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

Fifth Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and
Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact

REMPEC/WG.60/2
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Agenda Item 2: Progress on the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan 2016-2024

Report on the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (MOAP 2016-2024) and other related activities since the Fourth Meeting of the OFOG Sub-Group on Environmental Impacts

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

The present document provides an update on the status of implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (MOAP 2016-2024) since the Fourth Meeting of the OFOG Sub-Group on Environmental Impact (Malta, May 2023).

Introduction

1. This report covers the activities and outputs carried out in the period between June 2023 and January 2025, more specifically:
 - .1 the activities conducted after the Fourth Meeting of the Offshore Oil and Gas Group - Sub-group on Environmental Impact (OFOG), until end 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 2022-2023; and
 - .2 the activities carried out after the Twenty Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 23, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023) until January 2025, based on the approved PoW and Budget of UNEP/MAP for the biennium 2024-2025. December 2024 also marks the completion of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (MOAP) for the decade 2016-2024.
2. The narrative part of the report highlights the progress on the implementation of:
 - the MOAP 2016-2024 activities under its Specific Objectives on Governance Framework, Regional Offshore Standards and Guidelines, Monitoring Programme, and Reporting;
 - the MOAP related Programme of Work (PoW) activities, under Programme 4: “Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Resources”, Programme 6: “Shared Vision of the Mediterranean Programme” and Programme 7: “Awareness, Education and Communication” of the **Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027**, including their related “Governance” elements executed by REMPEC; and
 - the mandate of the Secretariat to prepare a reviewed and updated version of the MOAP for the period 2026-2035 (MOAP 2026-2035), with elements for consideration when developing MOAP 2026-2035.

The Annexes support the narrative part, containing information on Contracting Parties exerting oil and gas activities in the Mediterranean Sea and the synthesis of the assessment of the 2020-2021 Contracting Parties’ National Implementation Reports (NIR) of the Offshore Protocol.

Status of Ratification of the Offshore Protocol

3. There are Eight (8) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (CPs) which 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 is set out in Table 1.

Table 1 - 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

Contracting Parties	Signature	Ratification, Acceptance, Approval, or Accession	Entry into force
Albania[#]	-	26/07/2001 Accession	24/03/2011
Algeria	-	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	-
Croatia[#]	14/10/1994	02/08/2018 Ratification	10/03/2018
Cyprus[#]	14/10/1994	16/05/2006 Ratification	24/03/2011

Egypt [#]	-	-	-
France	-	-	-
Greece [#]	14/10/1994	-	-
Israel [#]	14/10/1994	-	-
Italy [#]	14/10/1994	-	-
Lebanon [#]	-	-	-
Libya [#]	-	16/06/2005 Ratification	24/03/2011
Malta	14/10/1994	-	-
Monaco	14/10/1994	-	-
Montenegro	-	-	-
Morocco	-	01/07/1999 Accession	24/03/2011
Slovenia	10/10/1995	-	-
Spain [#]	14/10/1994	-	-
Syrian Arab Republic	20/09/1995	22/02/2011 Ratification	24/03/2011
Tunisia [#]	14/10/1994	01/06/1998 Ratification	24/03/2011
Türkiye [#]	-	-	-
European Union	-	27/02/2013 Accession	29/03/2013

* Color code green: Contracting Parties that have ratified the Offshore Protocol. (Source: <https://www.unep.org/unepmap/who-we-are/contracting-parties/offshore-protocol>)

4. Among the Twelve (12) CPs exerting oil and gas activities in the Mediterranean Sea, only Five (5) CPs are Parties to the Offshore Protocol. **Annex I** provides the number of oil and gas offshore fields for each CP of the Barcelona Convention.

