



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)

REMPEC/WG.61/2
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Agenda Item 2: Progress Report on REMPEC activities since the Fifteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC

Progress Report on REMPEC activities since the Fifteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC

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Note by the Secretariat

This document sets out an outline of the activities carried out by the Centre since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, as prepared by the Secretariat.

Introduction

- 1 This report covers the period from 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2025, more specifically:
 - .1 the activities conducted from 1 July 2023 until 31 December 2023, based on the approved Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), for the biennium 2022-2023¹; and
 - .2 the activities carried out from 1 January 2024 until 31 March 2025, based on the approved UNEP/MAP PoW and Budget for the biennium 2024-2025².

2 During the period under consideration, the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), which is administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), in cooperation with UNEP, actively worked towards the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 14 (Life Below Water), through the implementation of relevant provisions of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the “Barcelona Convention”) and its Protocols.

Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

3 There are seventeen (17) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which have, to date, ratified or acceded to 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, whereas five (5) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are only Parties to 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 eight (8) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are Parties to 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 (the “Offshore Protocol”). The status of ratification as of 19 February 2025 (last notification received by the Depository) is set out in the **Annex** to the present document.

Decisions adopted by COP 23

4 The main decisions directly relevant to the work of REMPEC adopted by the Twenty-Third Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 23) (Portorož, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023), were:

- .1 Decision IG.26/3 on the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report and a Renewed Ecosystem Approach Policy in the Mediterranean;
- .2 Decision IG.26/11 - Regional Harmonised Procedures for the Uniform Implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention in the Mediterranean Sea; and
- .3 Decision IG.26/14 on the Programme of Work and Budget 2024-2025.

¹ UNEP/MED IG.25/27, Decision IG.25/19.

² UNEP/MED IG.26/22, Decision IG.26/14.

Resource mobilisation and partnerships

5 During the period under review, external funding was secured and received by REMPEC for capacity-building activities directed to the prevention of, preparedness for, and response to marine pollution from ships to cover specific thematic areas of the approved UNEP/MAP PoW and Budget for the biennium 2024-2025, from the following sources:

- .1 IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) amounting to a total of US\$ 266,559;
- .2 Bilateral Cooperation Agreement between UNEP/MAP and the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE) amounting to US\$ 115,261;
- .3 Bilateral Cooperation Agreement between UNEP/MAP and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs amounting to US\$ 125,708 (rolled over from 2023 for finalisation of activities till June 2024);
- .4 Bilateral Cooperation Agreement between UNEP/MAP and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs amounting to US\$ 284,835 for activities in 2024 and 2025; and
- .5 The European Union Funded Project Marine Litter MED PLUS amounting to US\$ 176,446.

Funding sources	2024 US\$	2025 US\$	TOTAL 2024- 2025
MTF	1,092,911	1,090,233	2,183,144
French Voluntary Contribution R/O Funds	125,708		125,708
EU Funded Marine Litter Med Plus Project	88,223	88,223	176,446
French Voluntary Contribution	122,614	162,221	284,835
MASE Voluntary Contribution	115,261		115,261
IMO ITCP	213,059	13,500	266,559
Total			3,151,953

6 REMPEC is constantly seeking to broaden its partnerships with Contracting Parties, MAP Partners and regional organisations. This will allow REMPEC greater access to funding and innovative maritime solutions to assist Contracting Parties on bigger scale initiatives and facilitate long-term sustainable change. Resource mobilisation is a gradual, long-term process which requires tenacity and a good understanding of the overall mechanism. To achieve better results, it is important to build synergies and partnerships among all parties involved which will lead to long-term sustainability.

Management and administration

7 Following the REMPEC move to new premises in March 2022, further improvements have been made to the new premises to further enhance the work environment of the Secretariat. The Host Country considered the further upgrading of the premises, as proposed by REMPEC, and agreed to finance all the works, in addition to the in-kind provision of the premises.

8 In 2024, REMPEC was informed that there is the possibility for the Host Country to refurbish another premises that could host REMPEC in the future and discussions are still ongoing on the matter.

