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

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

REMPEC/WG.37/9

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Agenda Item 9

**PROJECT PROPOSAL ON PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RESPONSE TO  
ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION (OIL AND HNS)**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**SUMMARY**

**Executive Summary:** The document provides information on project proposals 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 Revised Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) to be adopted by the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols tentatively scheduled in February 2016.

**Actions to be taken:** Paragraph 18

**Related documents:** REMPEC/WG.37/4, REMPEC/WG.37/11/2, REMPEC/WG.37/12 and REMPEC/WG.37/15.

**Introduction**

1 With a view to assisting the Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency ("the 1976 Emergency Protocol") and the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea ("the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol"), the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) has benefited from various sources of funding, including the Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (MTF), the International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) and several European Union (EU) funding mechanisms as well as voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean ("the Barcelona Convention").

2 These financial resources contributed to specific activities or to projects implemented by the Centre as Project Leader or as Partner. In both cases, the related activities were integrated in the programme of work of REMPEC adopted on a biennial basis by the Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

3 As far as EU-funded projects are concerned, the Centre implemented in the past few years the following projects, which are further detailed in document REMPEC/WG.37/4:

- .1 the EU-funded MEDA Regional Project "*Euromed Cooperation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships – SAFEMED*" –

<http://safemedproject.rempec.org/> – between 2006 and 2009 (SAFEMED I – MED 2005/109-573) and between 2010 and 2013 (SAFEMED II – MED 2007/147-568), an initiative of the European Commission developed in close cooperation with the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum (EUROMED). The beneficiary countries of the Project were: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. In April 2010, through additional Instrument of Pre-Accession funds, some SAFEMED II Tasks were also extended to the following Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) South East European States: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro.

- .2 the Project for Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions (POSOW) – <http://www.posow.org/> – co-financed by EU under the European Commission (EC) Civil Protection Financial Instrument between 2012 and 2013 (POSOW I), which benefited to European Mediterranean coastal States, namely Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia and Spain. Between 2015 and 2016 (POSOW II), the project was extended to Mediterranean European countries that are part of the European Neighbourhood Policy as well as Enlargement countries, namely: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.
- .3 the Mediterranean Decision Support System for Marine Safety Project (MEDESS-4MS) – <http://www.medess4ms.eu/> – co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) between 2012 and 2015. The beneficiary countries were European Mediterranean coastal States, namely Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Montenegro and Spain. However, all Mediterranean coastal States were involved in the implementation and have access to the products delivered by the project.

4 For SAFEMED I and SAFEMED II, the funds, respectively € 3,600,000 and € 4,825,658 were transferred to IMO, who administered the Centre and were used as well as managed by the Centre in close cooperation with IMO. In the case of POSOW I, coordinated by REMPEC, the totality of the funds € 124,469.77 were transferred to REMPEC and distributed to the Partners of the Project (i.e. Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale – ISPRA, Italy, the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution – Cedre, France, the Sea Alarm Foundation and the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe – CPMR). For POSOW II, the funds amounting to € 602,717 will be managed by Cedre who will distribute the corresponding shares to the Partners of the Project (REMPEC, ISPRA, the Instituto Portuario de Estudios y Cooperación de la Comunidad Valenciana – FEPORTS, Spain, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport – AASTMT, Egypt and the General Directorate of Maritime and Inland Waters – DG-MARINWA, Turkey. REMPEC's share for the implementation of its tasks under POSOW II is € 85,637 (including REMPEC voluntary contribution). As far as the Project MEDESS-4MS is concerned, the Department of Merchant Shipping (DMS) of Cyprus, as Lead Partner of the project, managed the € 6,122,199.35 budget and coordinated its use with twenty (20) Partners including REMPEC whose share was € 231,680 (including REMPEC voluntary contribution).

5 Whilst all the above-mentioned projects contributed to the enhancement of national and regional capacity in the field of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships, with the exception of POSOW II, the Mediterranean coastal States were not engaged in the preparation of the projects nor in their implementation, as partners of the said project.

6 In this regard, and considering that part of the budget could be allocated to the financing of some of the time of the national officer assigned by his/her national authority to support the implementation of the following projects, the Secretariat proposes to involve the potential beneficiary countries, namely Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia, as partners of the Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation in the Western Mediterranean Region Project (West MOPoCo Project) and the Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Exercise in the Western Mediterranean Region Project (West MOPoEx Project), from the definition of the project proposals, including budget distribution to its implementation, should the project be ultimately funded. A brief description of the projects is presented in the **Annex** to the present document.

