

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The 1st Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting was convened in Valletta, Malta on the 13 and 14 June 2013, pursuant to the Decision IG.20/12 of the 17th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Paris, France, 8 -10 February 2012).

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

2. The main objectives of the Meeting were:

- a) To examine recognized international best practices and regulations relevant for the implementation of the Offshore Protocol;
- b) To share experience on existing practical measures in place in the Mediterranean countries with regard to Offshore activities,
- c) To provide recommendations in view of the drafting of the Action Plan requested by Decision IG.20/12

2.1. Facilitators and speakers

3. In order to achieve the objectives outlined above, the Meeting Programme was prepared by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC). The meeting benefited from the experience of representatives from the European Commission Directorate General Environment, the OSPAR Commission, the United Kingdom Health Safety Executive (HSE), the Italian Ministry of Economic Development, the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP), Det Norske Veritas (DNV), Noble Energy International Limited and Mabruk Oil Operations; and from the experience gained by the Government of Cyprus and Israel, first countries in the region having applied the obligations defined under the Offshore Protocol, in their national authorization procedure.

2.2. Participants

4. A total of forty-four (44) participants representing 14 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Spain and Turkey), International Organizations (The International Maritime Organization - International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), MAP's Partners (International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP), the Global Oil and Gas Industry Association for Environmental and Social Issues (IPIECA), the Non-Governmental Organization Oceana, the International Centre of Comparative Law of the Environment (CIDCE)), other organizations (Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), and ENI Exploration and Production.

5. The final list of participants is reproduced in **Annex I** to the present report.

2.3 Material

6. The final Agenda of the Meeting as delivered may be found in **Annex II** of the present report.

7. The detailed list of documents provided to the participants is reported in **Annex III** of the present report. In addition, the following material was distributed to the participants:

- a) Clarkson Research Offshore Intelligent Monthly (May-2013) and Mediterranean Oil and Gas Activity and Concession Map;
- b) OSPAR Quality Status Report CD, Publication and Brochure

3. PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

8. The 1st Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting was held in Malta between the 13 and 14 June 2013, in the Conference Room of the Grand Excelsior Hotel in Valletta, Malta, where most of the participants were also accommodated.

9. UNEP/MAP financed the Meeting through the EC funded Project Ecosystem Approach for the Management of Human Activities in the Mediterranean (EcAp) and the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF), whilst REMPEC supervised the preparation and implementation of the Meeting.

10. The composition of the secretariat is detailed in **Annex I**.

11. The meeting was delivered in English and French and simultaneous interpretation from one language to the other was provided.

AGENDA ITEM 1 AND 2: OPENING & ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

12. The UNEP/MAP Executive Secretary and Co-ordinator, Ms. Silva Mejias, thanked the participants and gave an introduction on the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention, stressing out the importance of taking action to protect the Mediterranean Sea and to prevent against accident and pollution from offshore activities. She recalled that this meeting opened the process of the preparation of an Action Plan for the implementation of the Offshore Protocol (referred hereafter as the "Action Plan"). She thanked the European Commission and the Maltese authorities for their support and welcome, and the team of REMPEC for the organization of the event.

13. The Director of REMPEC, Mr. Hébert, took the floor to thank the participants and speakers and encourage them to participate actively in the discussion during this workshop. He underlined the diversity of the origin of the participants, from environmental and energy authorities, along with important actors from the oil and gas offshore industry in the Mediterranean, thus allowing an interesting exchange between the main parties involved in the offshore activities and its potential impact in the region.

14. He then gave an overview on the agenda of the workshop and the logistics arrangements. He took the opportunity to thank the International Maritime Law Institute who contributed to the Meeting by providing supporting documentation on specific offshore related studies produced by their students. Although this was not a Meeting of the Contracting parties to the Offshore Protocol to the Barcelona Convention, he recalled the functions of the Offshore Protocol Meetings, highlighting the importance of the harmonization of best practices applied within existing relevant frameworks, be it international or regional such as the European Union Directives on offshore activities.

