



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention



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

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

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Agenda Item 11: Any Other Business

REMPEC'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

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Note by the Secretariat

This document provides a comprehensive proposal for the events and activations planned to celebrate REMPEC's 50th Anniversary in 2026. The proposal outlines the key activities and initiatives, providing a roadmap for the celebrations.

Background

1 The "Regional Oil Combating Centre" (ROCC) was established in 1976 by the Contracting Parties to address the growing need for enhanced cooperation among Mediterranean coastal States in managing large-scale marine oil spills. The goal was to strengthen these States' capacities in dealing with oil pollution through collaboration, the development of national strategies, and the creation of a regional information system designed to respond quickly and effectively to pollution emergencies.

2 As global challenges evolved, so did the Centre's mandate. Over time, its role expanded to include proactive measures against marine pollution from ships, focusing not just on responding to pollution incidents, but also on preventing them. In 1989, the Centre's name was changed to the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC). REMPEC operates under the administration of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), in collaboration with the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP).

3 In 2001, the Centre's mandate was further extended with the adoption of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol (2002). This reaffirmed REMPEC's role in both preventing and responding to marine pollution, solidifying its position as a key player in safeguarding the Mediterranean's marine environment. REMPEC's mandate was last updated in November 2009.

Objective and Mission Statement

4 REMPEC's objective is to contribute to preventing and reducing pollution from ships and combating pollution in case of emergency. In this respect, the mission of REMPEC is to assist the Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under Articles 4(1), 6 and 9 of the Barcelona Convention; the 1976 Emergency Protocol; the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and implementing the Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2021-2031), adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2021, which key objectives and targets are reflected in the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). The Centre will also assist the Contracting Parties which so request in mobilizing the regional and international assistance in case of an emergency under the Offshore Protocol.

Key Milestones and Achievements of REMPEC Over the Past 49 Years

5 Strengthening National and Regional Preparedness:

- .1 assisted many Mediterranean coastal states in developing national marine pollution contingency plans, with 17 countries now having operational systems; and
- .2 facilitated sub-regional agreements for coordinated spill response among neighbouring countries, enhancing collective preparedness.

6 Emergency Response and Support:

- .1 established a 24/7 emergency response system with expert support through the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU); and
- .2 provided technical advice and coordinated international assistance during crises, including the 2006 Lebanon oil spill and 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill.

7 Information Sharing and Decision Support:

- .1 developed digital resources, including the Mediterranean Oil Spill Waste Management Guidelines and decision-support tools like [MIDSIS](#), [MEDGIS-MAR](#), and waste management systems; and
- .2 maintained records of major Mediterranean marine pollution incidents since 1977.

8 Capacity Building and Training:

- .1 trained over 5,000 government officials and volunteers through IMO Model Courses and specialised programs; and
- .2 conducted national, sub-regional, and regional exercises to improve response effectiveness.

9 Infrastructure and Waste Management:

- .1 compiled an inventory of port reception facilities, supporting investments to upgrade waste management systems; and
- .2 played a role in securing special area status for the Mediterranean under MARPOL Annexes V and VI, enforcing stricter waste disposal rules.

10 Strengthening Maritime Law Enforcement:

- .1 assisted in developing national legislation to enforce MARPOL regulations and combat illicit discharges; and
- .2 established the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials (MENELAS) and coordinated aerial surveillance operations.

11 Addressing Environmental Risks:

- .1 led initiatives on ballast water management, developing the Ballast Water Management Mediterranean Strategy (2023 – 2027) and voluntary guidelines to prevent invasive species; and
- .2 developed best practice guidelines for minimising pollution from pleasure craft activities.

12 Policy and Strategic Frameworks:

- .1 developed and updated the Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2005-2015, 2016-2021, 2022-2031); and

.2 Supported Mediterranean countries in implementing EU-funded projects like SAFEMED to enhance maritime safety and pollution prevention and Marine Litter MED to enhance waste management generated from ships in ports.

REMPEC'S 50th Anniversary Celebration Proposal

13 As REMPEC approaches its 50th anniversary, this milestone presents an opportunity to reflect on its achievements, reinforce its mission, and engage stakeholders in celebrating five decades of dedication to the protection of the Mediterranean marine environment. This proposal outlines a series of initiatives and intended to commemorate this significant occasion, highlighting REMPEC's impact while fostering awareness and collaboration for the future.