9 The current staff complement, as approved by COP 23, consists of: Head of Office (P.5), Programme Officer (Prevention) (P.3) which is vacant, Programme Officer (OPRC) (P.3), Administrative/Financial Assistant (G.7), Senior Administrative Assistant (G.6), Administrative Assistant (G.5), and a Junior Professional Officer. The recruitment process for the vacant Programme Officer (P3) position was launched in February 2025.

10 During the period under review, the Centre had to rely on temporary general staff until the permanent G6 and G5 were recruited. The recruitment of the Senior Administrative Assistant (G6) was completed in September 2024 and that for the Administrative Assistant (G.5) was completed in February 2025. Following the move of the Head of Office to the Coordinating Unit for the MAP/Barcelona Convention Secretariat in December 2022, as an interim measure, the IMO, which is responsible for the administration and technical backstopping of the Centre, hired, on a temporary basis, an interim Head of Office and an Assistant Head of Office on a 75:25 time split until a new Head of Office is recruited. A new Head of Office was recruited in December 2023.

11 The remit of REMPEC has been further strengthened by the recent adoption of the Mediterranean Strategy addressing Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), through which REMPEC has a central coordinating role to proactively address a range of identified environmental challenges, including ship-source pollution, climate change, air emissions, plastic and marine litter, and non-indigenous invasive species. As noted above, this has opened a new perspective and is attracting more financial resources for the implementation of activities, notably through the IMO's Integrated Cooperation Programme (ITCP), the EU Funded Projects and UNEP/MAP Bilateral agreements.

12 Since 2012, REMPEC has also been involved in activities related to the implementation of the Offshore Protocol and the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, without addressing capacity needs. With the ever-increasing mandate of REMPEC, the current staff structure is not commensurate with the level of ambition of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

13 In line with the new Head of Office's initiatives to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the Secretariat it was agreed that in order to allow for a timelier and more effective implementation of REMPEC's mandate and related activities, streamlining duties amongst staff members and addressing issues that have been raised in previous biennia in terms of implementation challenges, whilst allowing the Centre to be in a position to absorb additional activities and related funding, as appropriate, both existing P3 posts were renamed "Programme Officer (P.3)" without reference to "OPRC" or "Prevention". In this way, they would be more horizontal addressing the Common Objectives of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031). It is also important to note that in 2025, the current Programme Officer (OPRC) (P.3), will reach retirement.

14 In February 2025, a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) financed by the Government of Malta, has joined REMPEC. Contracting Parties are strongly encouraged to consider participating in the JPO programme that provides mutual benefit, both to REMPEC and the Contracting Parties.

Communication and Logistical Arrangements

15 According to Article 7 on dissemination and exchange of information of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, 2002 to the Barcelona Convention, each Party *inter alia* undertakes to disseminate to the other Parties information concerning the competent national authorities responsible for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution. Accordingly, the responsibilities of the

REMPEC Focal Points have been defined by Decision IG 17.3³ adopted during the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Almeria, Spain, January 2008). In line with this Decision, Contracting Parties are requested to nominate the following Focal Points:

- .1 Governmental Focal Point:** Office or officer which is usually the same Office or officer fulfilling the role of MAP Focal Point having general responsibility for the implementation of the provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and for coordination, at national level, of MAP activities;
- .2 Prevention Focal Point:** Office or officer of the national authority responsible for maritime affairs (i.e. maritime transport, shipping and related matters), dealing with prevention of pollution from ships;
- .3 OPRC Focal Point:** Office or officer of the national authority responsible for preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution, designated as such in the national contingency plan;
- .4 24-hour Focal Point:** National Centre or contact point responsible for receiving reports on marine pollution accidents which is easily contactable on a twenty-four-hour basis and capable of processing said reports, alerting the competent national authorities responsible for initiating response actions. This information should be consistent with the information submitted to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for inclusion in its 'List of National Operational Contact Points Responsible for the Receipt, Transmission and Processing of Urgent Reports on Incidents Involving Harmful Substances, including Oil from Ships to Coastal States' - [MSC-MEPC.6/Circ.21](#); and
- .5 Mutual Assistance Focal Point:** Competent national authority or officer responsible for facilitating the provision of /or entry into the country of assistance in case of emergency.

