

Meeting of the Focal Points of the
Regional Marine Pollution Emergency
Response Centre for the Mediterranean
Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.16/11
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Agenda Item 11

**PROPOSED MEDIUM TERM PROGRAMME OF PRIORITY
ACTIVITIES, 2000 - 2003, AND DECISIONS AND GUIDANCE
FOR THE 2000 - 2001 BIENNIUM PROGRAMME**

Note by REMPEC

1. The Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points needs to conclude on the activities regarding a regional strategy for prevention, preparedness and response to pollution in the marine environment from sea-based activities, which will be implemented within the framework of MAP Phase II, the revision of the Protocol and the redefinition of the objectives and functions of REMPEC.
2. A preliminary draft of the four-year medium term programme for 2000 - 2003 for REMPEC's activities in the field of prevention, preparedness and response to pollution of the marine environment from sea-based activities is presented in Annex I of this document. The preliminary draft of the medium term programme is presented in such a way as to identify as much as possible all the components of the programme (see paragraph 4). This will facilitate adjustments, changes and modifications depending on the conclusions of the Meeting of National Legal and Technical Experts and the Meeting of Focal Points.
3. For the 2000 - 2001 biennium, a preliminary draft programme can be found in Annex II. The programme has been prepared on the basis of the Centre's current budget and therefore only covers the part regarding preparedness and co-operation in the event of a marine pollution emergency which is a continuation of previous medium term programmes approved by the Contracting Parties.
4. The following are the general orientation of proposed future activities and actions for a regional strategy for prevention, preparedness, response and mutual assistance:

I. Prevention of pollution by ships

A. Building national capacities

- i) improving the capacities of administrations (in charge of maritime transport and environment) to develop and implement prevention policies through:

- training courses;
 - delivery of information and expert assistance including access to technology, technology transfer and methods thereof;
 - pilot programmes;
- ii) developing hardware infrastructural resources through:
- technical and pre-investment studies;
 - pilot projects.

B. Develop regional co-operation

- i) conducting co-ordinated actions through organized consultation at all levels: national, regional and global (in IMO) in specific fields such as: anti-fouling paints, navigation in sensitive areas, ballast water, traffic separation schemes, etc.;
- ii) implementing programmes that require concerted action and measures at the regional level in fields such as: reception facilities, port state control, aerial surveillance;
- iii) carrying out studies on matters of regional interest, such as salvage and emergency towing capacities in the Mediterranean.

II. Preparedness, response and co-operation in the event of accidental marine pollution (continuation of the already established strategy)

A. Concerning preparedness and response, the Centre should:

- i) continue to develop and maintain the Regional Information System and develop tools as an aid to decision taking;
- ii) focus its intent and action mainly on developing national systems for preparedness and response as well as facilitating the adoption of sub-regional contingency systems;
- iii) organize a training programme geared to the requirements of the region with special attention paid to providing assistance to States so they can deliver their own national training courses and by giving the priority to countries that need them most. This will have to fall within the budget window allocated to the Centre for this activity;
- iv) undertake and co-operate in activities with the appropriate organizations regarding preparedness and response to maritime related accidents involving hazardous substances that occur in port areas or their approaches;
- v) organize exercises so as to test the regional co-operation scheme;
- vi) prepare new provisions and procedures that will apply in the event of international co-operation and assistance;
- vii) continue and intensify the contacts and relations with organizations that represent the shipping, oil and chemical industries with a view to facilitate the development of co-operation between government and industry;
- viii) organize and maintain the Mediterranean Assistance Unit, MAU, in a state of readiness.

B. In the event of accidental marine pollution, at the request of States, in compliance with its objectives and functions and due account being given to the resources available, REMPEC should:

- i) highlight and provide technical advice and information that States may require and use accordingly the Regional Information System that was developed and that is kept up to date by the Centre;
- ii) activate the MAU to assist in response;
- iii) assist in securing and co-ordinating international assistance irrespective of whether the equipment, products or strike teams are provided by government or industry;
- iv) strive to assist the affected States to disseminate information;
- v) disseminate information on "lesson learnt".

C. Prevention of pollution of the marine environment as a result of offshore production and exploration activities

- i) fulfil the function of Secretariat as stated in the Protocol (function assigned to the "Organization").