Status of the reporting on the implementation of the Offshore Protocol

5. Information for the update of the status of implementation of the MOAP is based on information available to the Secretariat and on the National Implementation Reports submitted by the Contracting Parties (CPs) through the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS) for the last four biennia (2016-2017; 2018-2019; 2020-2021, 2022-2023) as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 - Overview of the national reporting on the implementation of the Offshore Protocol

Contracting Party	2016-2017	2018-2019	2020-2021	2022-2023
Albania [#]	Y	No envelope	No envelope	No envelope
Algeria	Empty envelope	No envelope	No envelope	No envelope
Bosnia Herzegovina	Y	Y	Y	Y
Croatia* [#]	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cyprus* [#]	Y	Y	Y	Y
Egypt [#]	Empty form	No envelope	No envelope	No envelope
France	Empty form	No envelope	No envelope	No envelope
Greece [#]	Y	Y	Y	Y
Israel [#]	Y	Y	Y	Y

Italy #	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lebanon #	Empty form	Empty form	Empty form	Empty form
Libya*#	Empty envelope	No envelope	No envelope	No envelope
Malta	Empty form	No envelope	No envelope	No envelope
Monaco	Empty form	No envelope	No envelope	No envelope
Montenegro	Y	Y	Y	Y
Morocco*	Y	Y	Y	Y
Slovenia	Empty form	No envelope	No envelope	No envelope
Spain #	Y	Y	Y	Y
Syria	Empty form	No envelope	No envelope	No envelope
Tunisia*#	Empty envelope	No envelope	No envelope	No envelope
Türkiye #	Incomplete	No envelope	No envelope	No envelope
European Community*	Y	Y	Y	Y

* / Color code green : Contracting Parties that have ratified the Offshore Protocol,

: Contracting Parties exerting oil and gas activities in the Mediterranean Sea (see Annex I)

Y : reporting completed – Incomplete : very few data in the reporting form - Empty Form : reporting form opened but no data – Empty Envelope : Envelope for reporting created but no reporting form inside - No Envelope : no reporting envelope created.

Source: <https://idc.info-rac.org/>

6. It is recalled that the reporting for each biennium is conducted during the second year of the subsequent biennium. Consequently, the relevant report in this case pertains to the 2020–2021 biennium. **Annex II** of this report presents a synthesis prepared by REMPEC on the assessment report of the submitted 2020-2021 NIR of the Offshore Protocol, submitted by the Contracting Parties through the BCRS, as published in document UNEP/MED WG.515/Inf.12 of the Meeting of MAP Focal Points (online September 2021). The assessment of the 2022-2023 CPs' NIR commenced in December 2024 for completion by May 2025 (in view of the 21st Compliance Committee Meeting (June 2025)). Accordingly, timely reporting is crucial to identify needs and challenges and to support Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Offshore Protocol.

Status of the implementation of activities of the MOAP since the 4th Meeting of the OFOG

MTS Programme 4. Towards the Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Resources Including Circular and Blue Economy.

Activity: Implement key targeted measures of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan.

7. *Common criteria, rules and procedures for the removal of installations and the related financial aspects reviewed by the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) “finalized.”* In continuity of the achievements made under a previous Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG), launched in November 2022 (circular letter No. 09/2022.), and in line with the Conclusions and Recommendations of the 4th Meeting of the OFOG, REMPEC coordinated a second ICG. A second draft of the Guidelines was disseminated through circular letter No 13/2023 dated 23 December 2023. The ICG's work included collaboration with MAP Partners and regional seas secretariats. Following feedback, a revised draft final version was disseminated by circular letter No 15/2024 dated 9 October 2024. An updated draft is submitted for consideration at the present meeting under document REMPEC/WG.60/4.

8. REMPEC participated in the meeting of the European Union Offshore Authorities Group (EUOAG), Brussels 18 October 2023. Under agenda item “Decommissioning of wells and installations” REMPEC introduced a presentation on the draft of the above-mentioned regional guidelines and standards in preparation within the MOAP.

9. *Online training on subjects from Appendix 2 of Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan defined by 2021 OFOG Meeting “organized.”* A Training Course on Common Standards and Guidance on the Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures and the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings, and on Guidelines related to the Use and Discharge of Harmful or Noxious Substances and Materials, including

Chemical use plan for Offshore operations was held in Floriana, Malta, 7-8 November 2023. The Training Course was supported by representative members of the OSPAR Convention and by the industry through the accredited MAP Partner IOGP. The Training report is provided in Document REMPEC/WG.60/INF.3.