16 In accordance with previous decisions taken by previous Meetings of REMPEC Focal Points, the Contracting Parties are also requested to nominate the following designated representatives:

- .1 MENELAS Designated Representative:** A representative designated by a member of MENELAS with professional experience in violations related to the MARPOL Convention;
- .2 NO_x ECA Expert:** A nominated representative serving on the NECA TCE with a view to overseeing the work on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Nitrogen Oxides (Med NO_x ECA), through correspondence coordinated by REMPEC; and
- .3 MTWG Focal Point:** National entities and/or officials responsible for participating in the OPRC-HNS Correspondence Group established under the MTWG.

17 The list of updated Focal Points and Designated Representatives, as at 31 March 2025, is presented in REMPEC/WG.61/INF.3.

18 As the network of Focal Points and Designated Representatives is the official link between REMPEC and the Contracting Parties, it is of utmost importance that whenever a new Focal Point is nominated, the Centre receives official notification of the appointment, with all the relevant contact details. Furthermore, with the objective of maintaining the network updated, the Secretariat issues a Circular to all Contracting Parties at the beginning of each year in order to review and update their nominations accordingly. Contracting Parties are encouraged to do their utmost to keep the network updated and to encourage the Contracting Parties that have not as yet done so, to nominate their Focal

³ [UNEP\(DEPI\)/MED IG.17/10 Annex V](#)

Points and Designated Representatives.

19 Furthermore, in line with the Head of Office's initiatives to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the Secretariat, a preliminary analysis on implementing efficiency measures and reducing overheads at the Centre highlighted that, administering communications with Contracting Parties has required a considerable amount of additional work within the Secretariat. Facilitating the participation of representatives at various meetings or workshops takes approximately three months prior to the meetings, as well as one to two months after the meetings. The communications aspect involves sending out circular letters calling for nominations, to be reviewed in line with the terms of reference; responding to official communications received from Contracting Parties; liaising with the participants themselves to arrange their travel and acting as their first point of contact for queries regarding flights, meeting attendance and registration, payment of DSA; then following up after they have returned home to close their trips.

20 This workload was made more acute due to various issues that arose over the course of organising meetings, namely:

.1 multiple applications received from different authorities from the same Contracting Party rather than the Contracting Party coordinating centrally before nominating;

.2 managing specific flight requests and changes after tickets have been issued, often incurring fees and additional time to process these;

.3 participants encountering issues obtaining visas and sometimes only notifying the Secretariat at the last minute, which meant changing flights at a cost or losing flights at full cost; and

.4 challenges with making international bank transfers of DSA payments, either due to incorrect details being provided or banks requiring additional information, often resulting in lengthy delays before participants received their payments. Some participants were unable to receive international bank transfers and required the full DSA amount to be given cash-in-hand, which is not possible.

21 Finding ways to resolve these issues, and streamlining the administrative process, will be key to long-term sustainability and success in achieving the purpose of the Centre and the agreed activities. To this effect, Contracting Parties are encouraged to ensure that:

.1 Though the competent national authorities have chosen to designate officials within the government department or agency which is more likely to be the leader on the relevant issues, it has to be stressed that the primary role of a Focal Point is to liaise with the other departments that can be involved in order to widely disseminate the information received by the Centre. In particular, when an invitation to nominate several participants to a meeting has been issued by REMPEC, it is expected that the Focal Point will consult and coordinate with all national authorities concerned, to prepare one list of participants from his/her country, thus avoiding multiple nominations exceeding the available capacity and/or without the necessary official backing.

.2 Usually, invitations of this kind are addressed to the most concerned REMPEC Focal Point and copied to others either for their information or because they may also be concerned by the topic. In order to avoid difficulties such as those mentioned above, it is recommended that the reply originates from the Focal Point to whom it has been addressed.

Activities

22 Since the 15th Meeting of REMEPC Focal Points, in line with the Secretariat's efforts to assist the Contracting Parties and delivering on its mandate has to date, **fully implemented 70% of the Decisions taken during the last Meeting of REMEPC Focal Points. It is to be noted that there is**

work in progress on another 4 Decisions (12%), whilst no work has been initiated on 7 Decisions (18%). It is important to also note that it was not possible to fully implement or initiate work on such Decisions mainly due to lack of funding. The deliverables that could not be delivered due to lack of funding during the current biennium have been included in the proposed Programme of Work 2026-27, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.61/10.