### **Background and rational**

7 It is recalled that, following the announcement by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) of the Call for proposals 2014 for prevention and preparedness projects in the field of civil protection and marine pollution, REMPEC requested, in its

Circular Letter No. 04/2014 dated 4 February 2014, REMPEC OPRC Focal Points from the concerned countries, namely Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia, to confirm their interest in submitting a joint project proposal. As notified by REMPEC's Circular Letter No.11/2014 dated 11 April 2014, due to the limited confirmations of interest received from the possible beneficiary countries for the proposed projects and, considering the limited time available for the preparation of these proposals which required considerable planning, it was decided to postpone the submission of these proposals.

8 Therefore, the Secretariat proposes to initiate the preparation of the project proposals in October 2015, should the Meeting agree with such proposals, in view of a submission to the call for proposals 2016 for prevention and preparedness projects in the field of civil protection and marine pollution and for Union Civil Protection Mechanism Exercises.

9 The following factors that have driven REMPEC to consider submitting the projects proposals namely, the West MOPoCo and the West MOPoEx Projects, to the present Meeting, are:

- .1 the extension of the beneficiary country eligibility under the EC Civil Protection Financial Instrument to European Neighbourhood Policy, as detailed in Decision No 1313/2013/EU;
- .2 the proposal under consideration by the EU to make accessible the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) to all regional agreements and their Contracting Parties;
- .3 the complementarity of CECIS and the Mediterranean Integrated Geographical Information System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment and Response (MEDGIS-MAR – <http://medgismar.rempec.org/>) developed in the framework of the Project MEDESS-4MS, which provides *inter alia* operational information on response equipment, as well as environmental and socio-economic sensitivity maps;
- .4 the recommendations resulting from the Workshop on Regional Response Capacity and Coordination for Major Oil Spill in the Mediterranean Sea (MEDEXPOL 2013), organised by REMPEC in Athens, Greece between the 10 and 12 December 2013, namely to:
  - identify duplication/overlapping/gaps between the EU and regional initiatives and obligations including *inter alia* inventories and reporting obligations, better coordination of projects and activities financed through various funding mechanisms at European and regional level, and
  - improve cooperation arrangements and synergies between the EU and regional mechanisms including *inter alia* coordination arrangement in case of emergency (e.g. between ERCC and REMPEC) and reporting procedure (e.g. CECIS / Regional Information System – RIS).
- .5 the need for enhanced cooperation between REMPEC and the oil industry in the Mediterranean region;
- .6 the conclusions drawn up by the Project POSOW, which underlined that the shoreline response structure is organised differently from a country to another, and in some country the responsibility is unclear or not clearly regulated, as well as identified the need:
  - to assess the regulations and operational arrangements related to the shoreline oil spill response, at a national and local level, and
  - to identify the necessary measures to integrate within the national contingency plan the coordination of shoreline and at sea response.
- .7 the request of the Meeting of National Experts on the Revision of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, held in Malta between the 11 and 12 March 2015, as reported in paragraph 65 of document REMPEC/WG.37/11/2, to address possible funding opportunities to contribute to the implementation of Specific Objective 19 of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of

and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2005-2015) – To increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances; and

- .8 the relevance of such projects to assist Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and the Secretariat in the implementation of the Revised Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) to be adopted by the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols tentatively scheduled in February 2016, hereinafter referred to as the “Regional Strategy (2016-2021)”, as detailed in the following section.
- 10 The main objectives of the West MOPoCo and West MOPoEx Projects are respectively to:
- .1 enhance cooperation between Western Mediterranean countries in the field of preparedness for and response to marine pollution; and
- .2 to improve the coordination of emergencies simultaneously affecting Western Mediterranean countries by providing a testing environment for CECIS and other regional tools made available by REMPEC as well as provide a learning opportunity for all actors involved in emergency operation in the Mediterranean region.

#### **Links between the proposed Projects and the Regional Strategy (2016-2021)**

11 Taking into account that any project implemented by REMPEC should primarily aim at assisting the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), the following table reflects the contribution of the expected deliverables under the proposed projects towards the implementation of relevant Specific Objectives of the said Regional Strategy (2016-2021).