AGENDA ITEM 3: PRESENTATION OF THE OFFSHORE PROTOCOL

15. The Director of REMPEC provided an overview of the different sections of the Offshore Protocol. He emphasised that according to the Decision IG.20/12, UNEP/MAP Secretariat was requested to *“Establish an ad hoc working group coordinated by REMPEC composed of representatives of the Contracting Parties and observers from representatives of the concerned industries, relevant international organizations and MAP partners”*.

16. In this regards, he invited countries who did not nominated their National Offshore Focal Point to take action and ensure their countries' participation in the drafting of the Action Plan. He further recalled that the same decision calls for *“an in depth assessment and stock taking analysis of the existing practical measures in place in the Mediterranean countries with regard to Offshore activities”* to be conducted.

17. In this regards, he reminded the content of the questionnaire on offshore activities which was disseminated to the Contracting Parties and stressed on the lack of response and detailed information.

18. He concluded presenting the programme of activities from the current Meeting till the 2nd Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting to be held in Athens, Greece, between 6 and 7 November 2013, back to back to the Regional Workshop MEDEXPOL 2013. He underlined that the part of the Offshore Protocol related to cooperation, preparedness and response to marine pollution from offshore activities will be addressed during the upcoming Regional Workshop MEDEXPOL 2013, to be held in Athens, Greece in on 5-6 November 2013. As far as the topic of liability and compensation (Article 27 of the Offshore Protocol), participants were invited to leave the discussion on this matter for a later stage.

AGENDA ITEM 4: OVERVIEW OF OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

19. The Director of REMPEC gave the floor to Mr. Gonzalez, Programme Officer at REMPEC, to give an overview of the existing oil and gas activities and production in the Mediterranean. He thanked Clarkson Research who could not attend the meeting, for offering the presentation and the related publications. The presentation provided an overview of the Global context, highlighting where the Mediterranean fits into the global offshore oil and gas activities, which countries are important to Mediterranean offshore developments, where the growth will be concentrated and what the future Mediterranean offshore industry will look like. According to the figures provided, the Mediterranean accounted with 196 fields in production in 2012 representing an offshore oil production estimated at 613,000 barrels per day representing approximately 2.1 % of the global offshore oil production and 0.72% of the worldwide oil production (offshore and onshore).

AGENDA ITEM 5: TYPES OF INSTALLATIONS & RELATED RISKS FOR OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES

20. The representative of the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP), Mr John Campbell delivered a presentation on the types of installation and related risks in the Mediterranean.

21. He introduced the main elements to take into account when assessing the risk of offshore activities and presented the different steps of the lifecycle (40 to 50 years) of an

offshore activity, their duration and technical issues from the exploration phase to the abandonment of the field. In particular, discharges from oil production and the techniques and issues dealt with to decontaminate the released water were presented.

22. The participants rose the following questions and remarks :

a) Impact of underwater noise caused by offshore activities:

The participants noted that this issue was not specified in the Offshore Protocol, whilst according to the European Commission representative this matter is considered under the EU Directives on Offshore activities. The Greek delegation informed the participants that a large seismic survey campaign was carried out in the Greek waters and that no harm to local species was noted in the Ionian Sea and in the South of Crete. The representative of OGP made reference to a study on sound pollution currently being carried out.

b) Sediment pollution caused by offshore exploration:

In Israel, sea turtles were affected by the sediment pollution caused by offshore exploration.

c) Onshore: Algerian representatives suggested considering existing onshore procedures and practices to analyse their applicability to offshore activities.

AGENDA ITEM 6: OVERVIEW OF PLAYERS AND SYNERGIES

23. The representative of OGP gave an overview on the main stakeholders involved in the offshore activity, and the link between the regulators, authorities, operators, financial institutions and commercial partners. He highlighted that the Protocol would be applied in the interaction between the regulators and the operators.

AGENDA ITEM 7: EU REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IN THE FIELD OF OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES

24. The representative of the European Commission, Mr. Michail Papadoyannakis, presented the EU legislation related to Offshore Safety currently in place, its objectives and provisions. He emphasized that the main objective of the Directive adopted on 10 June 2013, was to ensure that all the necessary measures are in place to reduce the risk of pollution incident due to offshore activities. He also noted the changes for the industry and regulators and the timeframe for the adoption and transposition process into Member States laws and regulations. All installations in EU Member States shall comply with the Directive five years after its adoption. Whilst reminding that the EU ratified the Offshore Protocol, he referred to a study comparing the European Directive and the Offshore Protocol with a view to identifying possible synergies and additional actions to be undertaken in a cost efficient and timely manner. He concluded by presenting other relevant EU legislations related to offshore activities.