10. ***Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (2016-2024) “extended and updated.”*** In accordance with the decision of the 4th Meeting of the OFOG, held in Floriana, Malta, 23-24 May 2023, REMPEC initiated the preparation of the review and update of the MOAP taking into consideration the achievements to date, as well as the developments in the offshore industry since the adoption of the MOAP. A process for the review and update of the MOAP was considered and carried out by the Ad Hoc Internal Group of Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Components, set up for this purpose, which was coordinated by REMPEC and supported by a team of consultants. The updated MOAP is contained in Document REMPEC/WG.60/3.

11. ***MEDEXPOL 2024 on Data Sharing, Monitoring and Reporting*** In September 2024, REMPEC organized a Regional Workshop on Reporting, Monitoring and Data Sharing (MEDEXPOL 2024). The Workshop provided also an opportunity to address Offshore key elements associated with the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS), the Monitoring Programme, and data-sharing mechanisms. The conclusions and recommendations of the workshop, related to offshore activities monitoring and reporting, are presented in Annex 6 of the Workshop report, provided in Document REMPEC/WG.60/INF.4.

Actions requested by the Meeting

15 **The Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 **Take note** of the information provided;
- .2 **To further update** the information, if need be, and
- .3 **To take action**, as appropriate.

Annex I

Contracting Parties exerting oil and gas activities in the Mediterranean Sea

Table 3. Number of oil and gas offshore fields for each Mediterranean country

Country	Marine area*	Gas fields	Oil Fields	Oil and Gas Fields	Total	Data Updated by CP on the:
Albania	Adriatic Sea	1	0	0	1	/
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Adriatic Sea	0	0	0	0	16/12/2024
Croatia	Adriatic Sea	11 (↑)	0	0	11 (↑)	09/12/2024
Cyprus	Eastern Mediterranean	4	0	0	4	/
Egypt	Gulf of Suez	0	66	12	78	/
Egypt	Eastern Mediterranean	90	3	3	96	/
France	Atlantic coast	0	4	0	4	/
Greece	Aegean Sea	2	6	0	8	/
Greece	Ionian Sea	0	0	1	1	/
Israel	Eastern Mediterranean	9 (↓)	0	0 (↓)	9 (↓)	16/12/2024
Italy	Adriatic Sea	92	7	4	103	/
Italy	Ionian Sea	4	0	0	4	/
Italy	Central Mediterranean	3	6	1	10	/
Lebanon	Eastern Mediterranean	1	0	0	1	/
Libya	Central Mediterranean	15	7	3	25	/
Morocco	Atlantic coast	1	3	0	4	/
Spain	Atlantic coast	2	0	0	2	/
Spain	Western Mediterranean	0 (↓)	7 (↓)	0	7 (↓)	28/11/2024
Tunisia	Central Mediterranean	4 (↓)	11 (↓)	0 (↓)	15 (↓)	09/12/2024
Türkiye	Black Sea	10	0	0	10	/
Türkiye	Marmara Sea	1	0	0	1	/
Türkiye	Eastern Mediterranean	0	2	0	2	/
Total in the Mediterranean Sea		236	49	12	297	
Total		250	122	24	396	

*Mediterranean locations highlighted in orange

Note that some of the countries own fields which are located outside the Mediterranean; related numbers are provided for completeness of the information. The total number of Mediterranean fields consider those located within the basin (marine areas highlighted in orange/shaded).

The arrow between brackets indicates if the update is an increase or decrease in the number of gas fields, and/or oil fields, and/or oil & gas fields, in comparison with the previous data.

Original data source is Clarksons Research Offshore Intelligent Network; data retrieved on 08.06.2020. Figures retrieved from EP/MED WG.498/Inf.4

Annex II

Synthesis analysis of the information provided in the national implementation reports submitted by Contracting Parties on the Offshore Protocol for the biennium 2020-2021

UNEP/MED WG.515/Inf.12 Page 42 to 45

**General Status of Progress in the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its
Protocols: Analysis of the Information Mentioned in the National Reports for the 2020-2021
Biennium**

**Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean against Pollution Resulting from Exploration
and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol)**

Status of Reporting

- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1994 Offshore Protocol on the 2020/2021 biennium: 8;
- Number of reporting on the 2020-2021 biennium: 10;
- Number of reporting countries on the 2020-2021 biennium: 9 (3 national implementation reports submitted by Contracting Parties to the Offshore Protocol).