23 The successful rate of completion of these activities reflects the collective commitment of the Centre, the Contracting Parties and regional partners in enhancing environmental protection in the Mediterranean. This section outlines the key milestones achieved and ongoing initiatives,

24 During the period under consideration, REMPEC implemented an array of activities in the field of prevention of, preparedness for, and response to marine pollution from ships, in accordance with the approved UNEP/MAP PoWs and Budgets for the biennia 2022-2023 and 2024-2025, which have significantly contributed to the implementation of the following Programmes of the Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027:

Programme 1: Towards a Pollution and Litter Free Mediterranean Sea and Coast Embracing Circular Economy

1.1.1. undertaking national, subregional, regional actions to boost the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan in the Mediterranean, notably by:

- providing technical support to MEDPOL for the implementation of the EU Funded Marine Litter MED Plus Project;
- launching work on a Study on the Loss of Containers at Sea in the Mediterranean Region; and
- supporting three (3) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Egypt, Lebanon, Libya) to implement pilots related to the enhanced management of marine litter from sea-based sources in ports and marinas and to provide tailored expert advice, technical proposals, and draft relevant documents.

1.2.9. addressing illicit ship pollution discharges, through the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS), notably by:

- coordinating the work of the Working Group within the MENELAS;
- providing inputs to the European Commission on the evaluation and impact assessment for the revision of the EU Ship-Source Pollution Directive⁴;
- liaising with the HELCOM and Bonn Agreement to explore the possibility to jointly endorse the final draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report for use in the Bonn Agreement, HELCOM and Mediterranean Sea areas;
- contributing to the discussions within the RAMOGE Agreement on the practical use of the draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report developed within the framework of the Barcelona Convention and MELENAS, in the margins of the 2023 and 2024 coordinated aerial surveillance operation for illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean (OSCAR-MED 2023) (OSCAR-MED 2024);
- contributing to the annual meeting of the North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors (NSN) 5: NSN 2024 (Paris, France; 23-24 April 2024);
- preparing the consolidated draft decision to apply criteria for a common minimum level of fines for each offense provided for under the Annexes to MARPOL, within the framework of the Barcelona Convention;
- preparing a Legal Analysis to Assess the Implications of the Possible Creation and

⁴ Directive 2005/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on ship-source pollution and on the introduction of penalties for infringements, as amended.

- Operation of a regional “Blue Fund”; and
- organising the Sixth Meeting of MENELAS (Lija, Malta, 4-5 December 2024).

1.2.10 strengthening the level of preparedness and capacity of Mediterranean coastal States, at national, sub-regional, and regional levels, to respond to oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) pollution from ships, notably by:

- coordinating the update of the directory of competent national authorities, and the list of national operational contact points of REMPEC with responsibility for oil and HNS pollution preparedness and response;
- assisting the Adriatic countries in the development of the ‘Adriatic Marine Pollution Incident Contingency Plan (Adriatic CP), endorsed in October 2023, and in organising a tabletop exercise (AdriEx 2024) to test the Adriatic CP;
- assisting Cyprus, Greece and Israel in the design and preparation of a joint spill response exercise (CypEx 2024), originally scheduled in November 2024;
- assisting Cyprus, Egypt and Greece on the finalization of the Agreement on the Sub-regional Contingency Plan;
- participating in conducting national exercises, when including request of international assistance: Cyprus: Nemesis 2023, Malta: Barracuda 2024, and Morocco: Simulex 2024;
- organising National Workshop in the assessment of management capabilities and national systems to respond to marine oil pollution and the implementation of the Improvement Plan (RETOS) (Greece, December 2023);
- organising IMO training course on ‘Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation’ level 3 (strategic) for Lebanon (Online, August 2024);
- contributing to the development of the IMO Operational Guide on the Response to Spills of HNS, through the Marine HNS Response Manual - Multi-regional Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC, in view of the 11th session of the IMO’s Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 11) (London, United Kingdom, April 2024);
- developing Guidelines for the Development of Joint Spill Response Exercises within the Sub-regional Contingency Plans;
- updating Part II of the Mediterranean Guidelines on Dispersants (2001) to align with the Mediterranean specific characteristics and incorporate development related to dispersants since 2011;
- developing a Study on the Readiness of the Mediterranean Region to Respond to Marine Pollution Incidents Involving Low-Sulphur Fuels and Alternative Fuels;
- developing of an electronic version of the Oiled Shoreline Assessment Form of the Mediterranean Guidelines on Oiled Shoreline Assessment (2009); and
- extending the membership of the MAU to the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) and relaunching the MOU with Mon GOOS.