AGENDA ITEM 8: OSPAR'S ACTIONS AND MEASURES IN THE FIELD OF OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES

25. The deputy Secretary of the OSPAR Commission, Dr Maria-Luisa Rodriguez-Lucas, provided information on the actions and measures in place in the North East Atlantic, within the framework of the Oslo and Paris Conventions, in the field of offshore activities. She first

introduced the OSPAR Commission, comparing it with the Barcelona Convention and referred in particular to the Annex III of the OSPAR Convention on Offshore Sources. To address the environmental aspect of the offshore activities, a wide range of measures were put in place by the OSPAR Convention. A "Quality Status Report" was released in 2010 for this purpose. The evolution of pollution in the North East Atlantic was introduced. Future key issues to be considered under the OSPAR Convention were highlighted (e.g. ageing structures and offshore activities in the Arctic). She explained that the Offshore Industry Committee of OSPAR Convention is composed of Ministries of Energy and Industry from the Contracting Parties, observers from the oil and gas industry and NGOs.

26. The following discussions took place after her presentation:

a) Data access from the industry and Contracting Parties:

It was recognized that the access to the data was crucial to monitor the situation in the Mediterranean region and that currently no regional monitoring system was in place. In this regards, Dr. Rodriguez-Lucas underlined the inequality and irregularity of the quality and quantity of data provided by the OSPAR Convention Contracting Parties and the existence of a quality check insurance procedure to analyse the gathered data.

b) Cooperation between the Barcelona Convention and OSPAR Convention

This cooperation was encouraged to share knowledge on existing provisions in place in the North East Atlantic which might be applicable to the Mediterranean.

c) Sequestration of CO₂ in the geological layers

OSPAR confirmed that they were responsible for the assessment of the implementation of the recommendations on Carbon Caption Storage (CCS). The Spanish delegation informed the meeting that a study on the sequestration of CO₂ will be disseminated at the up-coming MEDPOL Focal Points Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9: OFFSHORE REGULATION AND PRACTICE IN UK

27. The Head of Strategic Intervention in the Energy Division of the UK Health Safety Executive (HSE), Mr. Stephen Walker, gave an overview on the UK Offshore safety regulation and environmental protection regime in place. He highlighted the public inquiry into the Piper Alpha disaster which led to the reviewing of UK legislation in terms of safety, but not on environmental aspects. He also provided an overview of the installations operated in the UK Continental Shelf and the national regulatory body. He then explained the consequence of the Deepwater Horizon incident, which strengthened the relationship between the environmental and HSE regulatory bodies, in line with the EU Directive, which requires the creation of a single offshore safety and environment competent authority.

AGENDA ITEM 10: OFFSHORE PRACTICE IN ITALY

28. The representative of the Italian Ministry of Economic Development, Mr Luca Di Donatantonio introduced the UNMIG (National Mining Office for hydrocarbon and geothermal energy), which has the power to independently organize specific inspections and verifications in Italy. Italy is separated into offshore zones open to oil exploration and production. He stressed that some additional requirements and prohibitions were defined after the Deepwater Horizon incident. He concluded by introducing the legal framework of the Italian licensing regime structured into three licenses: prospecting, exploration and production.

AGENDA ITEM 11: HOW TO SATISFY NATIONAL REGULATIONS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES?

29. The representative of Noble Energy International Limited, Ms. Sarah Watson explained that to cover the subject of the presentation two case studies were prepared for Cyprus and Israel. However due to a last minute change, her colleague could not attend. She then presented the procedure followed before the appraisal drilling program in Cyprus and highlighted that the provisions of the Offshore Protocol and other regional and international relevant legal instruments were considered during this process. She described the company process for the environmental approval from the Cypriot authorities: preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Offshore Protocol application for authorization, H&S Management system Interface Document, Training of personnel, waste management plan, etc...

30. It was recognized that a step by step approach of the various obligations defined by the Offshore Protocol facilitated strengthening the authorization process.

