



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

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

REMPEC/WG.45/3/2
Date: 6 June 2019

Malta, 11-13 June 2019

Original: English

Agenda Item 3

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DRAFT TIMETABLE

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides brief information on the actions to be taken by the Meeting as well as a draft timetable for the Meeting. This timetable prepared by the Secretariat is of a tentative nature and may be modified by the Meeting, as appropriate.

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

Related documents: UNEP/IG.43/6, REMPEC/WG.45/3/1, REMPEC/WG.45/4,
REMPEC/WG.45/5, REMPEC/WG.45/6/1, REMPEC/WG.45/6/2,
REMPEC/WG.45/7, REMPEC/WG.45/8, REMPEC/WG.45/9/1,
REMPEC/WG.45/9/2, REMPEC/WG.45/10, REMPEC/WG.45/11,
REMPEC/WG.45/12/1, REMPEC/WG.45/12/2, REMPEC/WG.45/12/3,
REMPEC/WG.45/13/1, REMPEC/WG.45/13/2, REMPEC/WG.45/14,
REMPEC/WG.45/INF.4, REMPEC/WG.45/INF.5, REMPEC/WG.45/INF.6,
REMPEC/WG.45/INF.7, REMPEC/WG.45/INF.8, REMPEC/WG.45/INF.9,
REMPEC/WG.45/INF.10, REMPEC/WG.45/INF.11, REMPEC/WG.45/INF.12,
REMPEC/WG.45/INF.13, REMPEC/WG.45/INF.14, REMPEC/WG.45/INF.15,
REMPEC/WG.45/INF.16, REMPEC/WG.45/INF.17, REMPEC/WG.45/INF.18
and REMPEC/WG.45/INF.19

Introduction

1 The Thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) is being convened in Floriana, Malta from 11 to 13 June 2019, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2018-2019 of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP, adopted by the Twentieth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean ("the Barcelona Convention") and its Protocols (COP 20) (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017).

2 The principal objectives of the Meeting are:

- .1 to examine the implementation of the Programme of Work of REMPEC since the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (St. Julian's, Malta, 23-25 May 2017); and
- .2 to discuss and agree upon the proposed Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2020-2021, prior to its submission, for approval by the next Meeting of the

UNEP/MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019), and for adoption by the Twenty-first Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 21) (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019).

3 All REMPEC Governmental Focal Points were invited to nominate, jointly and in consultation with their respective REMPEC Prevention and OPRC Focal Points, their representatives in the Meeting. The participation of observers representing the oil, chemical, port and shipping industries in national delegations was strongly encouraged. The invitation to attend the Meeting was also extended to the specialised agencies of the United Nations, other governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as to the international professional organisations and associations, the activities of which are relevant to the work of the Centre.

4 In order to assist the Meeting in its work, the Secretariat prepared the following annotations to the proposed provisional agenda of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 **Opening of the Meeting**

5 The Meeting will open on Tuesday, 11 June 2019 at 0900 hours and is expected to close on Thursday, 13 June 2019 at 1600 hours.

Agenda Item 2 **Organisation 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 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. 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**

8 The agenda, as proposed in document REMPEC/WG.45/3/1 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 the **Annex** to the present document.

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

9 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.45/4, which sets out an outline of the activities carried out by the Centre since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC.

10 In doing so, the Secretariat will refer to relevant Specific Objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021), hereinafter referred to as the Regional Strategy (2016-2021).

11 The Secretariat will also briefly refer to the following documents:

- .1 the Report of the Second Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS) (Valletta, Malta, 28-29 November 2017), as laid down in the document REMPEC/WG.45/INF.13;

- .2 the Report of the Regional Workshop on Response to Spill Incidents involving Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) (MEDEXPOL 2018) (Valletta, Malta, 20-21 June 2018) as set out in the document REMPEC/WG.45/INF.14; and
- .3 the Report of the Regional Workshop on Ratification and Effective Implementation of MARPOL Annex VI (Valletta, Malta, 11-13 December 2018), as reproduced in the document REMPEC/WG.45/INF.15.

