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

Sixth Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law
Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the
framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS)

REMPEC/WG.59/1/1
4 November 2024
Original: English

Lija, Malta, 4-5 December 2024

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

Annotated provisional agenda and draft timetable

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document will not be printed and is made available in electronic format only. Delegates are encouraged to consult the document in its electronic format and limit printing.

Note by the Secretariat

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.

Introduction

1 The Sixth Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) within the framework of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the “Barcelona Convention”) (MENELAS), hereinafter referred to as the Meeting, is being convened in Lija, Malta, from 4 to 5 December 2024, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2024-2025 of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP, 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) (UNEP/MED IG.26/22).

2 The principal objectives of the Meeting are:

- .1 to examine the implementation of the MENELAS Programme of Activities for the period 2024-2025, notably:
 - .1 the further examination of the 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;
 - .2 the further development of modalities of possible creation and operation of a regional “Blue Fund”, including in terms of governance and financing; and
 - .3 the establishment of a MENELAS database on illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean.
- .2 to discuss about emerging issues related to violations of MARPOL in the Mediterranean;
- .3 to discuss about cooperation with other regional and international organisations;
- .4 to elect the chair of the network for the period 2024-2025; and
- .5 to discuss and agree on the items to be included in the MENELAS Programme of Activities for the period 2026-2027.

3 All MENELAS Designated Representatives were invited to nominate jointly and, in consultation with the REMPEC Prevention Focal Points and the REMPEC Governmental Focal Points, their representatives in the Meeting. The invitation to participate in the Meeting was also extended to observers from relevant regional and international organisations, the activities of which are relevant to the objectives of the Meeting.

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

Opening of the Meeting

5 The Meeting will open on Wednesday, 4 December 2024 at 0900 hours and is expected to close on Thursday, 5 December 2024 at 1700 hours.

Organisation of the Meeting

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.

Election of Officers

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

Working Languages

8 The working languages of the Meeting will be English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation services 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 1 **Adoption of the Agenda**

9 The agenda, as proposed in document REMPEC/WG.59/1 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 2 **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**

10 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the Report of the Working Group within MENELAS, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.59/2.

11 In particular, the Secretariat will provide information on the outcome of the work of the Working Group within MENELAS over the period June-October 2024, including:

- .1 a review of existing applicable sanctions at national level with regard to illicit ship pollution discharges over the period 2020-2023; and
- .2 a 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 (hereinafter referred to as the “draft decision”), as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.59/2.

12 Participants will be encouraged to:

- .1 endorse the Report of the Working Group within MENELAS, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.59/2;
- .2 note the review of existing applicable sanctions at national level with regard to illicit ship pollution discharges over the period 2020-2023, as set out in paragraphs 11 to 18 of document REMPEC/WG.59/2;

- .3 examine the consolidated draft decision, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.59/2, notably the specific proposals referred to in paragraph 24 thereof, and discuss at what level(s) the minimum fines for each offense provided for under the Annexes to MARPOL, within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, should be set;
- .4 consider the need for further studies or guidance documents to facilitate the implementation of the draft decision, as mentioned in paragraph 26 of document REMPEC/WG.59/2; and
- .5 make recommendations to the Sixteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC to be tentatively held on 13-15 May 2025, as appropriate.

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

Agenda Item 3 **Possible creation and operation of a regional “Blue Fund”, including in terms of governance and financing**

14 The Secretariat will provide information on the draft Legal Analysis to assess the implications of the possible creation and operation of a regional “Blue Fund”, including in terms of governance and financing, in the Mediterranean region (hereinafter referred to as the “draft Legal Analysis”), as presented in document REMPEC/WG.59/3.

15 The Secretariat will also refer to the Report of the Working Group within MENELAS, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.59/2.

