



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



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

REMPEC/WG.30/8
27 March 2009

Malta, 21-24 April 2009

Original: English

Agenda Item 8

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAFEMED PROJECT

Note by the Secretariat

Background

1. During the 7th and 8th Meetings of Focal Points of REMPEC, the Secretariat had provided information on the implementation of the three year European Union (EU) financed MEDA¹ regional project entitled "EUROMED COOPERATION ON MARITIME SAFETY AND PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS - SAFEMED", which is being implemented by REMPEC in ten Euromed Mediterranean partners² namely, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey, and which commenced on the 1 January 2006.

2. It should be recalled that the SAFEMED Project is a response to the interest of the EU to develop Euro-Mediterranean co-operation in the field of maritime safety and security and prevention of pollution from ships by providing technical advice and support to the non-EU Mediterranean partners identified in the 1995 Barcelona Process. The main objective is to mitigate the existing imbalance in the application of maritime legislation in the region between the EU and non-EU Mediterranean partners, through promoting a coherent, effective and uniform implementation of the relevant international conventions and rules aimed at better protecting the marine environment in the Mediterranean region by preventing pollution from ships.

3. The operational implementation phase of the SAFEMED Project was originally scheduled to end on the 31 December 2008. However, the implementation phase was officially extended up to the end of April 2009 mainly to enable the European Commission (EC) and the Project team to organise, in 2009, the 5th Meeting of the Maritime Safety Sub-Group of the Euromed Transport Forum Maritime Transport Working Group (which also acts as the SAFEMED Project Advisory Committee) as well as to enable REMPEC to finalise and conclude the implementation of the last few remaining project tasks.

¹ The MEDA programme is the principal financial instrument of the European Union for the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The programme offers technical and financial support measures to accompany the reform of economic and social structures in the Mediterranean Partners.

² Refers to the "Mediterranean Partners" as defined in the 1995 Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Process) and constitutes a wide framework of political, economic and social relations between the Member States of the European Union and Partners of the Southern Mediterranean.

Implementation of SAFEMED Project Activities

4. The SAFEMED Project aimed to achieve its objectives through the implementation of specific tasks in five separate, yet deeply interconnected, areas of activity, namely, flag State implementation, safety of navigation, protection of the marine environment, human element, and security of ships and port facilities. The project tasks strived to transfer knowledge in all its aspects through needs assessment missions, elaboration of studies, provision of direct technical assistance, development of recommendations and guidelines, and capacity building including *inter alia* training. Whilst the framework of international maritime conventions and the specific obligations thereunder provided the basis for the action, the Project aimed to assist the beneficiaries meet their commitments by helping to identify bottlenecks in the implementation of these conventions, and then help develop the required capacity to overcome the problem areas.

5. During the implementation of the SAFEMED Project, REMPEC was technically supported by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the European Commission (EC), and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). IMO also provided administrative support and carried out the general oversight of project implementation.

6. With a view to facilitating project implementation, at the time of initiating the implementation of the activities of the SAFEMED Project, REMPEC had requested the project beneficiaries to nominate national contact points to serve as the main channels of communication with regard to the Project and to act as the principal contact point during the experts' missions in the beneficiaries. The national contact points also represented the beneficiaries on the Euromed Transport Forum Maritime Safety Sub-Group/SAFEMED Project Advisory Committee. Nevertheless, the REMPEC Prevention Focal Points and, in certain instances, also the other REMPEC Focal Points, were, as much as possible, kept informed of developments regarding the implementation of the project.

7. Most of the activities of the SAFEMED Project are within the scope of some of the specific objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, and taking this into consideration, when possible, a number of project tasks have been extended to other Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which are not benefiting from the Project. Moreover, these Contracting Parties also benefited indirectly from several studies and guidelines commissioned within the framework of the Project and which are of interest to all Mediterranean coastal States.

8. During the implementation of the SAFEMED Project, field missions were carried out in the Project beneficiaries to assist the beneficiaries assess their needs and priorities in order to update their national legislation, strengthen their administrative and technical set up and improve compliance with international maritime conventions. The needs assessment missions covered the following aspects: flag State Administrations, Vessel Traffic Management Information Systems (VTMIS), MARPOL Convention Annex I, IMDG Code, ISM Code, and ISPS Code.