- **50th Anniversary Logo and Theme**



14 This redesigned REMPEC 50th-anniversary logo embodies a refined and modern interpretation of the Centre's milestone. The sleek "50" symbolises five decades of progress, utilising a contemporary and balanced font. At the heart of the design, the central emblem has been reimagined, featuring stylised sailing ships enclosed within a newly designed laurel wreath—representing maritime heritage, sustainability, and achievement.

15 The blue and gold colour palette reflects the Mediterranean's depth and significance, reinforcing its value and importance. Complementing this visual identity, the phrase "**Our Mediterranean, Our Responsibility**" underscores a collective commitment to marine preservation.

16 This anniversary logo is closely tied to the "**Our Mediterranean, Our Responsibility**" campaign, which aimed to raise awareness about the Mediterranean Sulphur Emission Control Area (Med SO_x ECA).

17 As a continuation of the **Med SO_x ECA campaign**, this initiative highlights the critical role of compliance in protecting the Mediterranean's environment, emphasising that safeguarding our shared Mediterranean waters is a collective responsibility.

- **Commemorative Event**

18 It is proposed that during 2026, REMPEC organises a Commemorative Event. The programme of the Commemorative Event will be designed to celebrate REMPEC's achievements over the past 50 years, engage Contracting Parties and key partners and stakeholders, and set the stage for the Centre's future direction. The event will highlight REMPEC's impact while fostering discussions on the next phase of its journey.

- **Commemorative Plaque**

19 A commemorative plaque is proposed to honour REMPEC's 50th anniversary, serving as a lasting tribute to the Centre's achievements and contributions to the protection of the Mediterranean marine environment. The plaque could be officially unveiled during the commemorative event, symbolising the milestone and reinforcing REMPEC's commitment to its mission. Following the event, the plaque could be installed at REMPEC's premises as a permanent reminder of the Centre's legacy, in marine environment protection and regional cooperation.

- **Conference Pins**

21 Custom-designed conference pins are proposed to commemorate REMPEC's 50th anniversary, serving as a meaningful keepsake for attendees. The pins can be distributed to all participants at REMPEC meeting, reinforcing a sense of unity and shared responsibility among Contracting Parties, Partners, stakeholders, and industry representatives.

- **Commemorative Video**

22 The creation of a commemorative video is proposed to be disseminated to all Contracting Parties and stakeholders, as well as across all REMPEC's digital media, after its launch.

23 The video will be animated, approximately 3 to 5 minutes long, and titled '*A 50-Year Journey*'. This video will serve as a powerful visual narrative, highlighting the key milestones and achievements of REMPEC over the past five decades, while also looking forward to the future of marine protection in the Mediterranean.

- **Commemorative Brochure**

24 A commemorative brochure is proposed to be created and distributed during REMPEC activities. This brochure will provide an overview of REMPEC's 50-year journey, key milestones, and its significant contributions to marine protection in the Mediterranean. It will include a message from

leadership, highlights of past achievements, and insights into the future direction of REMPEC. The brochure will also be uploaded to REMPEC's website for online access, ensuring that both event attendees and the wider public can explore the centre's legacy and vision for the future.

- **Digital Campaign**

25 A digital campaign is proposed, consisting of a set of Google banners, YouTube Ads, social media posts on LinkedIn, and a monthly newsletter, each aligned with the specific theme of the month. The Google banners and YouTube Ads will be launched one per month over a 12-month period, highlighting key milestones and achievements of REMPEC's 50-year journey. The social media posts on LinkedIn will further engage REMPEC's network of stakeholders, while the newsletters will offer in-depth insights, updates, and news about REMPEC's efforts and future goals. Each element of the campaign will be designed to reinforce REMPEC's visibility, raise awareness about its mission, and engage a wider audience, ensuring a sustained presence throughout the year.

- **Strategic Evolution for REMPEC**

26 As REMPEC marks its 50th anniversary, this milestone provides an opportunity to redefine its identity, strengthen its strategic direction, and enhance its visibility among maritime stakeholders and Mediterranean citizens. To ensure the Centre remains relevant and impactful in the decades to come, we propose a number of key initiatives.

