

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

Malta, 25 - 28 October 2000

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REPORT
OF THE MEETING OF FOCAL POINTS OF THE
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) was convened in Malta from 25 to 28 October 2000, pursuant to the decision of the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which agreed that a Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points be organized during 2000 (UNEP (OCA)/MED IG.12/9, Malta, October 1999).

2. The main objectives of the Focal Points' Meeting were to:

- a) evaluate the implementation of the programme of activities of REMPEC for the biennium 1999/2000 and to review the current state of regional, sub-regional and national systems for preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution and to examine the actions to be taken to strengthen these systems;
- b) discuss and agree on the recommendations of the last Meeting of the Contracting Parties and on the related actions and activities to be carried out by REMPEC;
- c) discuss and agree on the revision and the further development of the Regional Information System;
- d) consider the status of the revision process of the Emergency Protocol and of Resolution 7 regarding the objectives and functions of REMPEC, that should be submitted for adoption to the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention; and,
- e) discuss and approve a programme of activities for the 2002 - 2003 biennium.

3. All REMPEC official Governmental Focal Points were invited to participate in the Meeting. They have also been invited to include in their national delegations the representatives of their respective oil, chemical and shipping industries. The invitation to attend the Meeting was also extended to relevant United Nations Organizations and other Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations. Finally, the representatives of international professional organizations and associations have been invited to attend as observers.

4. The Meeting was attended by delegations from the following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention:

ALBANIA	LEBANON
ALGERIA	LIBYA
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINIA	MALTA
CROATIA	MONACO
CYPRUS	MOROCCO
EGYPT	SLOVENIA
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	SPAIN
FRANCE	SYRIA
GREECE	TUNISIA
ITALY	TURKEY

by representatives from the following United Nations Organizations:

- INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATIONS (IMO)
- UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME/CO-ORDINATING UNIT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP)
- WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION(WMO)

and by representatives from the following Non-Governmental Organizations:

- THE INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (IPIECA)
- MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP (MOIG)
- INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION LTD. (ITOPF)
- INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT TANKER OWNERS (INTERTANKO)
- EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY
- INSTITUT DU DROIT ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER DE MONACO (INDEMER)
- UNIONE PETROLIFERA
- ENTE NAZIONALE IDROCARBURI (ENI)
- CENTRE DE DOCUMENTATION DE RECHERCHE ET D'EXPERIMENTATIONS SUR LES POLLUTIONS ACCIDENTELLES DES EAUX (CEDRE)
- WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF)

5. A complete list of participants is attached in **Annex 1** to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. The Honorable Dr. Francis Zammit Dimech, Minister for the Environment of the Republic of Malta welcomed the delegations to the Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points. He underlined his country's unwavering commitment to the protection of the Mediterranean Sea as well as to REMPEC and said that irrespective of the recent news of the so called "oil crises", oil in large quantities will continue to be transported in the Mediterranean basin which signifies that the risk from accidental pollution will still remain and undoubtedly needs to be addressed. He noted that today the coastal States are better positioned to deal with such emergencies through the knowledge imparted by REMPEC and through the expertise made available by the Centre. The Hon. Dr. F. Zammit Dimech made reference to the importance of concluding sub-regional operational agreements for dealing with major pollution emergencies and in this regard made mention that Malta would endeavour to conclude such agreements. He also referred to the concern related to incidents arising from the maritime transport of chemical substances and appealed to REMPEC to apply both its intellectual and training capabilities so that coastal States can be better prepared to manage such incidents. Malta, if invited will try to make available its small but diverse infrastructure to develop these specialized skills. The Hon. Minister announced that the Ministry for the Environment will, next year be hosting the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to the Barcelona Convention to adopt the revised text of the Emergency Protocol which would continue to strengthen the legal regime for the protection of the Mediterranean marine environment. In his concluding remarks, the Hon. Minister stressed that his Ministry is closely following the relocation of the Centre to new premises and that the Government of Malta has decided to relocate REMPEC in prestigious offices in a purpose-built building in the Valletta Grand Harbour which will be devoted to the administrative needs of maritime related institutions on the island. Finally, the Hon. F. Zammit Dimech wished the delegations a fruitful and profitable outcome to their deliberations over the coming days.

7. Mr. Jean-Claude Sainlos, Senior Deputy Director, Marine Environment Division, speaking on behalf of the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Mr. William O'Neil, joined the Hon. Dr. F. Zammit Dimech in welcoming the participants. He emphasized the importance of the Meeting of Focal Points since the field covered by the Emergency Protocol deals with topics that have strong political and economic implications, as shown by the Erika accident. This Meeting provides opportunity for gathering and strengthening the co-operation; it should serve for deciding on regional policy and for proposing to the Contracting Parties a draft programme. Moreover, it should discuss new topics (pleasure craft, aerial surveillance, etc.).