Resources required to implement the activities for a regional strategy for prevention, preparedness and response

5. For the implementation of such a programme, certain conditions, administrative and/or financial, would need to be met which would be the following:

- a) REMPEC will need more staff to run the complete programme successfully. In this regard, the Centre envisages that it will need the following additional staff component:
 - i) a programme officer to deal with the new field of prevention;
 - ii) a programme officer to deal with administrative and financial matters (see agenda item 10);
 - iii) a computer expert.
- b) Regarding preparedness, response and co-operation in the event of accidental marine pollution, the financial implications would be much the same as in the past although the workload will increase slightly. However, implementing this part of the programme will only be possible if the condition mentioned in paragraph (a ii) above is met since the majority of the work is done by the present staff at the Centre. If the condition is not met, the Centre will probably have to down-scale certain activities.
- c) Regarding the prevention of pollution by ships, the conditions laid down in (a) need to be wholly met. The action and activities planned will be conducted within the framework of clearly defined programmes and projects.
- d) Regarding the implementation of the Offshore Protocol, this will require additional finances to be made available through the MAP budget.

Action requested of the Meeting of Focal Points

6, The Meeting is invited to:

- a) examine and approve the draft medium term programme for 2000 - 2003 that will be presented to the next Meeting of Contracting Parties;
- b) discuss and approve the draft programme for the 2000 - 2001 biennium and give REMPEC guidance on this matter;
- c) give guidance to the Director for the preparation of a needs analysis and budgetary requirements for the new activities to be presented to the next Meeting of Contracting Parties with prior circulation to the Governmental Focal Points for input.

ANNEX I

**PROPOSED MEDIUM TERM PROGRAMME (2000 - 2003) OF PRIORITY ACTIVITIES
IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO POLLUTION
OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM SEA-BASED ACTIVITIES**

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION			
		2000	2001	2002	2003
<u>TITLE I. PREVENTION OF POLLUTION BY SHIPS *</u>					
<u>I. Control the effective implementation of the relevant IMO Conventions:</u>					
1. Strengthening national capacities for exercising the power of flag State, port State and coastal State: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regional training programmes; b) Pilot programmes (REMPEC). 2. Develop regional co-operation to increase efficiency of port State Control.	REMPEC Specific programmes				
<u>II. Port reception facilities</u>					
Implementation of Action Plan adopted in Cairo, December 1991.	REMPEC Projects				

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION			
		2000	2001	2002	2003
<p>III. <u>Surveillance and prosecution</u></p> <p>1. Aerial surveillance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organize and develop regional co-operation in this field. <p>2. Legal actions against offenders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organize and develop regional co-operation in the field of legal prosecution and sanction. 	REMPEC				
	REMPEC				
<p>IV. <u>Salvage</u></p> <p>1. Salvage and towing capacities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - examine rescue and towing capacities in the Mediterranean. <p>2. Availability of salvage vessels and emergency towing arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - examine how arrangements can be made to have rescue tugs available in the event of an emergency. 	REMPEC				
	REMPEC				

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION			
		2000	2001	2002	2003
<p><u>TITLE II. PREPAREDNESS FOR, RESPONSE TO AND CO-OPERATION IN CASE OF ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION</u></p> <p><u>I. Collection and dissemination of information (e.g. guidelines, recommendations and technical documents) from other relevant organizations and from the shipping, oil and chemical industry.</u></p> <p><u>REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM</u> (oil and hazardous substances)</p> <p><u>PART A: Basic Documents, Recommendations, Principles and Guidelines concerning marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance.</u></p> <p>1. Guidelines related to legal and financial aspects of mutual assistance.</p>	REMPEC	X	X		
<p><u>PART B: Lists and inventories</u></p> <p>2. Directory of competent national authorities in charge of accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance and other relevant information - <u>SECTION 1.</u></p>	REMPEC	To publish annually starting year 2000 and to provide updates as necessary.			
<p>3. Inventory of experts, equipment and products which can be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of a State which so requests, in cases of emergency - <u>SECTION 2.</u></p>	REMPEC	X		X	

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION			
		2000	2001	2002	2003
4. Directory of companies offering services in the Mediterranean in case of emergency - SECTION 4.	REMPEC	X		X	
5. Complete computerization and maintenance of this part of the RIS.	REMPEC	permanent activity			
PART C: Databanks, Forecasting Models and Decision Support Systems					
6. Maintenance, utilization and updating of the partially computerized databank of the Centre.	REMPEC	permanent activity			
7. Acquisition of behaviour simulation models.	REMPEC	permanent activity			
8. Description of the Centre's information services on hazardous substances.	REMPEC		X		
9. Develop and maintain the TROCS database.	REMPEC	permanent activity			
10. List of alerts and accidents in the Mediterranean - SECTION 4.	REMPEC	X	X	X	X
11. Directory of Mediterranean Ports - SECTION 5.	REMPEC			X	
12. Directory of Mediterranean Meteorological Centres - SECTION 7.	REMPEC		X		
PART D: Operational Guides and Technical Documents					
13. Associated risk of gases and volatile liquids spilled at sea. (Supplement) - SECTION 9.	REMPEC		X		
14. Impact of spilled hazardous substances on human life and the marine environment - SECTION 10.	REMPEC	X			