AGENDA ITEM 12: OFFSHORE INSTALLATION VERIFICATION

31. The representative of Det Norske Veritas (DNV), Mr Siamack Ataibi, Business Development Manager explained how verifications are conducted by the company on the installations. He highlighted that the company is a self-owned independent foundation. He defined 'verification' as a thorough examination to confirm that an activity, a product or a service is conducted, manufactured or delivered in accordance with specified requirements which are related to risk. He then introduced the standards implemented by the company and presented the type of risks (high, medium and low risk), which implies a three tiered verification procedure depending of the level of risk. He concluded his presentation stressing on the importance of the independent character of verifications, and of the assessment throughout the entire life cycle of a project.

AGENDA ITEM 13-16 INTRODUCTION TO THE DISCUSSION PANELS

32. The second day of the meeting was dedicated to discussions on the main issues to take into account for the preparation of the Draft Action Plan of the Offshore Protocol. The discussion was organized into four areas:

- a) Authorization
- b) Control of operations
- c) Human element
- d) Operational discharges

33. The representative of UK HSE moderated the discussions on authorization, control of operation and human element through specific questions to the participants of the Meeting and to the panel composed of representatives from the Italian Ministry of Economic Development, Mabruk Oil Operations, OGP, Noble Energy and DNV. The representative of OSPAR moderated the discussion on operational discharges with a panel composed of the Director of REMPEC and the representative of MEDPOL.

AGENDA ITEM 13: AUTHORIZATION

34. The discussion addressed first a key element of the authorization process: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements also referred in Annex IV of the Offshore Protocol.

35. The representative of Cyprus and Noble Energy shared their experience on the preparation of the EIA for the well appraisal, combining requirements of the EIA of Offshore EU Directive and Annex IV to the Offshore Protocol. A full EIA was realised, although it is not required by the EU Directive. It was noted that the setup of environmental criteria is defined by EU Directive, but not by Offshore Protocol. The Libyan and Moroccan delegations also shared their experience on the preparation and requirements of EIA and agreed on the importance of regular risk mitigation measures assessment throughout the life cycle of the operation. The Algerian delegation pointed out the importance of unifying the various authorisations regarding the use of chemicals, into one single list to be approved at the beginning of the project.

36. The representative of OGP stressed out that the main objective of Annex IV is to explain what the environmental risks are and invited participants to avoid overcomplicating their EIA. Considering that most of the drilling, in the Mediterranean region, will be carried out outside the European Union, he suggested using the Offshore Protocol to inform the State on the risks implied by the offshore activity.

37. The Meeting recognized that the “language” of the Protocol which has been drafted twenty years ago, should be carefully considered whilst implementing the future Action Plan, in order to aligning its content with up to date recognised best practices.

38. The meeting further noticed missing elements from the Annex IV to be considered within the Action Plan:

- a) Environmental aspects of decommissioning ;
- b) CO2 Capture and storage;
- c) Cross boundary effect of the pollution.

39. It was noted that the majority of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention not being Members of the European Union, the common instruments between all Mediterranean Coastal States are the International Conventions such as the Espoo (EIA) Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary context.

AGENDA ITEM 14: CONTROL OF OPERATIONS

40. Recalling Article 19 of the Protocol, two main topics were addressed during the discussions:

Environmental monitoring

41. It was recalled that the Land Base Sources Protocol and Offshore Protocol have similar monitoring provisions. It was suggested that regular monitoring procedure should be imposed by the environmental authorities.

42. The definition of common standards based on existing practices in the framework of the MEDPOL Programme was suggested; whilst the convergence between standards under the Offshore Protocol and indicators defined in the framework the Ecosystem Approach (ECAP) (Objectives 9, 10 and 11 on contaminants, marine and coastal litter, and noise from human activities) should be strengthened in order not to duplicate the monitoring requirements. The example of the environmental monitoring system in the Black Sea - Pollution Monitoring and Assessment group (PMA) - highlighted the regular monitoring reporting system (every six months).