9. Within the framework of the SAFEMED Project, the following Studies, Guidelines and Procedures were prepared to assist the beneficiaries in the implementation of international maritime conventions:

- Guidelines and procedures to facilitate the decision making in the Designation of Places of Refuge;
- Guidelines and procedures on the safe removal and final disposal of Anti-Fouling Waste;
- Study on Models for Flag State Administrations;
- Framework for the adequate monitoring of Classification Societies;
- Guidelines on the ratification of MARPOL Annex VI and on the preparations required to submit an application to IMO for the designation of the Mediterranean Sea as a SOX Emission Control Area;
- Study on Possible Sources of Financing for Port Reception Facilities and Vessel Traffic Monitoring Information Systems;
- Study on Maritime Traffic Flows in the Mediterranean Sea.

10. Seventeen students from eight SAFEMED Project beneficiaries were awarded long-term scholarships financed by the Project to follow postgraduate courses at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) in Malta and at the World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmo, Sweden. Moreover, a large number of Government officials from the beneficiaries and sometimes also from

other Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have participated in the following capacity building activities organised within the framework of the Project:

- Short Course on Casualty Investigation;
- Workshop on the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme;
- Short course on Flag State Implementation;
- Vessel Traffic Management Information System Information Day;
- Training Course for VTS Operators / Managers;
- Workshop on Places of Refuge;
- International Seminar of Initiation to Oil Pollution Response (INFOPOL);
- Seminar on the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001, (AFS Convention);
- Training Course on the Bunkers Convention, 2001;
- Seminar on the Human Element Influence on Maritime Accidents.

11. With a view to ensuring the visibility of the Project and the dissemination of information, a dedicated SAFEMED Project website [www.safemedproject.org] was created. This enabled the project beneficiaries and all interested users to be kept updated on the activities of the project and to download project reports and documents. In view of the follow up SAFEMED II Project referred to hereunder, action is being taken to reconstruct the Project's website so as to allow more interactivity and an easier retrieval of content. The new website is expected to be on line in May 2009.

12. At the time of writing the present document, the SAFEMED Project implementation was almost entirely completed and when the Project is concluded it is anticipated that all the tasks of the Project will have been implemented successfully. A status report on the activities implemented during the period January 2006 - February 2009 is set out in the Annex to the present document.

Follow up SAFEMED II Project

13. In view of the achievements of the SAFEMED Project, now referred to as the "SAFEMED I Project", the European Commission and the Mediterranean partners agreed on the idea to launch a second EU-financed MEDA regional SAFEMED Project (SAFEMED II). As was the case for SAFEMED I, the SAFEMED II Project, which is also a three year project, will be implemented by REMPEC between 2009 and 2011.

14. Building upon the work carried out through SAFEMED I, the SAFEMED II Project should assist the Mediterranean partners with the further implementation of the relevant maritime transport related actions of the Regional Transport Action Plan (RTAP) for the Mediterranean 2007-2013 adopted in 2007 within the framework of the Euromed Transport Forum. Supported by the Project team and the project expertise, the SAFEMED II Project will enable the Mediterranean partners to make further progress on these actions in the Road-Map.

15. Being a follow up project to the original Project, the main and specific objectives of the SAFEMED II Project are the same as those of the SAFEMED I Project. The SAFEMED II Project will encompass the following main activities: flag State implementation, port State control, Vessel Traffic Management Information Systems and related services, protection of the marine environment, and security of ships and port facilities. The project will also include other awareness, visibility, and supporting activities. A Summary of the Technical Annex of the SAFEMED II Project can be found in document REMPEC/WG.INF.6.

16. As was the case for the SAFEMED I Project, in view of the fact that most of the SAFEMED II Project activities are closely linked to some of the specific objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, REMPEC has included some of the activities of the SAFEMED II Project in the proposed programme of work of the Centre for the biennium 2010-2011 (REMPEC/WG.30/10). This is being done in order to ensure a certain synergy with the activities of REMPEC as well as to ensure the participation of those Contracting Parties not benefiting from the Project in SAFEMED II activities.

The Meeting of Focal Points is 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) as well as to comment as deemed appropriate.