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION			
		2000	2001	2002	2003
15. Case histories describing hazardous materials - SECTION 8.	REMPEC			X	
16. Remote sensing techniques applicable to spilled hazardous substances in the marine environment - SECTION 11.	REMPEC				X
17. Guide for dealing with marine incidents involving hazardous substances - SECTION 12.	REMPEC	X			
II. ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WHICH SO REQUEST, IN DEVELOPING THEIR NATIONAL CAPABILITIES					
A. National and Subregional Systems					
18. Assistance to countries in developing their information sources at the national level by providing computerized material developed by REMPEC.	REMPEC	on request			
19. Providing assistance to countries which so request, to develop their national system for preparedness and response.	Consultant	on request			
20. Providing assistance to countries which so request, for the preparation of projects for the acquisition of combating equipment which would be submitted to possible sources of international financing.	Consultant	on request			
21. Development of sub-regional systems for combating major marine pollution accidents:	EEC/REMPEC Consultant	on request			
(a) Eastern Mediterranean (b) Adriatic		X	X	X	X

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION			
		2000	2001	2002	2003
22. Providing assistance to States, which so request, for the preparation and development of bilateral operational agreements amongst neighbouring coastal States.	REMPEC/Consultant	on request			
B. Port Emergency Response System	REMPEC in co-operation with other organizations	on request			
23. Risk analysis: - design of pilot projects for external financing.		on request			
24. Port emergency plan: - design of pilot projects for external financing.		on request			
25. Decision support system: - design of pilot project for external financing.		on request			
III. TRAINING	REMPEC				
26. Regional training courses of a general type on oil and hazardous substances.	REMPEC	X		X	
27. Specialized regional training course on oil.	REMPEC	X		X	
28. Specialized regional training course on hazardous substances.	REMPEC		X		X
29. Regional training course for trainers (French).	REMPEC		X		
30. Regional training course for trainers (English).	REMPEC				X

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION			
		2000	2001	2002	2003
31. Providing assistance to States, which so request in the preparation of national training seminars (assistance to two seminars per year).	REMPEC	on request			
32. Making available teaching documents for national training activities.	REMPEC	permanent activity			
33. Preparation of a training programme on preparedness and response in ports.	REMPEC	permanent activity			
IV. CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY					
34. Organization of alert exercises aimed at testing the use of the standard alert message and communications network.	REMPEC	X	X	X	X
35. Organization of "paper exercises" with chemical industry (ICE).	REMPEC	X	X	X	X
36. Organization of "operational exercises with the deployment of equipment".	In co-operation with a Contracting Party or with the Oil Industry	on a case-to-case basis			
37. Organization and administration of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit to assist combating accidental marine pollution.	REMPEC	permanent activity			
38. Maintenance of relations and contacts with the representative organizations of oil and shipping industries.	REMPEC	permanent activity			

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION			
		2000	2001	2002	2003
39. Co-operation with the chemical industry (ICE project).	REMPEC in co-operation with CEFIC	permanent activity			
<u>TITLE III PREVENTION OF MARINE POLLUTION RESULTING FROM OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES *</u>					
<u>I. Preparation of guidelines, standards and joint criteria</u>					
1. Preparation of criteria for the formulation and elaboration of international rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures for achieving the aims of the Protocol (article 23).	REMPEC				
2. Preparation of common standards for the disposal of oil and oily mixtures from installations into the Protocol area (article 10, para 1a).					
3. Preparation of common standards for the use and disposal of drilling fluids and drill cuttings into the Protocol area (article 10, para 2).					
4. Preparation of guidelines regarding the use of chemicals for the activities (article 9, para 2).					
5. Preparation of guidelines in accordance with international practices and procedures to ensure observance of the provisions of Annex VI: Safety Measures (article 23, para 1c).					

* The Contracting Parties will need to approve an increase in the Centre's budget concomitant with the personnel component requirements, new activities and related operational costs (travel, communications, reporting, etc.)