Inspection by the authorities

43. Several delegations presented the system setup in their respective country and the follow-up measures to ensure a sound monitoring. It was noted that this type of monitoring was more safety and security oriented. In some countries, no national monitoring system is in place, and this role is delegated to the operators. In the other hand, operators noted that monitoring a single installation may not reflect the overall impact of a group of installations in concentrated areas, emphasizing the importance of an overall national inspection body. This divergent point of view emphasized the need for better definition of monitoring system in the Mediterranean.

44. Whilst considering the financial aspect of monitoring and the lack of trained and experienced personal, several suggestions were made:

- d) To share a pool of Mediterranean inspectors,
- e) To request operators to bear the cost of inspection by an independent company or by national inspectors, and
- f) To identify source of funding to ensure the establishment of national monitoring systems and the related capacity building needs.

45. Furthermore, the distinction between compliance monitoring and national monitoring was emphasised as well as the inclusion of the monitoring of gas emissions from offshore activities.

AGENDA ITEM 15: HUMAN ELEMENT

46. Given the importance of safety in offshore activities, the Meeting focused the discussions on the elements of Article 15 and Annex VI of the Offshore Protocol, rather than on purely human elements related issues. The Meeting also expressed its interest on contingency planning, with the understanding that this topic will be further developed during the Regional Workshop MEDEXPOL 2013.

Safety issues

47. Several delegations presented the procedures in place for the safety aspects in their respective country, some of them of a prescriptive nature some other based on a goal setting regime. In this regard it was noted that the newly adopted EU Offshore Directive considers a goal setting regime, leaving the responsibility to EU Member States to define technical expectations and requirements.

48. The meeting called for information exchange on safety and environmental assessment reports following incidents in view of learning from the experience and knowledge from others.

49. The meeting also expressed its concerns related to permit changes, highlighting the impact on operations initiated under particular conditions (e.g. following changes public consultation might be required with the risk of possible authorisation withdrawn). In this regards, the importance of constant dialogue between regulators and operators and the definition of safety and environmental standards at the early stage of project were crucial.

Contingency planning

50. Whilst recognizing the lack of response means and capacity from an individual State in case of offshore major incident, the meeting pointed out the importance of cooperation and took note that this particular element would be addressed during MEDEXPOL. In this respect, the existing cooperation mechanisms and means available were recalled.

51. Some delegations took the opportunity to introduce their national system to respond to oil marine pollution.

AGENDA ITEM 16: OPERATIONAL DISCHARGES

52. The experience of MEDPOL on the definition and monitoring of discharge limits was introduced stressing on the need to identify national standard (e.g. oil concentration in water threshold) in each country, through the "Offshore Protocol Implementation Questionnaire" to carry out a feasibility study on applicable standards. In this regards, it was noted that, whilst technique were available to reach very low concentration discharges, their cost could become financially unsustainable, thus impacting the viability of the operations. Therefore, environmental standards should reach a balance between environment, technical and financial aspects. From an environmental NGO perspective, the best available technique should be privileged (i.e. if the OSPAR Commission sets up the threshold at 30 mg for oil concentration in water, this threshold should be applied in the Mediterranean).

53. The Meeting highlighted that some countries do not have yet the experience to discuss technical specific issues and recognized that this meeting was an opportunity to acquire knowledge from experienced countries and institutions.

AGENDA ITEM 17: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMANDATIONS

54. There was a general consensus that the revision of the Protocol should not be considered as it would take too long time and move the Contracting Parties backward on the process of implementation. However, the language and content of the twenty year-old Protocol, could be interpreted in line of today's best practices when the need for guidelines should arise.

55. The Meeting recognized the importance of the "Offshore Protocol Implementation Questionnaire" considered as a crucial element for the identification of gaps in national regulations and for drafting the Action Plan and the subsequent guidelines and standards to be prepared and agreed upon.

56. The Meeting agreed on the scope of the Action Plan which should be of a strategic nature, defining measures to be implemented by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and the required means (technical support, capacity building, etc...). The Action

Plan should also define a reasonable timeframe for the implementation of these measures. The Action Plan should be integrated in the MAP system, and be in coherence with other Contracting Parties' Decisions (e.g. Ecosystem Approach for the Management of Human Activities in the Mediterranean (EcAp)). The Action Plan should promote and ensure the application of the Best Available Techniques (BAT) over the entire Mediterranean region. It was suggested to reflect in the Action Plan, the importance of efficient transposition and enforcement of the Protocol provisions into national legislations when needed.