ANNEX

**STATUS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFEMED PROJECT ACTIVITIES
DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY 2006 – FEBRUARY 2009**

Activity 1 Towards an effective flag State implementation and monitoring of Classification Societies		
Task N°	Title	Status
1.1 P	Prepare and collect information in order to establish which countries have filled in and/or updated the IMO Self Assessment form, and assist those that have not done so.	Completed: Two short-term experts were recruited for this Task and for Task 1.2 P. Field missions were carried out in eight beneficiaries between April and July 2006. The Reports have been disseminated.
1.2 P	Assessment of training/qualifications in flag State administration.	Completed. See Task 1.1 P.
1.3 P	Training of Mediterranean partners' candidates at WMU, IMA & IMLI.	Completed: This task was a preparatory task for long and short-term training sessions organised by IMO academic institutions. All the required steps, with both WMU and IMLI, were taken in due time. IMA: See Task 1.6 O.
1.4 O	Identify possible standard models for flag State administrations	Completed: A short-term expert was recruited to carry out this task between October 2006 and April 2007. The Report has been disseminated.
1.5 O	Participation to the Master of Laws (LL.M) course at IMLI for duly qualified candidates from the Mediterranean partners	Completed: Three candidates from Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey graduated in May 2007 whilst three more candidates from Jordan, Tunisia and Turkey graduated in May 2008. Following the issue of another call for nominations for the academic year 2008-2009, three candidates from Jordan, Egypt and Algeria are presently attending IMLI and are due to graduate in May 2009.

Activity 1 (Cont'd) Towards an effective flag State implementation and monitoring of Classification Societies		
Task N°	Title	Status
1.6 O	Short course on Flag State Implementation for Mediterranean partners at IMA	<p>Completed: In view of the fact that the IMO-IMA was temporarily closed, in agreement with the EC, the World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmo, Sweden was contacted to organise a training course on casualty investigation at WMU from 6 to 10 October 2008.</p> <p>The training course on casualty investigation took place at the WMU from the 6 to the 10 October 2008. 14 participants from 8 beneficiaries attended the course.</p> <p>The Report has been disseminated.</p>
1.7 O	Develop a framework for the adequate monitoring of Classification Societies.	<p>Completed: A short-term expert was recruited to carry out this task between October 2006 and April 2007.</p> <p>The Report has been disseminated.</p>
1.8 O	Prepare Mediterranean partners for the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme and EU proposed legislation	<p>Completed: A three-day regional Workshop on the implementation of the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme (VIMSAS) was organised in Malta between the 4 and 6 March 2008. Twenty-two Government officials from eight SAFEMED Project beneficiaries and from Malta and Monaco participated in the Workshop.</p> <p>The Report has been disseminated.</p>
1.9 O	Participation to the Master of Sciences courses at WMU for duly qualified candidates from the Mediterranean partners	<p>Completed: Following a selection process carried out in October 2006, four candidates received full academic clearance and commenced their studies in January 2007. These four candidates (Algeria, Egypt, Palestinian Territories and Turkey) graduated in October 2008.</p> <p>In August 2007, a second call for nominations for scholarships for the academic year 2008-2009 was issued to all project beneficiaries and following a selection process, four scholarships were granted. These four candidates (2 Algeria, Syria and Tunisia) commenced their studies in March 2008 and are expected to graduate in October 2009.</p>

Activity 1 (Cont'd) Towards an effective flag State implementation and monitoring of Classification Societies		
Title		Status
1.10 O	Short specialized course on Flag State Implementation at WMU based on relevant international (IMO) convention and related EU legislation	<p>Completed: The course on Flag State Implementation took place at the WMU, Sweden on 5 – 9 November 2007. Fourteen participants from eight beneficiaries attended the course.</p> <p>The Report has been disseminated.</p>