1.4.2. supporting the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI, particularly the agreed Med SO_x ECA and explore the possible designation of the Mediterranean NO_x ECA, notably by:

- liaising with the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention that have not yet ratified MARPOL Annex VI (Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon and Libya), in relation to their ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI as well as their implementation of the Med SO_x ECA;
- updating the draft regional fund-raising strategy to support Mediterranean coastal States in relation to the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI, as well as the implementation of the Med SO_x ECA and linked compliance measures;
- organising a Regional Workshop on the consistent implementation of IMO 2020 and

- the 0.10% sulphur limit under MARPOL Annex VI in the Med SO_x ECA (Iija, Malta, 22-23 May 2024);
- developing a draft Guidance Document on the consistent implementation of the 0.10% sulphur limit under MARPOL Annex VI in the Med SO_x ECA;
 - preparing a Study on the Environmental and Legal Impact of the Use of Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems (EGCS) in the Mediterranean Sea;
 - organising National Workshops in three (3) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco) on Ratification and Effective Implementation of MARPOL Annex VI with Specific Reference to Med SO_x ECA requirements;
 - submitting a Project Proposal with a number of WestMed Partners entitled *Piloting Low Emission in the Mediterranean (PLEINMED)* under the EU Funded INTERREG NEXT MED Programme, aimed at providing funds for capacity building to Contracting Parties concerning the effective implementation of the Med SO_x ECA;
 - continuing its dialogue with relevant stakeholders to provide technical support, through technical cooperation and capacity-building activities, including financial support and resource mobilisation activities, to address the needs of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention;
 - raising awareness about the entry into effective implementation of the Med SO_x ECA, in various fora and through a digital campaign and production of a digital leaflet;
 - establishing and coordinating the work of the Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts (NECA TCE), tasked with developing and validating Terms of Reference for a specific Technical and Feasibility Study to assess the relevant existing studies and gather further knowledge on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Nitrogen Oxides (Med NO_x ECA), hereinafter referred to as the Technical and Feasibility Study; and
 - developing the relevant Terms of Reference for the Technical and Feasibility Study and procurement procedures for the consultancy launched;

Programme 2: Towards Healthy Mediterranean Ecosystems and Enhanced Biodiversity

2.4.1. implementing the targeted measures of the Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027) (the “Mediterranean BWM Strategy (2022-2027)”), notably by:

- defining the Strategic Priorities, the related actions and activities as well as work plan and implementation timetable of the Mediterranean BWM Strategy (2022-2027), adopted by COP 22 (Decision IG.25/17);
- facilitating the adoption of the Regional harmonised procedures for the uniform implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention) in the Mediterranean Sea (Decision IG.21/11) by COP 23 and circulating same through an IMO Circular (BWM.3/Circ.4) to all IMO Member States for their information and action as appropriate;
- developing a draft Resources Mobilisation Strategy to implement the Mediterranean BWM Strategy (2022-2027);
- providing input on the implementation of the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO);
- preparing the Mid-Term Review of the Mediterranean BWM Strategy (2022-2027), adopted by COP 22 (Decision IG.25/17);
- developing a Concept note on exploring the possibility to organise a Joint REMPEC-SPA/RAC-MAP/OSPAR/HELCOM Conference on Ballast Water Management (BWM) and liaising with the respective Secretariats;
- providing capacity building and technical support to three (3) Contracting Parties

(Egypt, Libya and Morocco) on the implementation of the 2023 IMO Biofouling Guidelines and the development of the national assessments on the current status of biofouling management; and

- contributing to the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-UNDP-IMO GloFouling Partnerships Project by reporting on the regional progress to the Donor Partnership meeting to support IMO Biofouling Capacity Building Projects, including GloFouling Partnerships project – Phase 2 (London, United Kingdom , 26 June 2024).