57. It was further recognized that priorities will be identified by analysing the answers to the questionnaire and the best practices. The outcome of these analysis will be presented at the 2nd Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting.

58. In order to achieve this goal, comments on the questionnaire format have to be submitted to REMPEC by the end of June 2013 and all countries have to submit their questionnaire filled-in by 15 September 2013 at the latest.

59. The Meeting further agreed on the need for the establishment of a regular regional forum who would address issues to be covered at a regional level. Given the variety of expertise required for the various topics covered by the Protocol (i.e. minimum safety requirements, or monitoring etc.), several sub-groups could be set-up. These sub-groups could focus on very technical and practical aspects of offshore activities. The participants encouraged the involvement of the OSPAR Commission, the European Offshore Oil and Gas Authorities Group and other *fora* with a view to harmonize the Mediterranean approach with internationally recognized best practices, and the creation of synergies with other related Programmes. They further recognized the added value of representatives from the oil and gas industry for their technical input and underlined the need to involve them in future activities and dialogues. The contribution of NGOs ensures an open and transparent process with possible public consultation. It was noted that compared to the North Sea Offshore Authorities Forum or the OSPAR Oil Industry Committee which have a role either on safety either on environmental matters, the group to be established in the Mediterranean will have to reflect the more comprehensive approach of the Protocol.

60. The terms of reference of such a Forum should be presented to the MAP Focal Point Meeting in September 2013, for a validation by the Contracting Parties in December 2013.

61. It was agreed that Contracting Parties shall nominate a single contact point who would coordinate future meetings and actions with the relevant national competent authorities, to ensure continuous follow-up and appropriate information sharing at national level. The Countries who have not yet nominated their National Offshore Focal Point were invited to take the required measures.

AGENDA ITEM 18: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

62. The Working Group Meeting was concluded at 17.30hrs on the 14 June 2013 with closing remarks by Mr. Frédéric Hébert and Mr. Habib Elhabr Deputy Coordinator of MAP, who thanked all lecturers and participants for their active contribution to the Meeting.

ANNEX(E) I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS****CONTRACTING PARTIES / PARTIES CONTRACTANTES****ALGERIA / ALGÉRIE****M Tahar Cherif ZERARKA**

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ANNEX II

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Introduction

The 1st Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting has been convened in Malta between the 13 and 14 June 2013, pursuant to the Decision IG.20/12 of the 17th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Paris, France, 8-10 February 2012).

The principal objectives of the Meeting will be:

1. To examine recognized international best practices and regulations relevant to the implementation of the Offshore Protocol;
2. To share experience on existing practical measures in place in the Mediterranean countries with regard to Offshore activities,
3. To provide recommendations in view of the drafting of the Action Plan requested by Decision IG.20/12

All Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Focal Points have been invited to nominate jointly and in consultation with all national authorities concerned their representatives in the Meeting. The participation in national delegations of observers representing the oil offshore exploration and production industries has been strongly encouraged. The invitation to attend the Meeting was also extended to the 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 the Offshore Protocol Working Group.

In order to assist the Meeting in its work, the Secretariat prepared the following annotations to the proposed provisional agenda of the Meeting.

Day I: 13th June 2013

08.30–09.00 Registration

09.00 - 09.45 Agenda item1 Opening

The 1st Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting will be opened on Thursday, 13th June 2013 at 09.00 hours and is expected to close on Friday, 14th June 2013 at 17.30hrs.

Ms Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, Executive Secretary and Co-ordinator of the United Nations Environment Programme - Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and Mr. Frederic Hebert, Director of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) will open the Meeting.

Agenda Item 2 Organization of the Meeting

The Director of REMPEC will recall the functions of the meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol according to Article 30 of the Protocol.

The annotated agenda presented in the current document will be proposed for adoption by the Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting. The Meeting will also be invited to agree on the timetable to carry out its work.

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 UNEP/MAP, i.e. in English and in French. Information documents will be available in their original language unless a translation has been provided in the second working language.

Agenda Item 3 Presentation of the Offshore Protocol

The Director of REMPEC will present 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 (Offshore Protocol) to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention).