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

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

12 Under this agenda item, the representative of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.45/5 providing information on the developments within UNEP/MAP since the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC. She will refer to the main decisions adopted at COP 20 (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017), which are of relevance to the work of the Centre. She will also refer to the recent ratifications of 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”) to the Barcelona Convention as well as 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) to the Barcelona Convention. She will summarise the recent meetings of bodies of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, the main international and regional meetings and processes of UNEP/MAP relevance as well as the progress in relation to projects and activities during the current reporting period. She will then share relevant information on the preparations for COP 21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) as well as the process in enhancing cooperation and partnership with relevant stakeholders.

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**

13 The representative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) will introduce document REMPEC/WG.45/6/1, which provides a summary of the latest developments within the IMO in the fields of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships. In particular, she will address the recent activities of the IMO related to the action plan to address marine plastic litter from ships, ballast water management, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from ships and measures for enhancing energy efficiency of shipping, the implementation of the sulphur limit, as well as the mandatory data collection system for fuel oil consumption of ships. She will also refer to developments related to the Guidelines on Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems as well as controls on anti-fouling systems. Special reference will be made to the activities of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) and the IMO’s Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR), including the approval of part IV of the Guidelines for the use of dispersants for combating oil pollution at sea and the Guidance on practical implementation of the OPRC Convention and the OPRC-HNS Protocol, as well as the consideration of the recommendations resulting from MEDEXPOL 2018 addressing the outstanding challenges related to the ratification and implementation of the OPRC-HNS Protocol. She will also recall the support provided through IMO’s Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP).

14 The representative of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) will present document REMPEC/WG.45/6/2 providing information on the latest developments in the field of compensation for ship-source pollution damage and the work of the IOPC Funds since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC. He will highlight to the Mediterranean coastal States, the implications of those recent developments and of the decisions of the IOPC Funds’ governing bodies as well as resulting output of the Organisation during that period. Particular reference will be made to the 40th Anniversary of the IOPC Funds, the status of the 1992 Fund Convention and Supplementary Fund Protocol and the incidents involving Mediterranean coastal States. He will also address cooperation arrangements, relevant insurance and HNS issues, and will introduce the online claims submission system, promotional material as well as new publications.

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

Agenda Item 7 **Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) and future steps**

15 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.45/7 providing an overview of the status of implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) as well as information on on-going cooperation in the Mediterranean and possible ways to strengthen it in the context of the preparation of a post 2021 Regional Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships. Particular reference will be made to the support provided for the full implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), through resource mobilisation, the preparation of National Action Plans and the expansion of the cooperation with regional and international organisations, bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies, and other relevant actors, including the private sector.

16 In this context, the representative of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) will introduce the SAFEMED IV, EuroMed Maritime Safety Project, and the representative of France to present the West MOPoCo Project, which are further detailed in the document REMPEC/WG.45/INF.19 providing an overview of projects and activities relevant to the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021).

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 **Data sharing, monitoring and reporting**

17 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.45/8, which outlines the progress made on data sharing, monitoring and reporting since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Malta, 23-25 May 2017).

18 In particular, the Secretariat will introduce tools and systems available at Mediterranean level for data sharing, monitoring and reporting on marine pollution from ships and will refer to the systems in place at international and European level as detailed in the documents REMPEC/WG.45/INF.4 and REMPEC/WG.45/INF.6, respectively. The Secretariat will recall the Decision IG.23/11 related to the Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents and will refer to discussion held at the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) on exchanges of pollution incident reports. The Secretariat will then address national data access right related issues and refer to the InfoMAP Data Management Policy (REMPEC/WG.45/INF.5).

19 Furthermore, the Secretariat will present the Mediterranean Quality Status Reports and the 2019-State of the Environment and Development Report as well as the progress made to address identified gaps, while proposing further measures to standardise monitoring and reporting format for the pollution from ships.