ANNEX II

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR THE 2000 - 2001 BIENNIUM
FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF REMPEC IN THE FIELD OF
PREPAREDNESS FOR, RESPONSE TO AND CO-OPERATION
IN CASE OF ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION**

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION	
		2000	2001
<p>I. <u>INFORMATION</u></p> <p>Collection and dissemination of information (e.g. guidelines, recommendations and technical documents) from other relevant organizations and from the shipping, oil and chemical industry.</p> <p><u>REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM</u> (oil and hazardous substances)</p> <p><u>PART A: Basic Documents, Recommendations, Principles and Guidelines concerning marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance.</u></p> <p>1. Guidelines related to the legal and financial aspects of mutual assistance.</p>	REMPEC	X	X
<p><u>PART B: Lists and Inventories</u></p> <p>2. Directory of competent national authorities in charge of accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance and other relevant information - SECTION 1.</p>	REMPEC	To publish annually and to provide updates as necessary	
<p>3. Inventory of experts, equipment and products which can be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of a State, which so requests, in cases of emergency - SECTION 2.</p>	REMPEC	X	
<p>4. Directory of companies offering services in the Mediterranean in case of emergency - SECTION 4.</p>	REMPEC	X	
<p>5. Complete computerization and maintain this part of the RIS.</p>	REMPEC	permanent activity	
<p><u>PART C: Databanks, Forecasting Models and Decision Support Systems</u></p> <p>6. Maintenance, utilization and updating of the partially computerized databank of the Centre.</p>	REMPEC	permanent activity	
<p>7. Acquisition of behaviour simulation models.</p>	REMPEC	permanent activity	
<p>8. Description of the Centre's information services on hazardous substances.</p>	REMPEC		X
<p>9. Develop and maintain the TROCS database.</p>	REMPEC	permanent activity	
<p>10. List of alerts and accidents in the Mediterranean - SECTION 4.</p>	REMPEC	X	X
<p>11. Directory of Mediterranean Meteorological Centres - SECTION 7.</p>	REMPEC		X

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION	
		2000	2001
PART D: Operational Guides and Technical Documents			
12. Associated risk of gases and volatile liquids spilled at sea. (Supplement) - SECTION 9.	REMPEC		X
13. Impact of spilled hazardous substances on human life and the marine environment - SECTION 10.	REMPEC	X	
14. Guide of countermeasures for dealing with maritime incidents involving hazardous substances.	REMPEC	X	
II. ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WHICH SO REQUEST, IN DEVELOPING THEIR NATIONAL CAPABILITIES			
A. National and Subregional Systems			
15. Assistance to countries in developing their information sources at the national level by providing computerized material developed by REMPEC.	REMPEC	on request	
16. Providing assistance to countries which so request, to develop their national system for preparedness and response.	Consultant	on request	
17. Providing assistance to countries which so request, for the preparation of projects for the acquisition of combating equipment which would be submitted to possible sources of international financing.	Consultant	on request	
18. Development of sub-regional systems for combating major marine pollution accidents:		on request	
(a) Eastern Mediterranean	EEC/REMPEC Consultant	X	
(b) Adriatic		X	X
19. Providing assistance to States, which so request, for the preparation and development of bilateral operational agreements amongst neighbouring coastal States.	REMPEC Consultant	on request	
B. Port Emergency Response System			
20. Risk analysis: - design of pilot projects for external financing.	REMPEC in co-operation with other organizations	on request	
21. Port emergency plan: - design of pilot projects for external financing.		on request	
22. Decision support system: - design of pilot projects for external financing.		on request	
III. TRAINING			
23. Regional training courses of a general type on oil and hazardous substances.	REMPEC	X	
24. Specialized regional training course on oil.	REMPEC	X	
25. Specialized regional training course on hazardous substances.	REMPEC		X
26. Regional training course for trainers.	REMPEC		X

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION	
		2000	2001
27. Providing assistance to States, which so request in the preparation of national training seminars (assistance to two seminars per year).	REMPEC	on request	
28. Making available teaching documents for national training activities.	REMPEC	permanent activity	
29. Preparation of a training programme on preparedness and response in ports.	REMPEC	permanent activity	
IV. <u>CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY</u>			
30. Organization of alert exercises aimed at testing the use of the standard alert message and communications network.	REMPEC	X	X
31. Organization of "paper exercises" with chemical industry.	REMPEC	X	X
32. Organization of "operational exercises with the deployment of equipment".	in co-operation with a Contracting Party or with the Oil Industry	on a case-to-case basis	
33. Organization and administration of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit to assist combating accidental marine pollution.	REMPEC	permanent activity	
34. Maintenance of relations and contacts with the representative organizations of oil and shipping industries.	REMPEC	permanent activity	
35. Co-operation with the chemical industry (ICE project).	REMPEC in co-operation with CEFIC	permanent activity	