

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

REMPEC/WG.16/8
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Agenda Item 8

**OPRC CONVENTION AND OPRC
WORKING GROUP**

Note by IMO

1. The International Convention on Oil Pollution, Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC) Convention) came into force on 13 May 1995.
2. The Convention's objectives is to facilitate international co-operation and mutual assistance in preparing for and responding to a major oil pollution incident and to enhance global preparedness through national action with the final aim of mitigating consequences of major oil pollution incidents involving, in particular, ships, offshore units, seaports and oil handling facilities.
3. The strategy for the implementation of the OPRC Convention and OPRC Conference Resolutions has been:
 - national contingency plan development assistance;
 - the establishment of an IMO Co-ordination Centre;
 - the development of a training strategy through model courses;
 - development and updating of Manuals and Guidelines;
 - seminar, workshop and symposia;
 - regional co-operation mechanisms.
4. Overseeing and implementing this strategy has been the OPRC Working Group.
5. At the next Meeting of the OPRC Working Group (MEPC 42, 2 - 6 November 1998), the major issues to be considered are:
 - further development of a draft Protocol on hazardous and noxious substances;
 - development of combating manuals/guidelines:
 - Manual on Chemical Pollution - Section 1;
 - Catalogue of Computer Programmes and Internet Information related to responding to Oil Spills;
 - Marine Pollution Manual Section IV - Combating Oil Spills;

- Manual on Bioremediation;
- Guidelines for fisheries management during and after an oil spill incident;
- Guidelines for response to spills of emulsified oils.
- development of standards for compatible oil pollution combating techniques and equipment;
- review of the list of experts under the Intervention Protocol;
- review of the status of OPRC model courses and their delivery by national or other organizations;
- retrieval of the INF Code materials in the event of an accident;
- overview of IMO's functions and activities under Article 12 of the Convention.

Action requested of the Meeting of Focal Points

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information provided.