (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/10, Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008).
2. The main objectives of the 9th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points are:
 - a) to examine the implementation of the programme of activities of REMPEC since the 8th Focal Points Meeting; and
 - b) to discuss and propose the programme of activities of REMPEC for the biennium 2010-2011 which will be submitted for adoption by the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in November 2009.
3. All REMPEC official Governmental Focal Points have been invited to nominate jointly and in consultation with all national authorities concerned their representatives in the Meeting. The participation in national delegations of observers representing the oil, chemical, port 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 9th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points will be opened at 09.00 hours on Tuesday, 21 April 2009.

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**

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

2.3 **Working Languages**

7. The working languages of the Meeting will be English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation will be provided during the Meeting. All working documents will be available in both official languages of the Centre, i.e. in English and in French. Unless available in both languages, Information documents will however be available in their original language.

Agenda Item 3 **Adoption of the Agenda**

8. The agenda, as proposed in document REMPEC/WG.30/3/1 and annotated in the present document, will be proposed for adoption by the Meeting of Focal Points. The Meeting will also be invited to agree on a timetable to carry out its work. A draft timetable is proposed in document REMPEC/WG.30/3/3/Rev.1.

Agenda Item 4 **REMPEC's activities carried out since the 8th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points**

9. The Director of REMPEC will introduce document REMPEC/WG.30/4/1 entitled "Progress report on REMPEC's activities since the 8th 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 May 2007.

10. Contracting Parties will be invited to inform the Meeting of any relevant activities carried out in their respective countries or within the European Community since the 8th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points.

11. The Secretariat will also introduce document REMPEC/WG.30/4/2 which provides information on the ongoing process, within the Barcelona system, for the selection of a set of proposed effectiveness indicators of measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as well as the decisions adopted by the Meetings of the Contracting Parties. In this regard, the Meeting will be presented with a proposal developed by the MAP Secretariat, in close consultation with REMPEC, concerning the implementation of the "Prevention and Emergency" Protocol.

The Meeting of Focal Points will be invited to comment and take note of the progress made in the implementation of REMPEC's activities. Furthermore, the Meeting will be invited to review and provide comments on the proposed effectiveness indicators for implementing the "Prevention and Emergency" Protocol.

Agenda Item 5 **Cooperation agreements in the field of prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships**

12. The Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.30/5 which describes the role of some organizations which provide the Centre with technical expertise on various issues relevant to the prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships, as well as the related co-operation agreements which REMPEC has or is currently developing with these organizations.

The Meeting of Focal Points will be invited to take note of the information provided and to endorse the approach of the Centre in implementing its activities in collaboration with other organizations. The Meeting will also be invited to consider the proposal put forward by the Secretariat with respect to oil spill monitoring and forecasting systems in the Mediterranean.

Agenda Item 6 Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG)

13. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present two documents related to the work of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG). Document REMPEC/WG.30/6/1 provides an overview of the activities carried out by the MTWG since the 8th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, particularly with regard to the development of the Mediterranean Guidelines on Oiled Shoreline Assessment, the Mediterranean Waste Management Decision Support Tool, and the Guidelines on Sunken Oil Assessment and Removal Techniques. Document REMPEC/WG.30/6/2 focuses on some activities which are proposed to be considered for inclusion in the programme of work of the MTWG during the up-coming biennium.

The Meeting of Focal Points will be invited to take note of the information provided and to consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat with respect to follow-up activities and future work of the MTWG.

Agenda Item 7 Improvement of the level of enforcement of MARPOL Convention Annex I in the Mediterranean

14. The Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.30/7 providing a comprehensive overview of the activities carried out to date by REMPEC with a view to strengthen the capacities of the Mediterranean coastal States in the field of illicit discharges from ships. In particular, the Meeting will be updated on various initiatives undertaken by the Centre to meet relevant objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships. In this respect, the Meeting will also be informed of some activities proposed by REMPEC, to be carried out during the biennium 2010-2011.

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 10 (Proposed programme of REMPEC activities for biennium 2010-2011). The Meeting will also be invited to consider the proposal of the Centre to establish an electronic tool to exchange information on violations and prosecution of offenders to MARPOL Annex I requirements.

Agenda Item 8 Developments related to the EC/MEDA financed project on Euromed cooperation on maritime safety and prevention of pollution from ships (SAFEMED)

15. The Meeting will be informed of the status of implementation of the EU-funded MEDA Regional Project entitled "Euromed Cooperation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships – SAFEMED" (MED 2005/109-573) which the Centre is implementing in ten Mediterranean partners and which addresses a number of important issues particularly in the field of prevention of pollution from ships, some of which are also included in the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships. The Meeting will also be provided with information regarding a follow-up regional project, namely SAFEMED II, also funded by the European Commission and which the Centre has just started implementing in the same ten Mediterranean partners. The Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.30/8 which provides information on the implementation of the SAFEMED Project between January 2006 and February 2009 as well as on the SAFEMED II Project scheduled to be implemented between 2009 and 2011.

The Meeting of Focal Points will be invited to take note of and comment on, as deemed appropriate, the information provided, and to take it into consideration during the deliberations on Agenda Item 10 (Proposed programme of REMPEC activities for biennium 2010-2011)

Agenda Item 9 Activities related to ships' ballast water management and invasive species

16. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.30/9 related to the implementation of the GloBallast Partnerships Project in the Mediterranean region. The Meeting will be provided with a comprehensive description of the project and of the relevant activities implemented so far by the Centre at the regional level, including the preliminary work carried out by the Regional Task Force (RTF) for the development of a regional strategy addressing the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens via ships' ballast water and sediments in the Mediterranean region. The Meeting will also be informed on future activities which are expected to be implemented in the framework of the GloBallast Partnerships Project during the biennium 2010-2011.

The Meeting of Focal Points will be invited to take note of the information provided, to support the implementation of project activities in the biennium 2010-2011 as well as the development of the regional strategy, and to request the Secretariat to present the work Regional Task Force to the next Meeting of MAP Focal Points, with a view to recommend to the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to approve the development of a regional Strategy on ships' ballast water management in the Mediterranean.

An Intersessional Meeting of the GloBallast Regional Task Force will be held concurrently with the Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points on Tuesday 22 April 2009 between 1600hrs and 1730hrs in order to discuss the work carried out by four Focus Groups, each led by a Mediterranean coastal State, on specific subject matters which will be included in the regional strategy, namely risk assessment (Turkey), legal aspects (Croatia), capacity building (Cyprus) and policies monitoring (Italy).

Agenda Item 10 **Proposed programme of REMPEC activities for biennium 2010-2011**

17. The Director of REMPEC will present document REMPEC/WG.30/10 containing a proposed programme of activities to be implemented by the Centre during the biennium 2010-2011.

The Meeting of Focal Points will be invited to consider and discuss the proposed programme of activities and agree upon a programme of REMPEC activities for the biennium 2010-2011, to be submitted for adoption by the next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

Agenda Item 11 **Other business**

18. The Meeting of Focal Points will be invited to consider any other matters that may be raised under this agenda item.

19. Under this agenda item, organizations wishing to provide brief information on some of their activities which may be of interest to the Meeting will be given the opportunity to do so.

Agenda Item 12 **Adoption of the Report**

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

Agenda Item 13 **Closure of the Meeting**

21. The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairperson at 13.00 hours on Friday, 24 April 2009.