



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

Regional Workshop on Cooperation Arrangements in the
Field of Preparedness for and Response to Oil and Hazardous
and Noxious Substances (HNS) Spills (MEDEXPOL 2016)

REMPEC/WG.40/1/1
Date: 10 November 2016

St. Julian's, Malta, 14-15 December 2016

Original: English

Agenda item 1

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DRAFT TIMETABLE

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides brief information on the action 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.

Action to be taken: *As indicated under each agenda item.*

Related documents: REMPEC/WG.40/1/Rev.1

Introduction

1 The Regional Workshop on Cooperation Arrangements in the Field of Preparedness for and Response to Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Spills (MEDEXPOL 2016), hereinafter referred to as the Meeting, is being convened in St Julian's between the 14 and 15 December 2016, pursuant to the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)'s Programme of Work for 2016-2017 adopted by the Nineteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols (COP19), which was held in Athens, Greece from 9 to 12 February 2016.

2 The Meeting is being organized in accordance with the conclusions of the Eleventh Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, held in Malta from 15 to 17 June 2015, which agreed *inter alia*:

- to organise working-level exchanges between, on the one hand, the Mediterranean coastal States and, on the other hand, relevant entities such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) together with representatives from UNEP/MAP, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the European Commission (EC) as well as the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), to discuss cooperation arrangements and synergies between the European and regional mechanisms, and
- to carry out, through the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG), a complete review of the Mediterranean Principles and Guidelines on cooperation and mutual assistance.

3 The principal objectives of the Meeting will be to review and examine the proposed draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents and to give clear instructions and guidance to the Secretariat for its finalisation, prior to onward transmission to the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, to be tentatively held in Malta in May 2017, for its review and adoption.

4 Considering the scope of the Meeting, all REMPEC OPRC Focal Points have been invited to attend the Meeting. The invitation to participate in the Meeting has also been extended to specialized agencies of the United Nations, other governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as to the international professional organizations and associations whose activities are relevant for the work of REMPEC.

5 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

6 The Meeting will open on Wednesday, 14 December 2016 at 0900 hours and is expected to close on Thursday, 15 December 2016 at 1700 hours.

Agenda Item 1 Organisation of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

Rules of Procedure

7 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

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 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.

Adoption of the Agenda

9 The agenda, as proposed in document REMPEC/WG.40/1/Rev.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 Introduction of the draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents

10 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.40/2, which provides background information on the development of the draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents.

11 The Consultant will then present the draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents, hereinafter referred to as the draft Guide, which is set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.40/2.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided.

Agenda Item 3 **Consideration of general comments and specific contributions to the draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents**

12 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.40/3, which provides general and specific comments received from the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and from the regional and international organisations.

13 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided, to comment as deemed appropriate and to provide guidance on the way forward to improve the draft Guide during the Meeting.

Agenda Item 4 **Consolidation of the draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents**

14 **The Meeting will be invited**, on the basis of the outcome of the discussion under agenda item 3, to organise its work in plenary and to establish as required working groups to consider, matters referred to it by the Meeting, with a view to propose and review in plenary a consolidated version of the draft Guide.

Agenda Item 5 **Approval of the consolidated draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents**

15 **The Meeting will be invited** to approve a consolidated version of the draft Guide (Document REMPEC/WG.40/WP.1) and to give clear instructions and guidance to the Secretariat for its finalisation, prior to onward transmission to the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC for its review and adoption

Agenda Item 6 **Conclusions and recommendations**

16 Under this agenda item, the Meeting will review, amend, as appropriate, and adopt draft conclusions and recommendations (Document REMPEC/WG.40/WP.2) that will result from the meeting discussions, as prepared by the Rapporteur.

17 The report of the Meeting (REMPEC/WG.40/6) will be prepared and circulated after the meeting.

Closure of the Meeting

18 The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairperson at 1700 hours on Thursday 15 December 2016.

Annex – Draft timetable

Day I: Wednesday, 14 December 2016		
08.30 – 09.00	<i>Registration of the participants.</i>	
09.00 – 09.15	Opening of the Meeting	
09.15 – 09.30	Agenda Item 1	Organisation of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda
09.30 – 10.30	Agenda Item 2	Introduction of the draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents
10.30 – 11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.00 – 12.30	Agenda Item 3	Consideration of general comments and specific contributions to the draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents
12.30 – 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.00 – 15.00	Agenda Item 3 (cont.)	Consideration of general comments and specific contributions to the draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents
15.00 – 15.30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15.30 – 17.00	Agenda Item 4	Consolidation of the draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents

Day II: Thursday, 15 December 2016		
09.00 - 10.30	Agenda Item 4 (cont.)	Consolidation of the draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents
10.30 - 11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.00 - 12.30	Agenda Item 4 (cont.)	Consolidation of the draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents
12.30 – 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.00 - 15.30	Agenda Item 5	Approval of the consolidated draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents
15.30 – 16.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16.00 – 16.45	Agenda Item 6	Conclusion and recommendations
16.45 – 17.00	<i>Closure of the Meeting</i>	