Programme 3: Towards a Climate Resilient Mediterranean

3.2.3. reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and harmful effects of atmospheric emissions from ships within the framework of MARPOL Annex VI, notably by:

- preparing a Project Proposal on greening of maritime transport/ports and linkages with GHG emissions, submitted under the EU Funded INTERREG NEXT MED Programme –2nd Call;
- developing a Guidance Document on the Preparation of National Action Plans (NAPs) to address GHG emissions from Ships in the Mediterranean Region;
- preparing a Study Analysing the Impact of Biofouling on the energy efficiency of ships and the GHG Abatement Potential of biofouling Management Measures in the Mediterranean Region;
- preparing a Study to assess the Legal and Technical Implications of the European Union Emission Trading Scheme (EU ETS) for Shipping in the Mediterranean Region;
- preparing a Study on the Effective Implementation of the 2023 IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships in the Mediterranean Region;
- preparing a Study on the Implementation of Emission Control and Energy Efficiency Measures for Ships in Port Areas in the Mediterranean Region;
- preparing an analysis on the Identification of Funding for the Implementation of Innovative Solutions to Reduce GHG Emissions from Ships in Selected Ports, including through Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation on the Mediterranean Region;
- preparing a Study on the Implementation of Possible Green Shipping Routes (Corridors) and Maritime Hubs (Green Hubs) to Reduce GHG Emissions from Shipping in the Mediterranean Region; and
- preparing a Roadmap for Transitioning to Low Carbon Shipping in the Mediterranean Sea.

Programme 4: Towards the Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Resources including Circular and Blue Economy

4.4.1 implementing key targeted measures of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Offshore Protocol, notably by:

- drafting of the Regional Offshore Standards and Guidelines on the Removal/Decommissioning of Installations and the Related Financial Aspects;
- drafting of the updated Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (2026-2035);
- organising a training workshop on “The application of Common Standards and Guidance on the Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures and the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings” (Malta, 7-8 November 2023);
- organising the Fifth Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact (Malta, 19-20 February 2025), which endorsed, *inter alia*, the ‘Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan 2026-2035’ and the ‘Regional Offshore Standards and Guidelines on the Removal/Decommissioning of Installations and the Related Financial Aspects.

Programme 5: Governance

5.4.5 facilitating the adoption and subsequently implementing the targeted actions of the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) (the “Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)”), notably by:

- developing National Action Plan (NAP) on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) for one (1) Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention (Morocco);
- developing a Draft Guidance Document on the Preparation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the effective implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);
- developing the Terms of Reference for the Intersessional Working Groups (IWGs) and establishing and coordinating the work of the IWGs;
- developing the Biennial Review Report on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);
- organising the Regional Workshop on the Preparation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the effective implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) (Lija, Malta, 20 November 2024); and
- organising the Second Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) (Lija, Mata, 21 November 2024).

Programme 6: Towards Monitoring, Assessment, Knowledge and Vision of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast for Informed Decision-Making

6.3.17 streamlining shipping and offshore data sharing, monitoring, and reporting, notably by:

- organising MEDEXPOL 2024 (Malta 25-26 September 2024) to assist CPs in their obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, and the Offshore Protocol in terms of Reporting, Monitoring and Data Sharing;
- supporting the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean (IMAP), through the development of the third set of supporting documents titled ‘to do list’, clarifying supervision of the offshore installation operators the monitoring of operational and accidental spills;
- contributing to the preparation of the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (MED QSR 2023), final assessment findings related to CI 19;
- preparing a Concept Note on the Lowering of the Threshold for Reporting on Oil spills;
- liaising with the European Commission on progress with implementation of the Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean;
- coordinating the work of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) and related activities; and
- assessing the National Implementation Reports of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention on the implementation of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and the Offshore Protocol during the biennium 2022-2023.