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 **Better management of marine litter from sea-based sources in ports and marinas in the Mediterranean**

20 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present documents REMPEC/WG.45/9/1 and REMPEC/WG.45/9/2 respectively setting out an outline of the process leading to the preparation of the following documents:

- .1 the Operational Guidelines on the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes in the Mediterranean, hereinafter referred to as the "Operational Guidelines", as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.45/9/1; and

- .2 the Guidance Document to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of the No-Special-Fee system, in the Mediterranean, hereinafter referred to as the “Guidance Document”, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.45/9/2.

21 In doing so, the Secretariat will also refer to the study based on a literature review on existing best practices in the Mediterranean as well as other European Regional Seas for the application of charges at reasonable costs and of the No-Special-Fee system for the use of port reception facilities, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.45/INF.8.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided as well as to examine and agree upon the Operational Guidelines and the Guidance Document, and to request the Secretariat to submit them for approval by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points.

Agenda Item 10 **Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) and related activities**

22 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.45/10 providing information on the achievements of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU), which provides immediate expert assistance at no cost for the Mediterranean coastal States to respond to oil and chemical spills at sea, and proposes ways forward to further strengthen the MAU for the benefit of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. In particular, the Secretariat will highlight the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the MAU and will recall its areas of expertise, its composition as well as related mobilisation procedures and financing mechanism through the established MAU Revolving Fund. While highlighting lessons learnt from a recent mobilisation of MAU experts, the Secretariat will also address some areas of developments.

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

Agenda Item 11 **Examining the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as SO_x emission control area (ECA) under MARPOL Annex VI**

23 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.45/11, which outlines developments with regard to examining the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea, or parts thereof, as sulphur oxides (SO_x) Emission Control Area(s) (ECA(s)) under Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), pursuant to Specific Objective 15 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021).

24 In particular, the Secretariat will present the progress made by the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts in this respect and will refer to the following documents:

- .1 the technical and feasibility study to examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea, or parts thereof, as SO_x ECA(s) under MARPOL Annex VI, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.45/INF.9;
- .2 the initial draft submission to the IMO entitled “Proposal to Designate the Mediterranean Sea area, [or parts thereof,] as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides [and Particulate Matter]”, as laid down in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.45/INF.10;
- .3 the Technical feasibility study for the implementation of an emission control area (ECA) in EU waters with focus on the Mediterranean Sea, as presented in REMPEC/WG.45/INF.11;
- .4 the Technical Feasibility Study for the implementation of an emission control area (ECA) in the Mediterranean Sea, as presented in REMPEC/WG.45/INF.12; and
- .5 the Report of the Regional Workshop on Ratification and Effective Implementation of MARPOL Annex VI (Valletta, Malta, 11-13 December 2018), as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.45/INF.15.

25 Furthermore, the Secretariat will present the recommendations, including the road map for the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea area, or parts thereof, as an ECA for SO_x and

Particulate Matter under MARPOL Annex VI within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, hereinafter referred to as the proposed Med ECA, which address the specific issues raised by the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, namely the type of emissions to be controlled within the proposed Med ECA, the geographical scope as well as the necessary knowledge gathering and further studies.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided, to consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in document REMPEC/WG.45/11, as well as to agree upon the road map and request the Secretariat to submit it for approval by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points.

Agenda Item 12 **Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) and related activities**

26 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.45/12/1 providing an update on the progress made by the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) since the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC and proposing future activities to be integrated to the programme of work of the MTWG for the biennium 2020-2021.

27 The Secretariat will then present document REMPEC/WG.45/12/2, which describes the process leading to the preparation of the final version of the revised Guide for Risks of Gaseous Releases resulting from Maritime Accidents, as laid down in Appendix to the said document.

28 The representative from the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre) will introduce document REMPEC/WG.45/12/3, which reports the main outcome of the Joint Inter-Regional HNS Response Manual Preparatory Meeting.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat and Cedre in the above-mentioned documents, to adopt the Guide for risks of gaseous releases resulting from maritime accidents, and to examine and provide comments, as required on the proposed Joint Inter-Regional HNS Response Manual initial draft table of content.