09.45 - 10.15 Agenda Item 4 Overview of offshore activities in the Mediterranean region

The Secretariat will provide an overview of offshore activities in the Mediterranean region. The presentation will be based on data made available by Clarkson Research. A set of publications and maps from Clarkson Research will be made available to the participants of the Meeting.

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

10.15 - 10.45 Coffee break

10.45 - 11.30 Agenda Item 5 **Types of installation & related risks for offshore activities**

Taking into consideration Article 1 of the Protocol on Definitions, the representative of the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP), Mr John Campbell, will introduce the different types of installation and related risks of offshore activities.

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

11.30 - 12.00 Agenda Item 6 **Overview of players and synergies**

The representative of OGP will continue his introduction providing an overview of the main players involved in offshore activities. He will emphasise their role, and interaction.

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

12.00 - 13.00 Lunch

13.00 - 13.45 Agenda Item 7 **EU regulatory framework in the field of offshore activities**

In accordance with Article 30.2.h of the Protocol, the Parties shall “*facilitate the implementation of policies and the achievement of the objectives referred in Section V (Cooperation), in particular the harmonization of national and European Community legislation*”. In this context, a presentation of the regulatory regime in the EU and its latest developments will be introduced by a representative from the European Commission.

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

13.45 - 14.30 Agenda Item 8 **OSPAR’s actions and measures in the field of offshore activities**

According to Article 23, paragraph 2 of the Protocol, “*the Parties, shall, as soon as possible, endeavour to harmonize their laws and regulations with the International rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures*”. In view of considering existing rules, standards, practices and procedures from other regions with experience in the matter, the representative of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention), Dr. Maria Luisa Rodriguez Lucas, Deputy Secretary of the OSPAR Commission, will introduce OSPAR’s actions and measures in the field of offshore activities.

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

14.30 - 15.00 Agenda Item 9 **Offshore regulation and practice in UK**

To continue on the review of existing rules, standards, practices and procedures from other regions, Mr Stephen Walker, Head of Strategic Intervention – Energy Division,

Health Safety Executive (HSE), United Kingdom, will introduce the Offshore regulations in place in the United Kingdom.

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

15.00 - 15.30 Agenda Item 10 Offshore regulation and practice in Italy

With a view to considering Mediterranean coastal States' rules, standards, practices and procedures, the representative of the Ministry of Economic Development of Italy will introduce the Offshore regulations in place in Italy.

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

15.30 - 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 - 16.45 Agenda Item 11 How to satisfy national regulations in different countries?

According to Article 4 of the Protocol, "*all activities in the Protocol Area shall be subject to the prior written authorization for exploration or exploitation from the competent authority. [...] Such authorization shall be granted in accordance with the appropriate procedure, as defined by the competent authority*". In this context, the representatives of Noble Energy, Mr Clinton Glen Boman, Director, Environment Health & Safety, Global Emergency Response and Ms Sarah Watson, Director, Watson Energy Consulting will present the approach of the company to satisfy national regulations in different countries.

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

16.45 - 17.30 Agenda Item 12 Offshore installation verification

According to Article 15 of the Protocol, "*the Contracting Parties with whose jurisdiction activities are envisaged or are being carried out shall ensure that safety measures are taken with regards to the design, construction, placement, equipment, marking, operation and maintenance of installations.*" In this respect, the representative of Det Norske Veritas (DNV), Mr Simack Ataibi, Business Development Manager, will introduce the experience of DNV in offshore installations verification.

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

Day II: 14th June 2013

09.00 – 15.00 Agenda Item 13-15 Panel Discussion: Authorization, Control of operations and Human element

Mr. Walker (Health Safety Executive (HSE), United Kingdom) will moderate the discussion through specific questions to the participants of the Meeting and to the panel composed of representatives from the Italian Ministry of Economic Development, Mabruk Oil Operations, OGP, Noble Energy and DNV.

The Meeting participants will be invited to actively participate in the discussion by sharing their experiences and raising relevant questions.

15.30 – 17.00 Agenda Item 16 Panel Discussion: Operational discharges

Dr. Rodriguez (OSPAR Convention) will moderate the discussion through specific questions to the participants of the Meeting and to the panel composed of representatives from the Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Region (MED POL), Noble Energy and REMPEC.

