

**Revised Annex to Resolution 7**

**OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF A REGIONAL CENTRE  
FOR COMBATING POLLUTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN  
BY OIL AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES**

Athens, 6 October 1989

Source: "Report of the Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols" (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/5, Annex V, Appendix 1, pages 1-3), Athens, 3-6 October 1989.



## REVISED ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 7\*

### OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR COMBATING POLLUTION BY OIL AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

#### I. - OBJECTIVES

1. To strengthen the capacities of the coastal States in the Mediterranean and to facilitate co-operation among them in order to respond to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, especially in case of emergency in which there is grave and imminent danger to the marine environment or when it can affect human lives.

2. To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which so request in the development of their own national capabilities for response to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, and to facilitate information exchange, technological co-operation and training.

3. A later objective, namely the possibility of initiating operations to combat pollution by oil and eventually by other harmful substances at the regional level, can be considered. This possibility should be submitted for approval by governments after evaluating the results achieved in the fulfillment of the previous two objectives and in the light of financial resources, which could be made available for this purpose.

4. To provide a framework for exchange of information on operational, technical, scientific, legal and financial matters.

#### II. - FUNCTIONS

A. - To collect and disseminate information on:

- i) Competent national authorities responsible for receiving reports of pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances and for dealing with matters concerning measures of assistance between Parties;
- ii) Inventories of experts, equipment and installations in each coastal State for response to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, and which might be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of the State which so requests in case of emergency;
- iii) General information, plans, methods and techniques for combating pollution by oil and other harmful substances in order to assist as far as necessary countries of the region in the preparation of their national contingency plans;
- iv) Mediterranean coastal zones, with a particular attention to the zones which are especially sensitive to pollution by oil and other harmful substances. This information could be used by risk predicting models and for the preparation of environmental sensitivity maps.

---

\* Resolution 7 with its Annex was adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Barcelona in 1976.

- B. - To establish, keep up to date and operate a partially computerized data base on chemicals and their properties, risks for human life and the marine environment, response techniques and combating methods.
- C. - To progressively develop and operate a marine pollution emergency decision support system with a view to providing rapidly to the Mediterranean coastal States information concerning behaviour, risks and different possibilities for action in cases of accidents involving oil and other harmful substances.
- D. - To prepare, disseminate and keep up to date operational guides and technical documents.
- E. - To develop and maintain a regional Communications/Information system appropriate to the needs of States being served by the Centre.
- F. - To develop technological co-operation and training programmes for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances and to organize training courses.
- G. - To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which so request, in the preparation and development of bilateral or multilateral operational agreements between neighbouring coastal States.
- H. - To prepare and keep up to date operational arrangements and guidelines, aimed at facilitating co-operation between Mediterranean coastal States in cases of emergency.
- I. - To provide, upon request, assistance to coastal States in cases of emergency, either by using its own capacities or through secondment of experts.
- J. - To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which in cases of emergency so request, in obtaining assistance of the other Parties to the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, or when the possibilities for assistance do not exist within the region, in obtaining international assistance from outside the region.
- K. - To develop and maintain close working relationships with other Mediterranean regional activity centres and with the "specialized regional organisms" which play a co-ordinating role as set forth in the Mediterranean Action Plan, particularly with the scientific institutions within the region.
- L. - To co-operate as appropriate in activities of the Mediterranean Action Plan related to marine pollution.
-