Activity 2 Ensuring the safety of navigation through the development of traffic monitoring systems		
Task N°	Title	Status
2.1 P	Inventory of Vessel Traffic Monitoring Information System infrastructure and description of data exchange systems available in the Mediterranean partners.	<p>Completed: Two short-term experts were recruited for this task. The two experts went on field missions to nine beneficiaries during the months of November and December 2006.</p> <p>Sub-action (7) – The Report on possible sources of financing of VTS equipment, which was entrusted to the same short-term expert who was also recruited for Task 3.2 P, was finished in November 2006.</p> <p>Reports have been disseminated.</p>
2.2 P	Preparation and Organization of the VTMS Info Day.	<p>Completed: The Info Day was organized in Trieste, Italy in October 2006 with the full technical support of EMSA. The event was hosted by the Italian Coast Guard. 28 participants from 15 Mediterranean coastal States attended, including delegates from nine SAFEMED beneficiaries.</p> <p>The Report has been disseminated.</p>
2.3 O	Study on Maritime Traffic Flows in the Mediterranean Sea	<p>Ongoing: Historical Data for the years 2004 & 2005 have been purchased from Lloyds Maritime Intelligence Unit (LMIU) with a view to developing a Geographical Information System (GIS). Another contract was signed in December 2008 with LMIU for the purchase of Historical Data for the years 2006/2007. This data should be available in March 2009.</p> <p>The GIS contract was awarded and the GIS is now under construction and should be on line at the end of March 2009.</p> <p>The 'Study of Maritime Traffic Flows in the Mediterranean Sea' was disseminated in August 2008.</p>

Activity 2 (Cont'd) Ensuring the safety of navigation through the development of traffic monitoring systems		
Task N°	Title	Status
2.4 O	Training programmes for Vessel Traffic Services managers and operators	<p>Completed: Two five-day Induction Courses on Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) were held at South Tyneside College, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, United Kingdom between the 3rd and the 14th September 2007. The first group of ten participants that attended the first course, which was held between the 3rd and the 7th September, included participants from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Morocco. The second group of eight participants that attended the second course, which was held between the 10th and the 14th September, included participants from Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.</p> <p>The Report has been disseminated.</p>
2.5	Identify European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) co-operation framework.	<p>Ongoing: The report on SAFEMED beneficiaries' needs and expectations regarding cooperation with EMSA is expected to be finalised in the first quarter of 2009.</p>

Activity 3 Protection of the marine environment		
Task N°	Title	Status
3.1 P	Identify impediments and needs for the implementation of MARPOL taking into consideration the REMPEC strategy in relation to the Prevention and Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention.	<p>Completed: This task has been merged with Task 3.4 O due to the proximity of the two tasks. (see also Task 3.4 O).</p> <p>Two short-term experts were contracted to carry out needs assessment missions in the project beneficiaries. Field missions by the short-term experts were completed in the first half of 2008.</p> <p>Early results from the missions were presented and discussed at the Regional Seminar on Illicit Discharges from Ships and Prosecution of Offenders organised by REMPEC in Marseilles, France between the 27 and 30 November 2007.</p> <p>Reports finalised and disseminated at the end of 2008.</p>
3.2 P	Identification of additional initiatives on port reception facilities, based on experience gained at EU level through the implementation of EU Directive 2000/59.	<p>Completed: The appointed short-term expert carried out visits to an agreed list of financial institutions in October and November 2006.</p> <p>The Report on possible sources of financing for port reception facilities has been disseminated.</p>

Activity 3 (Cont'd) Protection of the marine environment		
Title		Status
3.3 O	Identification of appropriate procedures to facilitate the designation of Places of Refuge.	<p>Sub-action (a) - Completed: One short-term expert was recruited for this task. His study on guidelines and procedures to facilitate the designation of places of refuge was presented and discussed during the Regional Workshop on Places of Refuge held in Barcelona, Spain, in November 2006. (see Sub-action (d))</p> <p>The Report has been disseminated.</p> <p>Sub-actions (b) & (c): - Ongoing: A short-term expert has been identified and a contract was signed in May 2008. The study was expected to be completed by the end of 2008. However, the engaged expert did not manage to finalise his work and the study is now expected to be completed by the end of March 2009.</p> <p>Sub-action (d) – Completed: The workshop on Places of Refuge was held in Barcelona, Spain on 28-30 November 2006 with the assistance of the Spanish authorities. 11 speakers delivered presentations to 52 participants from 19 Mediterranean coastal States including representatives from 8 SAFEMED beneficiaries.</p> <p>The Report has been disseminated.</p>
3.4 O	Prevention and control of operational pollution from ships in the Mediterranean region	This task was merged with Task 3.1 P due to the proximity of fields covered and similar schedules (see also Task 3.1 P).
3.5 O	Short training on pollution prevention and control	<p>Completed: The INFOPOL training course took place in Brest and Marseille, France, on 11-22 June 2007. Nine participants from nine SAFEMED Project beneficiaries attended the course.</p> <p>The Report has been disseminated.</p>