- **A new name for the Centre**

27 The current name, "REMPEC," while significant within regulatory and maritime circles, lacks broader public recognition and engagement. The name is lengthy and does not immediately convey the Centre's core purpose.

28 As REMPEC moves forward into a new era, we propose a new name that is:

- .1 more concise and accessible, ensuring stronger recognition and engagement;
- .2 reflective of its core mission, emphasising its commitment to pollution prevention and compliance; and
- .3 future-proof, aligning with the Centre's evolving role in maritime environmental protection.

29 This change would support a stronger brand presence and encourage greater interest from maritime stakeholders, policymakers, and the public.

- **New Mission and Vision Statement**

30 The existing mission and vision statements are largely focused on regulatory frameworks and emergency response. However, as REMPEC enters a new phase, the focus must also reflect the mandate of the Centre as extended in 1989 and reaffirmed by the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention, on the involvement of the Centre in activities relating to prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution.

31 The updated mission and vision should:

- .1 highlight REMPEC's leadership in pollution prevention rather than just emergency response;
- .2 emphasise the importance of compliance among all maritime stakeholders to safeguard the Mediterranean Sea; and

.3 look towards the next century, integrating long-term sustainability goals in line with global environmental initiatives.

32 This shift will reinforce REMPEC's proactive role in shaping a cleaner, more sustainable maritime industry and bring it in line with the Vision of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) as adopted by COP22 (Decision IG.25/16).

- **New Logo and Branding**

33 A new name and strategic direction should be complemented by a modernised visual identity that reflects REMPEC's future vision. While the current logo represents **the three types of ships operating the Mediterranean, we propose:**

- .1 A sleeker, more contemporary logo that aligns with the Centre's modern strategic focus;
- .2 a design that resonates not just with Contracting Parties and maritime professionals but also with the public, enhancing awareness and engagement; and
- .3 a branding system that ensures consistency across all official materials, digital platforms, and outreach initiatives.

- **New website design and development**

34 The existing REMPEC website requires a new design that is more visually appealing and user-friendly and cater better for the needs of the Contracting Parties. We should focus on modernising the user experience, improving accessibility, and ensuring content is structured effectively.

35 The main objectives for the new website design and development will include:

- .1 improving navigation to ensure ease of access to important information;
- .2 engagement with stakeholders through better content organisation; and
- .3 developing a secure, members-only section for Contracting Parties to access key important documents.

- **Implementation and Coordination of the Regional Strategy**

36 To strengthen its role in marine environmental protection, REMPEC will develop a **five-year organisational strategic plan** outlining how it will contribute to the effective implementation of the **Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031)**. This strategic plan will serve as a roadmap for REMPEC's activities, ensuring that its efforts are aligned with regional priorities, international commitments, and evolving maritime challenges.

37 By coordinating with **Contracting Parties, regional organisations, and key stakeholders**, REMPEC will focus on supporting **policy development, capacity building, and technical cooperation**, facilitating the adoption of best practices to prevent and mitigate marine pollution. The Centre will also strengthen its role in **monitoring compliance** with international regulations and fostering collaboration between Mediterranean countries to ensure a unified and effective response to environmental threats.

38 The **five-year strategic plan** will set out specific objectives, performance indicators, and priority actions to guide REMPEC's work in implementing the Regional Strategy. This will include:

- .1 enhancing technical assistance and training programmes to support the contracting parties in meeting their obligations;
- .2 developing and promoting new tools and guidelines to address emerging pollution risks, such as alternative fuels, port reception facilities, and improved waste management;

- .3 strengthening emergency preparedness and response mechanisms through regional cooperation and joint exercises;
- .4 improving data collection and analysis to support informed decision-making and targeted interventions; and
- .5 fostering stronger engagement with international frameworks, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Mediterranean Action Plan.

39 By embedding these strategic priorities into its operational framework, REMPEC will **reinforce its leadership in the Mediterranean region**, ensuring that its efforts remain relevant, impactful, and aligned with the long-term vision for a cleaner and safer marine environment.

Actions requested by the Meeting:

40 **The Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 **take note** of the information provided in the present document; and
- .2 **comment** as deemed appropriate.