Introduction

Part I: Legal and Regulatory Measures. Part I seeks to determine whether Contracting Parties have established the appropriate legal and regulatory framework to regulate offshore oil and gas activities, so that offshore activities are subject to prior authorization issued by the national competent authority in accordance with the requirements of the Protocol for the use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and materials, oil and oily mixtures and drilling fluids and cuttings, sewage and garbage (plastics, such as synthetic ropes, synthetic fishing nets, plastic garbage etc.) and remove of disused offshore installations.

Part II: Permits and Quantities. Part II seeks to gather data on the authorization permits given per waste category under the Offshore Protocol.

Part III: Inventory of Offshore Installations. Part III seeks to collect data on the number of offshore installations in the Mediterranean region.

Part IV: Enforcement Measures. Part IV seeks to collect information on enforcement in order to verify that the provisions of the Offshore Protocol are applied.

Progress in Implementation

Reporting Contracting Parties have reported on the legal and regulatory measures put in place to implement the Offshore Protocol, as shown in detail below.

a) Legal and Regulatory Measures

Nine reporting Contracting Parties have provided information about the legal and regulatory measures taken to implement Articles 4, 5 and 6 Annex IV (Authorization system), Article 8 (Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) to minimize the risk of offshore pollution), Article 9 (Harmful and noxious substances and materials), Article 10 (Oil and oily mixtures and drilling fluids and cuttings), Article 11 (Sewage discharge), Article 12 (Garbage disposal), Article 13 (Reception facilities), Article 15 (Safety measures), Article 16 (Contingency planning), Article 19 (Monitoring), Article 20 (Removal of installations) and Article 21 (Specially protected areas) of the Offshore Protocol. Among the nine reporting Contracting Parties, three did not report any changes from the previous report.

Regarding the legal and regulatory measures for granting the construction and operation of installations, no changes have been reported. All reporting Contracting Parties indicated that they have the appropriate legal and regulatory measures. Still, one Contracting Party referred to a moratorium on the prospecting, research and cultivation of hydrocarbons on its national territory in place since 2019. Another reporting Contracting Party indicated challenges with respect to the regulatory framework and another in relation to the policy framework. The latter indicated that although the Protocol was approved, it has not been ratified yet. Ratification is subject to parliamentary and government approval.

Eight Contracting Parties indicated no changes since the previous report on the use of BAT and BEP by

operators in order to minimize the risk of offshore pollution, through environmental protection laws, as part of the EIA or by meeting operator's contract requirements. One Contracting Party mentioned a change but without further details. One reporting Contracting Party referred that the common standards and guidelines developed under the framework on the Offshore Protocol (Decision IG.24/9) are taken into account in the Offshore Protocol permit issued by the competent authority. Another Contracting Party kept the note from the previous report on challenges in relation to the regulatory framework.

As for the disposal of harmful and noxious substances and materials¹, the Offshore Protocol distinguishes between three categories of substances: i. prohibition of disposal of substances listed in Annex I to the Protocol, ii. disposal of substances in Annex II to the Protocol subject to prior special permit and iii. disposal of other substances not included in Annexes I and II subject to a prior general permit. Many reporting Contracting Parties (5 out of the 9) indicated that legal provisions are in place for all three categories of substances. Two Contracting Parties indicated changes since the previous report. Among these two Contracting Parties, it is to note that for one Contracting Party the change is related to a transferred European Directive related to port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships. One reporting Contracting Party indicated that no legal provisions are adopted for category iii; another reporting Contracting Party informed that all substances that may cause pollution are prohibited from being disposed and disposal of any substance is subject to permission provided that it causes no risk of pollution. One reporting Contracting Party indicated that the prohibition of disposal of substances listed in Annex I is not applicable. A number of difficulties were indicated in relation to the disposal of harmful or noxious substances and materials, including challenges related to the regulatory framework, technical guidance capabilities and administrative management.