Activity 3 (Cont'd) Protection of the marine environment		
Task N°	Title	Status
3.6 O	Propose coherent ballast water management strategy in co-operation with the EU	<p>Completed: The implementation of this task was reviewed in close liaison with the EC to take into consideration the inclusion of the Mediterranean Sea in the five year GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnership Project. It was decided that this task focuses on building training capacities on port baseline surveys.</p> <p>A Training Course on Port Biological Baseline Surveys was organised at Istanbul, Turkey, between the 21 and 24 October 2008 in co-operation with the national competent authorities of Turkey. A total of 43 participants attended this course. 17 of the participants came from 9 beneficiaries.</p> <p>The Report has been disseminated.</p>
3.7 O	Assistance in the preparation of a proposal to designate the Mediterranean Sea as a SOx emission control area under MARPOL Annex VI.	<p>Completed: One short-term expert was recruited for this task between November 2006 and November 2007. In line with the Terms of Reference, the short-term expert's report is divided in two parts. The first part deals with the ratification process of MARPOL Annex VI and the second part of the report deals with the preparations that are required for submitting an application to IMO for the Mediterranean Sea to be designated as a SOx Emission Control Area (SECA).</p> <p>The Report has been disseminated.</p>
3.8 O	Assistance in the ratification and implementation of the AFS Convention.	<p>Sub-action (a) - Completed: One short-term expert was recruited for this task between November 2006 and November 2007. The draft Procedures, on environmentally sound and safe removal of harmful anti-fouling systems and of cleaning of ships' hulls prepared by the expert, were discussed during the AFS Seminar held in Egypt. (see sub-action (b)). The Report, including the procedures, has been disseminated.</p> <p>Sub-action (b) – Completed: The Seminar on the AFS Convention was held in Cairo, Egypt, on 24 - 26 April 2007 with the collaboration of the Egyptian Government. 28 participants from 10 Mediterranean countries and 11 speakers participated in the Seminar. The draft procedures were discussed during the seminar and proposals for amendments were made.</p> <p>The Report has been disseminated.</p>

Activity 3 (Cont'd) Protection of the marine environment		
Task N°	Title	Status
3.9 O	Evaluate needs for the implementation of the IMDG Code.	<p>Completed: Terms of Reference were prepared and a short-term expert was contracted for this task. The consultancy contract was signed in December 2007 and field missions were carried out during the first half of 2008.</p> <p>Reports have been disseminated.</p>
3.10 O	Organization of a training course on the implementation of the BUNKER Convention.	<p>Completed: The Regional Training Course on the Bunkers Convention was held at Malta on 5 - 7 June 2006. This Training course was well attended and 45 participants from 22 countries participated. The six lecturers delivered excellent papers. The feedback received from the participants was very positive.</p> <p>The Report has been disseminated.</p>

Activity 4 The human element, a permanent source of concern within the maritime safety culture		
Task N°	Title	Status
4.1 O	Prepare and organize an ad hoc regional seminar on human element influence in maritime accidents.	<p>Completed: A three-day regional seminar on the Human Element and its influence in Maritime Accidents, was successfully held at the EMSA premises in Lisbon, Portugal, between the 17 and 19 June 2008. 11 Speakers and over 25 participants, 16 of whom came from the beneficiaries, took part in the Seminar.</p> <p>The Report has been disseminated.</p>
4.2 O	Assessment of the implementation of the ISM Code and identification of possible common problems	<p>Completed: Terms of Reference were prepared and two short-term experts were recruited. Field assessment missions commenced in April 2008 and were completed by July 2008. Reports finalised in October 2008.</p> <p>Reports have been disseminated.</p>

Activity 5 Security of ships and port facilities in the Mediterranean area		
Task N°	Title	Status
5.1 O	Assess the implementation of the IMO ISPS Code.	Completed: Two short-term experts were recruited for this task, one for the English speaking countries and one for the French speaking countries. Field missions carried out to nine of the beneficiaries between October 2006 and March 2007. Reports have been disseminated.
5.2 O	Provide recommendations on how to improve the level of maritime security in the Mediterranean Partners.	Completed: Recommendations on how to improve the level of maritime security in the Mediterranean Partners were prepared and a report was forwarded to the EC in September 2007.

