
**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)**

11th Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional
Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre
for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.37/3/2
Date: 23 April 2015

Malta, 15-17 June 2015

Original: English

Agenda Item 3

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides brief information on the action to be taken by the Meeting.

Action to be taken: As indicated under each agenda item.

Related documents: REMPEC/WG.37/3/1 and REMPEC/WG.37/3/3.

Introduction

1. The 11th Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) is being convened in Malta between the 15 and 17 June 2015, pursuant to the decision of the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols which agreed that a meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC be organised during the 2014/2015 biennium (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.21/9, Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013).
2. The principal objectives of the Meeting are:
 - a) to examine the implementation of the programme of work of REMPEC since the 10th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC; and
 - b) to discuss and agree upon the Revised Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) as well as the proposed programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2016/2017, prior to their submission for approval by the next Meeting of the Focal Points of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and for adoption by the 19th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.
3. The Meeting will have a joint session with the meeting of MED POL Focal Points on 17 June 2015 with a view to reviewing the draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol) (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.417/5) as well as the main elements of a draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme with regard to the Ecological Objectives (EOs) of the pollution and litter cluster (EO 5 – Eutrophication, EO 9 – Contaminants, and EO 10 – Marine Litter) in the framework of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.417/6).

4. All REMPEC Governmental Focal Points have been invited to nominate jointly and in consultation with all national authorities concerned their representatives in the Meeting. The participation of observers representing the oil, chemical, port and shipping industries in national delegations has been strongly encouraged. The invitation to attend the Meeting has also been 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.

5. 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**

6. The Meeting will open on Monday, 15th June 2015 at 09.00 hours and is expected to close on Wednesday, 17th June 2015 at 17.00 hours.

Agenda Item 2 **Organization of the Meeting**

2.1 **Rules of Procedure**

7. 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 will be invited to elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur.

2.3 **Working Languages**

8. 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. Information documents will be available in their original language unless a translation is provided in the second working language.

Agenda Item 3 **Adoption of the Agenda**

9. The agenda, as proposed in document REMPEC/WG.37/3/1 and annotated in the present document, will be proposed for adoption by the Meeting. 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.37/3/3.

Agenda Item 4 **Progress Report on REMPEC's activities since the 10th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC**

10. The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.37/4 entitled "*Progress Report on REMPEC's activities since the 10th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC*", 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 2011.

The Meeting will be invited to comment and take note of the progress made in the implementation of REMPEC's activities.

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

11. The MAP representative will provide information on the most important initiatives taken by the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC. He will address in particular the 40th Anniversary of UNEP/MAP, the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) in the Mediterranean, as well as the process of development of the UNEP/MAP's Integrated Six-Year Programme of Work (Mid-Term Strategy) for the period 2016-2021 and the process of review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) which are expected to be adopted by the 19th Ordinary Meeting of

the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols to be tentatively held in February 2016. The MAP representative will also present the outcome of the functional review of UNEP/MAP and the co-operation between UNEP/MAP and the European Union.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided as well as to comment as deemed appropriate.

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

12. The representative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) will present document REMPEC/WG.37/6/1 and 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 address in particular the recent activities of IMO related to operational pollution, ballast water management, measures for enhancing energy efficiency of shipping 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 Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) that were carried out during the last period.

13. The representative of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) will introduce document REMPEC/WG.37/6/2 which provides information on the latest developments in the field of compensation for ship-source pollution damage and in particular on the dissolution of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund, 1971 (1971 Fund). He will highlight the implications for the Mediterranean coastal States of these developments.

14. The representative from IPIECA – The global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues will present document REMPEC/WG.37/6/3 and will inform the Meeting on the possible support of IPIECA towards strengthening the cooperation between IPIECA, IMO and REMPEC in the Mediterranean region.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided as well as to comment as deemed appropriate.

Agenda Item 7 **Activities related to ships' ballast water management and invasive species**

15. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.37/7 providing information on the status of implementation of the Project entitled "*Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries to Reduce the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water*", also referred to as the "GloBallast Partnerships" (GBP) Project, in the Mediterranean region, in particular the adoption by the 17th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Paris, France, 8-10 February 2012) of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management, including its Action Plan and Timetable as well as the "*General Guidance on the Voluntary Application of the D1 Ballast Water Exchange Standard by Vessels Operating between the Mediterranean Sea and the North-East Atlantic and/or the Baltic Sea*".

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in the above-mentioned document.

Agenda Item 8 **Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, and related activities**

16. The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.37/8 which provides information on the establishment of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS), including its Terms of Reference, as adopted by the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013), as well as related activities with regard to illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean and the development of the MENELAS' website.

17. The Meeting will also be informed of the forthcoming MENELAS' meeting to be tentatively held in the second half of 2015.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in the above-mentioned document.

Agenda Item 9 **Project proposal on preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution (oil and HNS)**

18. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.37/9 providing information on a project proposal on preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution (oil and HNS) that aims at providing assistance to Contracting Parties on the implementation of the related Specific Objectives of the Regional Strategy presented under Agenda Item 11.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in the above-mentioned document.

Agenda Item 10 **Data sharing, monitoring and reporting**

19. The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.37/10 which provides information on the current challenges and opportunities related to data sharing, monitoring and reporting, especially in the context of the REMPEC Country Profiles, the Mediterranean Integrated Geographical Information System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment and Response (MEDGIS-MAR), the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS) as well as the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) in the Mediterranean.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in the above-mentioned document.

Agenda Item 11 **Revision of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships**

20. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.37/11/1 outlining the process leading to the preparation of the Revised Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) and proposing minor revisions on the basis of the Report of the Meeting of National Experts on the Revision of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (Malta, 11-12 March 2015), as laid down in Document REMPEC/WG.37/11/2.

The Meeting will be invited to agree upon the Revised Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021), as may be amended during the Meeting, and to propose it for approval by the next Meeting of the MAP Focal Points prior to its submission for adoption by the 19th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

Agenda Item 12 **Cooperation between REMPEC and the European Commission as well as the European Maritime Safety Agency**

21. The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.37/12 which provides information on the on-going cooperation between REMPEC and the European Commission as well as the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and possible ways to strengthen cooperation.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in the above-mentioned document.

Agenda Item 13 **REMPEC's 40th Anniversary**

22. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.37/13 providing information on the proposed activities to celebrate REMPEC's 40th Anniversary in 2016.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in the above-mentioned document.

Agenda Item 14 **Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG)**

23. The Secretariat will introduce two documents related to the work of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG). Document REMPEC/WG.37/14/1 provides an update on the progress made by the MTWG since the 10th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC. Document REMPEC/WG.37/14/2 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 will be invited to take note of the information provided and to consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in the above-mentioned documents.

Agenda Item 15 **Proposed programme of work of REMPEC for biennium 2016/2017**

24. The Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.37/15 containing a proposed programme of work to be implemented by the Centre during the biennium 2016/2017.

The Meeting will be invited to consider, discuss, and agree upon a programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2016/2017, and to propose it for approval by the next Meeting of the MAP Focal Points prior to its submission for adoption by the 19th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

Agenda Item 16 **Other business**

25. The Meeting will be invited to consider any other matters that may be raised under this agenda item.

26. 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 17 **Adoption of the report of the Meeting**

27. A draft report of the Meeting will be submitted to the participants for consideration and adoption.

Agenda Item 18 **Closure of the Meeting**

28. The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairperson at 17.00 hours on Wednesday, 17 June 2015.