Many reporting Contracting Parties (4 out of 9) indicated that no provisions had been adopted yet that allow for the approval of a chemical use plan on the use and storage of offshore chemicals by the national competent authority. One Contracting Party indicated changes since the previous report but without further justifications. In the case of one reporting Contracting Party, the related provisions are under development. Another reporting Contracting Party with relevant provisions in place commented on the need for more detailed guidance on the content of the chemical use plan, its assessment and its continuous monitoring.

Annex V of the Offshore Protocol provides for the use and disposal of: A. oil and oil mixtures and B. drilling fluids and cuttings. One Contracting Party reported changes while eight Contracting Parties indicated no changes or did not specify their answer. Four Contracting Parties that reported on A. confirmed that provisions on the disposal of oil and oily mixtures are in place; in one case this is stipulated in discharge permits which are closely inspected and enforced. As for B., two Contracting Parties indicated the existence of provisions on the use and disposal of drilling fluids and cuttings; another three indicated their absence, whereas in the case for another three reporting Contracting Parties this was deemed as not applicable. One reporting Contracting Party made reference to the use of the common guidelines and standards on the use and disposal oil and oil mixtures and drilling fluids and cuttings adopted in 2019 (Decision IG.24/9) under the framework of the Offshore Protocol, adopting minimum standards specified in Article 10 and stricter conditions if required. Two reporting Contracting Parties referred to the recommended use of water-base drilling mud, including the full prohibition of the offshore discharge of oil-base drilling fluids and cuttings in the case of one of them.

With respect to the disposal of sewage and garbage, nearly all reporting Contracting Parties (7 out of 9) reported on existing provisions, either on the complete prohibition of sewage discharge or in some cases of untreated sewage, and on the prohibition of garbage disposal in the Protocol area. The parallel is that the majority of reporting Contracting Parties indicated no changes since the previous report. One reporting Contracting Party refers to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL); another specifies that the way of regulating the disposal of sewage and garbage disposal is defined in the EIA studies which take into account provisions of the Offshore Protocol. As for the disposal of food waste, most reporting Contracting Parties reported having appropriate provisions in place (some in accordance to Annex V to MARPOL Convention), whereas two indicated the absence

of such provisions. Similarly, most reporting Contracting Parties have provisions that ensure that operators dispose of all waste and harmful or noxious substances and materials in designated onshore reception facilities. One Contracting Party indicated no provisions but referred to a transferred European Directive related to port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships as well to the EIA.

One Contracting Party reported on difficulties/challenges related to the disposal of oil and oily mixtures and drilling fluids and cuttings, sewage, garbage and reception facilities. The difficulty/challenge mentioned is administrative management.

The majority of reporting Contracting Parties (6 out of 9) confirm the adoption of legal provisions of safety measures and contingency planning covered by various pieces legislation. One additional Contracting Party answered as “not applicable” due to the absence of exploration or offshore exploitation in the Mediterranean Sea. A trend is that safety measures are addressed through e.g. Health, Safety and Environment, (HSE) certificates in some countries, whereas contingency planning through, e.g. the Oil Pollution Prevention Emergency Plan (OPEP) as provided by the OPRC Convention 1990 and oil spills contingency plan (OSCP) under exploration licenses. One reporting Contracting Party referred to a dedicated Act on the Safety of Offshore Exploration and production of hydrocarbons. One reporting Contracting Party referenced the European Directive 2013/30/EU on safety of offshore oil and gas operations, indicating the regulatory framework as a difficulty/challenge, and highlighting the overlap between the Offshore Protocol and the Directive requirements.

In relation to environmental and compliance monitoring programmes and activities, many reporting Contracting Parties (5 out of 9) confirmed their establishment, mainly through EIA requirements for projects/activities and SEA requirements for plans/programs. One other reporting Contracting Party indicated the absence of a national monitoring system, with monitoring activities conducted on the basis of ad-hoc requests for each permit depending on the activity. The need for strengthened technical guidance capabilities and regulatory framework is identified.