16 Participants will be encouraged to discuss the draft Legal Analysis, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.59/3, notably the proposed conclusions and recommendations for possible options for a way forward, as detailed in chapters 8 and 9 thereof, to guide the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention when further discussing the possible creation and operation of a regional “Blue Fund”, including in terms of governance and financing, prior to consideration by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC to be tentatively held on 13-15 May 2025.

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

Agenda Item 4 **Establishment of a MENELAS database on illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean**

18 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will provide information on the establishment of a MENELAS database on illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.59/4.

19 Participants will be encouraged to present their views on the possible way forward in relation to the establishment of a MENELAS database on illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean.

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

Agenda Item 5 **Emerging issues related to violations of MARPOL in the Mediterranean**

21 The Secretariat will provide information on emerging issues related to violations of MARPOL in the Mediterranean, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.59/5.

22 In particular, the Secretariat will refer to the designation of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SO_x ECA), the date of entry into effective application of which is on 1 May 2025, and the subsequent implications on possible violations of MARPOL Annex VI in the Mediterranean.

23 The Secretariat will also refer to the on-going work on other emerging issues.

24 Participants will be encouraged to present their views on emerging issues related to violations of MARPOL in the Mediterranean.

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

Agenda Item 6 **Cooperation with other regional and international organisations**

26 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will provide information on cooperation with other regional and international organisations.

27 The Secretariat will refer to the Report on the Activities of MENELAS for the period from November 2021 to October 2023, as requested by Decision IG.21/9, as set out in the Annex to document REMPEC/WG.59/INF.3.

28 Participants will be encouraged to briefly present recent developments in relevant regional and international organisations to which they are Parties or which they represent.

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

Agenda Item 7 **Election of Chair for the period 2024-2025**

30 **The Meeting will be invited** to elect a Chairperson for the period 2024-2025.

Agenda Item 8 **Future work and meetings**

31 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will provide information on the next MENELAS meeting and related meetings.

32 Participants will be encouraged to share their views on future work with a view to deciding on a proposed programme of activities for the period 2026-2027, taking into account possible national initiatives or proposals, and on the establishment of any working groups and their terms of reference, as appropriate.

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

Agenda Item 9 **Other business**

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

Agenda Item 10 **Conclusions and recommendations**

35 Under this agenda item, the Meeting will review, amend, as appropriate, and adopt draft conclusions and recommendations that will result from the meeting discussions, as prepared by the Rapporteur.

36 The report of the Meeting will be prepared and circulated after the Meeting.

Closure of the Meeting

37 The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairperson on Thursday, 5 December 2024 at 1700 hours.

Annex

Draft timetable

Day 1 – Wednesday, 4 December 2024		
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Registration of participants</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	Opening of the Meeting	
09:30 – 09:45	Agenda Item 1	Adoption of the Agenda
09:45 – 10:30	Agenda Item 2	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
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00 – 12:30	Agenda Item 2 (cont.)	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
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00 – 15:00	Agenda Item 3	Possible creation and operation of a regional “Blue Fund”, including in terms of governance and financing
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:30 – 16:30	Agenda Item 3 (cont.)	Possible creation and operation of a regional “Blue Fund”, including in terms of governance and financing
16:30 – 17:30	Agenda Item 4	Establishment of a MENELAS database on illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean

Day 2 – Thursday, 5 December 2024		
09:00 – 09:45	Agenda Item 5	Emerging issues related to violations of MARPOL in the Mediterranean
09:45 – 10:30	Agenda Item 6	Cooperation with other regional and international organisations
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00 – 11:45	Agenda Item 6 (cont.)	Cooperation with other regional and international organisations
11:45 – 12:00	Agenda Item 7	Election of Chair for the period 2024-2025
12:00 – 12:30	Agenda Item 8	Future work and meetings
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00 – 14:15	Agenda Item 9	Other business
14:15 – 15:00	Agenda Item 10	Conclusions and recommendations
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:30 – 16:30	Agenda Item 10 (cont.)	Conclusions and recommendations
16:30 – 17:00		Closure of the Meeting