Programme 7: For Informed and Consistent Advocacy, Awareness, Education and Communication

7.2.2. enhancing public awareness and outreach on key MAP topics for general and specific targets, notably by:

- launching a digital awareness campaign entitled *"Our Mediterranean, Your Responsibility"*, which was built on a fundamental message: *the well-being of the Mediterranean is a shared duty, and every maritime stakeholder plays a crucial role*

- in protecting it*, aimed to enhance understanding of the regulatory framework, benefits and compliance requirements associated with the effective implementation of the Med SO_x ECA;
- producing a bi-lingual (English/French) digital leaflet entitled “*New Limits for the Sulphur Content of Marine Fuels in the Mediterranean Sea*” to create more awareness and provide information on the effective implementation of the Med SO_x ECA to State Authorities, Shipowners, Masters, Fuel Suppliers, Agents or Operators of Ships Operating in the Mediterranean Sea;

25 Finally, REMPEC continued to strengthen its participation, engagement, synergies and complementarities with global and regional institutions by attending the IMO’s Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Inter-Secretariat Meetings between Regional Agreements Secretariats, Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), amongst others. The Centre also continued to enhance public awareness and outreach on key UNEP/MAP topics, actively participating in the various UNEP/MAP Task Forces, and providing regular input to the publication of UNEP/MAP and IMO articles and regularly updating the news section of its website and social media.

Actions requested by the Meeting

26 **The Meeting is invited to:**

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

Annex
Status of ratifications of the 1976 Emergency Protocol, the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, and the Offshore Protocol as of 19 February 2025
(last notification received by the Depository)

Contracting Parties	1976 Emergency Protocol			2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol			Offshore Protocol		
	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force	Signature	Ratification	Entry into force
Albania	-	30.05.90/AC	29.06.90	-	-	-	-	26.07.01/AC	24.03.11
Algeria	-	16.03.81/AC	15.04.81	25.01.02	14.11.16	14.12.16	-	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	22.10.94/SUC	01.03.92	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	-	12.06.92/SUC	08.10.91	25.01.02	01.10.03	17.03.04	14.10.94	08.02.18	10.03.18
Cyprus	16.02.76	19.11.79	19.12.79	25.01.02	19.12.07	18.01.08	14.10.94	16.05.06	24.03.11
European Union	13.09.76	12.08.81/AP	11.09.81	25.01.02	26.05.04/AP	25.06.04	17.12.12/AC	29.03.13/AC	29.03.13
Egypt	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	23.09.78	-	-	-	-	-	-
France	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	10.04.78	25.01.02	02.07.03/AP	17.03.04	-	-	-
Greece	16.02.76	03.01.79	02.02.79	25.01.02	27.11.06	27.12.06	14.10.94	-	-
Israel	16.02.76	03.03.78	02.04.78	22.01.03	10.09.14	10.10.14	14.10.94	-	-
Italy	16.02.76	03.02.79	05.03.79	25.01.02	30.06.16	30.07.16	14.10.94	-	-
Lebanon	-	08.11.77/AC	12.02.78	-	03.11.17/AC	03.12.17	-	-	-
Libya	31.01.77	31.01.79	02.03.79	25.01.02	-	-	-	16.06.05	24.03.11
Malta	16.02.76	30.12.77	12.02.78	25.01.02	18.02.03	17.03.04	14.10.94	-	-
Monaco	16.02.76	20.09.77	12.02.78	25.01.02	03.04.02	17.03.04	14.10.94	-	-
Montenegro	-	-	-	-	19.11.07/AC	19.12.07	-	-	-
Morocco	16.02.76	15.01.80	15.02.80	25.01.02	26.04.11	26.05.11	-	01.07.99/AC	24.03.11
Slovenia	-	16.09.93/AC	15.03.94	25.01.02	16.02.04	17.03.04	10.10.95	-	-
Spain	16.02.76	17.12.76	12.02.78	25.01.02	10.07.07	09.08.07	14.10.94	-	-
Syrian Arab Republic	-	26.12.78/AC	25.01.79	25.01.02	11.04.08/AC	11.05.08	20.09.95	22.02.11	24.03.11
Tunisia	25.05.76	30.07.77	12.02.78	25.01.02	-	-	14.10.94	01.06.98	24.03.11
Türkiye	16.02.76	06.04.81	06.05.81	-	03.06.03/AC	17.03.04	-	-	-

Accession = AC

Approval = AP

Succession = SUC