The removal of disused offshore installations and pipelines is prescribed in relevant provisions in many reporting Contracting Parties (4 out of 9). The procedure of removal and recovery is elaborated either in a dedicated part of the description of “mining project”, as part of the EIA, or through a decommissioning plan. One reporting Contracting Party specified that a decommissioning plan with specific decommissioning obligations is compulsory for abandoning the facilities once the concession over the deposit or underground store has concluded and to restore the environment. A fifth Contracting Party reported that relevant provisions are not applicable as it did have productive offshore installations. However, in the case of offshore exploration installations, a complete removal of the authorized installation and any other equipment is requested, followed by a visual inspection of the subsea area and an "end of well" report.

As regards to special measures to prevent, abate, combat and control pollution in specially protected areas (SPAs), most Contracting Parties (6 out of 9) confirmed their adoption, of which one Contracting Party mentioned the complete prohibition of offshore activities in SPAs or in areas considered as strict reserves.

Some Contracting Parties (2 out of 9) indicated the absence of provisions on safety measures (Article 15), contingency planning (Article 16), monitoring (Article 19), removal (Article 20) and SPA (Article 21), possibly related to the lack of offshore oil and gas exploration or exploitation activities in their respective Protocol Areas during the reporting period.

b) Permits and Quantities²

Only two reporting Contracting Parties provided information on Part II – Permits and quantities. Limited reporting under Part II results in significant data and information gaps on the number of permits and the total quantity of waste permitted/actually dumped at sea at the regional level.

c) Inventory of Offshore Installations³

Information on Part III, the inventory of offshore installations, was provided by four reporting Contracting Parties that have oil and gas operations, one of which provided an extensive overview in a separate supporting document.

d) Enforcement⁴

Two reporting Contracting Parties that have oil and gas operations provided information on Part IV in terms of number of inspections that monitor the enforcement of the Protocol obligations. The reported information indicates that the two of the reporting Contracting Parties carried out inspections in relation to the Protocol obligations and national legislation and regulations implementing the Protocol (Article 3). No inspections related to specific conditions attached to authorizations or permits (Article 4 and 5), or related to illegal disposal (Article 9), or related to safety measures (Article 15) were mentioned.

Main overall findings

- A global trend is that no significant changes have been reported by the reporting Contracting Parties since the previous report (2018-2019). Most of the below comments were made following the previous reporting and are still valid. One tentative explanation, among others, could be related to the Covid-19 crisis within this period.
- It is to recall that offshore activities are subject to prior authorization, appropriate legal and regulatory measures for granting the construction and operation of installations as required by the Offshore Protocol in all reporting Contracting Parties. This authorization or permitting system has been mainly articulated through laws governing the offshore exploration and exploitation of mineral resources and/or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) laws and environmental permitting laws.
- Difficulties have been indicated in relation to the disposal of harmful or noxious substances and materials, including challenges related to the regulatory framework, technical guidance capabilities and administrative management. Some of those comments were made in the previous reporting.
- In some reporting Contracting Parties, the use and storage of offshore chemicals is approved by the competent national authority on the basis of the Chemical Use Plan as requested by Article 9 of the Offshore Protocol. It seems that further work is still needed in this area, in particular about the content of the chemical use plan, its assessment and its continuous monitoring.
- In regard to enforcement, it is to note that two reporting Contracting Parties, that have oil and gas operations, indicated having carried out inspections. In the previous report (2018-2019) four reporting Contracting Parties, that have oil and gas operations, indicated having carried out inspections.
- Difficulties most frequently reported in implementing the Offshore Protocol are the policy and regulatory framework, and administrative management.
- The trend showing few changes, as well as the limited data submitted regarding authorization permits, number of offshore installations and enforcement measures, illustrates that exploring practical ways and means to support Contracting Parties in the collection and submission of data, subject to available resources, would be key for the future reporting. Enhancement of data collection is paramount, and a continuous refinement of the UN Mediterranean knowledge platform (INFO/MAP) supports the process and would avoid duplication of reporting.