The Meeting participants will be invited to actively participate in the discussion by sharing their experiences and raising relevant questions.

17.00 – 17.30 Agenda Item 17 Conclusions and recommendations

The Director of REMPEC will address the Meeting and highlight the main conclusions and recommendations from the 1st Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting.

The Meeting will be invited to consider, discuss, and agree upon a set of recommendations to be considered for the preparation of the 2nd Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting.

17.30 Agenda Item 18: Closure of the Meeting

The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Director of REMPEC at 17.30 hours on Friday, 14 June 2013.

Timetable

Day I: Thursday, 13 June 2013		
08.30 - 09.00	Registration of the participants.	
09.00 - 09.45	Agenda Item 1	Opening
	Agenda Item 2	Organization of the Meeting
	Agenda Item 3	Presentation of the Offshore Protocol
09.45 - 10.15	Agenda Item 4	Overview of offshore activities in the Mediterranean region
10.15 - 10.45	Coffee break	
10.45 - 11.30	Agenda Item 5	Types of installation & related risks for offshore activities
11.30 - 12.00	Agenda Item 6	Overview of players and synergies
12.00 - 13.00	Lunch	
13.00 - 13.45	Agenda Item 7	EU regulatory framework in the field of offshore activities
13.45 - 14.30	Agenda Item 8	OSPAR's actions and measures in the field of offshore activities
14.30 - 15.00	Agenda Item 9	Offshore regulation and practice in UK
15.00 - 15.30	Agenda Item 10	Offshore regulation and practice in Italy
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee break	
16.00 - 16.45	Agenda Item 11	How to satisfy national regulations in different countries?
16.45 - 17.30	Agenda Item 12	Offshore installation verification
Day II: Friday, 14 June 2013		
09.00 - 10.30	Agenda Item 13	Panel Discussion: Authorization
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 - 12.30	Agenda Item 14	Panel Discussion: Control of operations
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 - 15.00	Agenda Item 15	Panel Discussion: Human element
15.00 - 15.30	Coffee break	
15.30 - 17.00	Agenda Item 16	Panel Discussion: Operational discharges
17.00 - 17.30	Agenda Item 17	Conclusions and recommendations
17.30	Agenda Item 18	Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 384/2 | Provisional Annotated Agenda. |
| UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 384/3 | Offshore Protocol Questionnaire |

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 384/INF.1 | Offshore Protocol |
| UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 384/INF.2 | Decision IG.20.12 |

The following dissertations (INF.3 to INF.8) were produced by students from the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) for the award of the Degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Maritime Law. These dissertations are made available for information purposes only. The authors of these documents, IMO, UNEP, IMLI, MAP and REMPEC assume no liability whatsoever for any potentially damaging consequences which could result from the interpretation and use of information presented on these documents. The information contained in these documents do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the authors of these documents, IMO, UNEP, MAP, IMLI and REMPEC concerning the legal status of any State, Territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of their frontiers or boundaries.

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| UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 384/INF.3 | A legal analysis of marine pollution laws and regulations and their adequacy to meet the challenges posed by recent offshore drilling off the coast of Sierra Leone (Ramot Jalloh). |
| UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 384/INF.4 | Dealing with decommissioning costs of offshore oil and gas field installations: An appraisal of existing regimes (David Testa). |
| UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 384/INF.5 | Offshore drilling in ocean waters and its adverse effect on the potential of blue carbon storage of coastal state: A Belize perspective (Llewelyn Usher) . |
| UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 384/INF.6 | A legal discussion on civil liability for oil pollution damage resulting from offshore oil rigs in the light of the recent DEEPWATER HORIZON Incident (Dr Sciculna & Dr. Guterrez). |
| UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 384/INF.7 | Legal analysis of international conventions for the prevention of vessel-source marine pollution: A Maldivian perspective (Ms Sandra Betancourt). |
| UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 384/INF.8 | Guidelines to The Protocol Concerning Marine Pollution and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf – Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), Kuwait. |
| UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 384/INF.9 | List of Documents |
| UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 384/INF.10 | Provisional List of Participants. |