Agenda Item 13 **Mediterranean Common Offshore Guidelines and Standards**

29 The Secretariat will present the documents REMPEC/WG.45/13/1 and REMPEC/WG.45/13/2, which outline respectively the process leading to the preparation of the Draft Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Draft Guidance on the Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures and on the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings. In doing so, the Secretariat will also refer to document REMPEC/WG.45/INF.16 and REMPEC/WG.45/INF.17, which describe the best practice and guidance documentation reviewed and the rationale for the preparation of the Mediterranean Offshore Guidelines and Standards.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided, as well as to examine and agree upon the draft common standards and guidelines, as laid down in the Annex of the documents REMPEC/WG.45/13/1 and REMPEC/WG.45/13/2, prior to their submission the next Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) and to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points.

Agenda Item 14 **Proposed Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2020-2021**

30 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.45/14, which presents, in its Annex, the proposed programme of work to be implemented by the Centre during the biennium 2020-2021, and explains the rationale used to prepare it.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided as well as to consider, discuss, and agree upon the proposed programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2020-2021, prior to its submission for approval by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points and for adoption by COP 21.

Agenda Item 15 **Other business**

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

32 In particular, the representative of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) will present document REMPEC/WG.45/INF.18 providing an overview of the outcome of the INTERPOL Operation 30 Days at Sea.

33 Furthermore, the representative of the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research Institute of Oceanography will introduce document REMPEC/WG.45/INF.7 summarising the outcome of the study of the short- and medium-term environmental consequences of the sinking of the AGIA ZONI II tanker on the marine ecosystem of the Saronikos Gulf.

34 Finally, the representative of the Sea Alarm Foundation will deliver a presentation on recent developments in the field of oiled wildlife response.

35 Under this agenda item, organisations wishing to provide brief information on some of their activities that may be of interest to the Meeting will also be given the opportunity to do so.

Agenda Item 16 **Adoption of the report of the Meeting**

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

Agenda Item 17 **Closure of the Meeting**

37 The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairperson on Thursday, 13 June 2019 at 1600 hours.

Annex – Draft timetable

Day 1 – Tuesday, 11 June 2019		
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Registration of the participants</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Agenda Item 1	Opening of the Meeting
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break	
10:30 – 11:00	Agenda Item 2	Organisation of the Meeting
	Agenda Item 3	Adoption of the Agenda
11:00 – 11:30	Agenda Item 4	Progress Report on REMPEC's activities since the Eleventh Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC
11:30 – 12:00	Agenda Item 5	Developments within UN Environment/MAP related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC
12:00 – 12:30	Agenda Item 6	Developments within IMO related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:45	Agenda Item 7	Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) and future steps
14:45 – 15:30	Agenda Item 8	Data sharing, monitoring and reporting
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00 – 16:45	Agenda Item 8 (cont.)	Data sharing, monitoring and reporting (cont.)
16:45 – 17:30	Agenda Item 11	Examining the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as SO _x emission control area (ECA) under MARPOL Annex VI

Day 2 – Wednesday, 12 June 2019		
09:00 – 09:45	Agenda Item 11 (cont.)	Examining the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as SO _x emission control area (ECA) under MARPOL Annex VI
09:45 – 10:30	Agenda Item 10	Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) and related activities
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 11:45	Agenda Item 9	Better Management of marine litter from sea-based sources in ports and marinas in the Mediterranean
11:45 – 12:30	Agenda Item 12	Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) and related activities
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:30	Agenda Item 13	Mediterranean Common Offshore Guidelines and Standards
14:30 – 15:30	Agenda Item 14	Proposed Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2020-2021
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00 – 17:00	Agenda Item 14 (cont.)	Proposed Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2020-2021
17:00 – 17:30	Agenda Item 15	Other business

Day 3 – Thursday, 13 June 2019		
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 – 15:30	Agenda Item 16	Adoption of the report of the Meeting
15:30 – 16:00	Agenda Item 17	Closure of the Meeting