Activity 6 SAFEMED website		
Task N°	Title	Status
6.1 O	Establish and maintain a SAFEMED website	Completed: The English and French versions of the website are now available and the website is updated regularly. Action is being taken to reconstruct this website to make it more interactive and take advantage of state of the art technologies.

Activity 7 Co-ordination with other projects		
Task N°	Title	Status
7.1 O	Co-ordination with on going and future projects	<p>Ongoing: Co-ordination is carried out internally through the various projects and activities carried out by REMPEC in the implementation of its programme of activities and strategy, and externally by maintaining contact with the Euromed Transport Project and other Euromed maritime transport related projects, such as MEDA MoS and METIS. Moreover, the SAFEMED Project assists in the monitoring of the implementation of some actions of the Regional Transport Action Plan (RTAP), approved during the 8th Euromed Transport Forum. Regarding the specific position of Morocco, which benefited from an EU Twinning Project, regular contacts with the Resident Twinning Advisor were maintained. This also applied to Egypt and Turkey which benefitted from EU Twinning Projects on Maritime Safety. The SAFEMED Project financed the participation of the Resident Twinning Advisors at the 4th Meeting of the Euromed Transport Forum Maritime Safety Sub Group which also acts as the Project's Advisory Committee. Regular contact with EC DG TREN officials also facilitates co-ordination with ongoing and future EU-funded maritime transport related projects. During 2008, the SAFEMED Project team closely followed developments related to the Union of the Mediterranean (UfM) initiative.</p>

Activity 8 Follow-up of the SAFEMED project		
Task N°	Title	Status
8.1 O	Input to the SAFEMED Project follow-up	<p>Ongoing: Input regarding the follow-up of the SAFEMED Project is provided during the Euromed Transport Forum meetings and during the Forum's Maritime Safety Sub-group meetings. Moreover, input is provided to the EC as and when requested. A bilateral meeting between the EC (AidCo and DG TREN) and the SAFEMED Project team was held in Brussels on the 1 December 2008 to review the Project's progress and discuss it's follow-up through the implementation of SAFEMED II.</p> <p>At the request of the EC's DG AidCo, in July 2007, three short-term experts were recruited to carry out preparatory work (including the preparation of the Technical Annex and budget) for a follow up SAFEMED II Project. The current SAFEMED Project team prepared the terms of reference for these three short-term experts and co-ordinated their work. The reports of the three experts were forwarded to the EC in October 2007.</p> <p>Following further preparatory work, a contract for the SAFEMED II Project was concluded and signed in December 2007 between the EC and IMO (on behalf of REMPEC). In order to take into account the consolidated results of the SAFEMED Project, as agreed, a review of the SAFEMED II Technical Annex's provisionally agreed tasks and Budget breakdown was carried out in the first half of 2008 and was submitted for the consideration of the EC in June 2008. A final clean text of the Technical Annex was subsequently also agreed upon. An addendum to the SAFEMED II Project contract containing the Project's revised Technical Annex and budget was signed in December 2008.</p>

General Comments on Project Implementation

Overall, the Project has been largely implemented according to schedule. Almost all the Project's tasks have been successfully implemented. Short training sessions were generally a success, acting as a forum to provide and exchange information. Long-term training courses are attractive and very useful. However, not all the beneficiaries took full advantage of these courses and beneficiaries need to plan well in advance in order to nominate their officials to follow these long-term courses. In this regard, the lack of qualified personnel within the Administrations and insufficient knowledge of the English language have been a stumbling block. Regarding needs assessment missions and desk studies, there was generally good cooperation from the project beneficiaries. The choice of short-term experts was restricted by the project's standard consultancy rates. The situation in the region was a factor which affected the full implementation of the Project for some beneficiaries. Moreover, the security situation in certain beneficiaries caused delays in completing certain tasks and also eliminated the possibility of organising Project activities, such as seminars/workshops, in these beneficiaries.