<b>West MOPoCo Project</b>	
<b>Expected deliverables</b>	<b>Related Specific Objectives (SO) of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021)</b>
Harmonization of key elements of national contingency plan of Western Mediterranean countries;	SO 22. To strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans.
Enhanced coordination between shoreline and at sea response;	
Peer review of national contingency plan and gap analysis;	
Reinforcement of operational procedures between Western Mediterranean countries through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the review/update/upgrade of existing operational arrangements;</li> <li>- the extension, as required, of existing operational arrangements;</li> <li>- the establishment/reinforcement of synergies between the existing sub-regional agreements and any other related bilateral or multilateral agreements;</li> </ul>	
Identification of capacities that could be shared;	SO 16. To ensure that adequate emergency towing capacity is available throughout the Mediterranean to assist vessels, including tankers, in distress.  SO.17. To enhance the levels of pre-positioned spill response equipment under the direct control of Mediterranean States.
Integration of response and coordination tools in operational and coordination arrangement; and	SO 19. To improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of decision-making process in case of marine pollution incidents through the development and introduction of technical and decision support tools.
Strengthened cooperation with the oil industry operating in the Western Mediterranean region.	SO 22. To strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans.

<b>West MOPoEx Project</b>	
<b>Expected deliverables</b>	<b>Related Specific Objectives (SO) of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021)</b>
Test the inter-operability of sub-regional operational arrangements and any other related bilateral or multilateral agreements;	SO 22. To strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans.
Communication exercise and Table Top Exercise (TTX) in preparation of the full scale exercise;	SO 20. To increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances.
Full Scale Exercise (FSX) testing two coordination levels [operational centre level (at EU and at Participating State level) and field level];	
Quicker dispatch time, improved cooperation arrangements, better communication between headquarters and field, identification of shortcomings in the existing structures;	SO 22. To strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans.
Strengthened cooperation with the oil industry operating in the Western Mediterranean region; and	
Draft decision on the integration of CECIS and other regional tools made available by REMPEC in the regional response and coordination mechanism to be adopted by the 20th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. in late 2017 or early 2018.	SO 19. To improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of decision-making process in case of marine pollution incidents through the development and introduction of technical and decision support tools.

Table 1. Contribution of expected deliverables towards the implementation of relevant Specific Objectives of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021)

### **Proposed way forward**

12 The Secretariat proposes, through the two project proposals, to enhance cooperation in the field of preparedness for and response to marine pollution in a pilot area (Western Mediterranean region). Based on the lessons learnt from the implementation of the projects, the Secretariat further proposes to consider replicating the experience in other parts of the Mediterranean region, and to submit similar project proposals to the call for proposals 2018 for prevention and preparedness projects in the field of civil protection and marine pollution and for Union Civil Protection Mechanism Exercises, with a view to initiating the projects in January 2019.

13 To achieve the objectives detailed in paragraph 10 of the present document, the Secretariat proposes to involve as partners *inter alia* the National competent authorities from the beneficiary countries, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the oil industry, with REMPEC as regional coordinator of the projects.

14 It should be noted that REMPEC originally considered a single project covering all elements described in the **Annex** to the present document, however, while some preparatory work is eligible, a Civil Protection Mechanism Exercise is expected to put the main efforts in the implementation of a marine oil & HNS pollution exercise, therefore, the activities proposed under West MOPoCo Project should be considered as a separate project proposal.

15 It should be further noted that, in order to ensure consistency between activities financed at EU level and national civil protection and marine pollution policies, it is a requirement of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism to notify the Civil Protection Departments in the envisaged beneficiary countries about the intention of submitting the above-mentioned project proposals.

16 Should the Meeting and the concerned beneficiary countries agree with these proposals, the Secretariat proposes to prepare, under the coordination of REMPEC and in cooperation with all involved partners, a draft of the full project proposals providing details on the related activities, budget and partners' responsibilities.

17 Considering that the next call for proposals for prevention and preparedness projects in the field of civil protection and marine pollution and for Union Civil Protection Mechanism Exercises will most likely be announced in February or March 2016, and to ensure that all parties involved in the project proposals will be given sufficient time to contribute to the proposals and to provide the required administrative supporting documents, the Secretariat proposes to initiate the preparation as

from October 2015. The implementation phase of the projects following the selection process would start in January 2017 and would need to be completed by December 2018. Therefore, the conclusion of the Meeting on the present agenda item should be taken into consideration during the deliberations on the proposed programme of work of REMPEC for biennium 2016/2017 under Agenda Item 15.

**Actions requested by the Meeting**

**18 The Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 **take note** of the information provided in the present document; and
- .2 **consider** the proposals put forward by the Secretariat, as laid down in paragraphs 6, 8, 12, 13, 16 and 17 of the present document.

## Annex

### West MOPoCo Project

**Project Title:**

Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation in the Western Mediterranean region (West MOPoCo Project).

**Proposed Beneficiary Countries:**

Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Monaco<sup>1</sup>, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia.

**Proposed Partners:**

Competent authorities from beneficiary countries, EMSA, the oil industry and REMPEC as coordinator.

**Project Duration:**

2 years (January 2017 – December 2018).

**Budget:**

According to the Call for proposals 2015 for prevention and preparedness projects in the field of civil protection and marine pollution, the maximum EU funding rate (percentage of the eligible costs according to the project budget) is up to 75 % of the total project eligible costs with a maximum of € **800,000** EU contribution for each financed project. Partners should contribute the remaining 25% of the budget (e.g. staff time contribution). A pre-financing payment of 70% can be made.

**Main objectives:**

Enhance cooperation between Western Mediterranean countries in the field of preparedness for and response to marine pollution.

**Expected deliverables:**

- Harmonization of key elements of national contingency plan of Western Mediterranean countries;
- Enhanced coordination between shoreline and at sea response;
- Peer review of national contingency plan and gap analysis;
- Reinforcement of operational procedures between Western Mediterranean countries through:
  - the review/update/upgrade of existing operational arrangements;
  - the extension, as required, of existing operational arrangements;
  - the establishment/reinforcement of synergies between the existing sub-regional Agreements (RAMOGE – France, Italy and Monaco, the Lion Plan – France-Spain, the Agreement concerning the Sub-Regional Contingency Plan for the South-Western Mediterranean – Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia and any other related bilateral or multilateral agreements); and
  - Identification of capacities that could be shared.
- Integration of European and Mediterranean response and coordination tools in operational and coordination arrangement; and
- Strengthened cooperation with the oil industry operating in the Western Mediterranean region.

**Modus operandi:**

- Establishment of a Steering Committee involving all partners;
- Establishment of a peer review team composed of partners' representatives;
- Meetings/onsite visits/deskwork for the peer review;
- Workshops and training to enhance capacity and implement any countermeasures identified by the Gap Analysis; and
- Review the National and Sub-Regional contingency plans and annexes according to the Gap Analysis.

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<sup>1</sup> Monaco is not eligible for funding under this project and would have to cover the cost of its participation.

## MOPoEx Project

### **Project Title:**

Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Exercise in the Western Mediterranean region (West MOPoEx Project)

### **Beneficiary Countries:**

Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Monaco<sup>2</sup>, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia.

### **Partners:**

Competent authorities from beneficiary countries, EMSA and REMPEC.

### **Project Duration:**

2 years (January 2017 – December 2018).

### **Budget:**

According to the Call for proposals for Civil Protection Mechanism Exercises 2015, the financing of exercises could be secured through the Civil Protection Financial Instrument. The maximum co-funding rate is established at 85% of eligible costs, with a maximum of € 1,000,000 for each financed proposal. The remaining 15% should be covered by Partners.

### **Main objectives:**

Enhance cooperation between Western Mediterranean countries in the field of preparedness for and response to marine pollution, to improve the coordination of emergencies simultaneously affecting Western Mediterranean countries by providing a testing environment for the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) and other regional tools made available by REMPEC and provide a learning opportunity for all actors involved in emergency operation in the Mediterranean region.

### **Expected deliverables:**

- Test the inter-operability of sub-regional operational Agreements (RAMOGE – France, Italy and Monaco, the Lion Plan – France-Spain, the Agreement concerning the Sub-Regional Contingency Plan for the South-Western Mediterranean – Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, and any other related bilateral or multilateral agreements);
- Communication exercise and Table Top Exercise (TTX) in preparation of the full scale exercise;
- Full Scale Exercise (FSX) testing two coordination levels [operational centre level (at EU and at Participating State level) and field level];
- Quicker dispatch time, improved cooperation arrangements, better communication between headquarters and field, identification of shortcomings in the existing structures;
- Strengthened cooperation with the oil industry operating in the Western Mediterranean region; and
- Draft decision on the integration of CECIS and other regional tools made available by REMPEC in the regional response and coordination mechanism to be adopted by the 20th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in late 2017 or early 2018.

### **Modus operandi:**

- Establishment of a Steering Committee involving all partners;
- Coordination meetings for the preparation of the full scale exercise;
- FSX preceded by a TTX, and includes a command post exercise part;
- Mobilization of partners' resources (personnel and response means) during the FSX;
- Debriefing session and integration of the lessons learnt in the operational arrangements;
- Update and use of CECIS and other regional tools made available by REMPEC; and
- Meeting for draft decision on the integration of CECIS and other tools delivered by EU Projects (e.g. MEDESS-4MS).

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<sup>2</sup> Monaco is not eligible for funding under this project and would have to cover the cost of its participation.