8. The representative of IMO also recalled that the activities of REMPEC have been consolidated and even extended in the past years, in particular as a result of the projects supported by the European Union (LIFE Projects that will be examined during the Meeting). On behalf of IMO he thanked the European Union for this support. He emphasized that IMO, through its budget for technical co-operation, provided its financial support to REMPEC's training activities.

9. For IMO it is essential that regulatory measures concerning maritime transport - maritime safety, pollution prevention - are elaborated and adopted at international level. However, the regional co-operation plays a major role since it helps in the implementation of Conventions adopted under the aegis of IMO, which applies in particular to the control of ships by port State or to combating accidental pollution. In this regard the project for the revision of the Emergency Protocol is important. In the same way, a very active co-operation in the Mediterranean between the Governments and the industry provides a model for similar actions developed at the global level following the adoption of the OPRC Convention as it appears in the work programme of IMO.

10. Finally, he emphasized that REMPEC is a model for other regions in the world: the initiatives undertaken by IMO in the other regions of the world are based on the Mediterranean model, and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention should be aware of this fact.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Rules of Procedure

11. The participants decided to apply, *mutatis mutandis*, 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) .

2.2 Election of Officers

12. Participants unanimously elected Mr. Ufuk Kuçukay (Turkey) as Chairman, Mr. Mohammed Dahhou (Morocco) as Vice-chairman and Mr. Pierre Bouchet (Monaco) as Rapporteur.

2.3 Working Languages

13. Simultaneous English/French interpretation was provided during the Meeting. The working documents were also available in both official languages of the Centre, i.e. English and French.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

14. The Meeting adopted the Agenda as in **Annex II** of the present report. The list of documents is presented in **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PROGRESS REPORT ON REMPEC'S PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES (November 1998 – October 2000)

15. Before considering this Agenda Item the Meeting paid homage to Mrs. Layachi, who actively participated as the representative of Morocco in the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

16. The Meeting was informed of the status of implementation of REMPEC's programme of activities for the period covering November 1998 to October 2000.

17. The Director of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.18/4 which contained a summary of the activities that the Centre carried out since the last Meeting of Focal Points and outlined the major achievements of the Centre during the period. He informed the Meeting of the activities carried out by the Centre during this period aimed at improving and strengthening the regional system for co-operation and mutual assistance in cases of emergency, increasing the levels of preparedness for response to accidental marine pollution by individual coastal States and dissemination of information. He briefly referred to the initiatives taken for the revision of the Emergency Protocol and indicated that he will elaborate further when this is considered under the Agenda Item 5.

18. Following this presentation numerous participants congratulated REMPEC on the accomplished work and thanked the Director and his staff. They also thanked REMPEC and IMO for the support they received in various fields.

19. In particular, the Lebanese delegation thanked REMPEC for the support provided for the organization of a workshop aimed at launching the development of the national contingency plan.

This activity allowed the gathering of entities that should play a role in the development of the national contingency plan. He expressed his conviction that, with the assistance of REMPEC, Lebanon will continue to carry out activities aimed at assuring the protection of its coasts from accidental marine pollution by oil and chemicals.

20. The Syrian delegation thanked REMPEC and its staff for their co-operation and assistance in the development of its national system of preparedness and response to marine pollution in cases of emergency. It underlined that the first phase of the project is being finalised while the second part should start at the beginning of next year with a comprehensive training programme and exercises together with the definition of the required equipment.

21. The Egyptian delegation also thanked REMPEC for the support its country had received.

22. Following the request of the Meeting, Annex 3 of the document was revised and distributed to the participants.

23. The Meeting took note of the request that the other countries in addition to France second personnel to REMPEC, and the Italian delegation indicated that in this regard it is searching for a person to be seconded, either from public or from the private sector. Libya will search a person to be seconded to REMPEC from the oil sector or from the University.

24. The discussion by participants in the Meeting that followed led to specifying the following points:

- Cyprus was also affected by beaching of pesticide bottles that in the beginning of 2000 affected the coasts of Israel, Lebanon and Syria, following a notification of the presence of such bottles on the Haifa coastline.
- After the preparation of the document under the discussion, an anti-pollution exercise was held in Tunisia in September 2000, with the support of REMPEC and the participation of Italy and France.

25. The French delegation emphasized the quality of the "Practical Guide for Marine Chemical Spills", the quality recognized by the Bonn Agreement that plans to use it. The Director of REMPEC, responding to Italy, specified that there are no restrictions on translating the Guide into languages other than English and French. However, he indicated, following a request by the Libyan delegation, that REMPEC does not have resources to finance such translations. Moreover, there are no restrictions to the distribution of the document.

26. The Director also agreed with the French representative who stressed that it would be useful to know what are the results of training activities which represent a significant part of REMPEC activities, and in particular whether other persons in their countries benefit from the participants in these activities. It was agreed that States having had the benefit of such training would report to REMPEC on a voluntary basis the fall-outs of such training in their countries.

27. As regards the Memorandum of Understanding, mentioned in paragraph 29 of the document, the Director specified that it aims at facilitating the use of certain centres of expertise: this expertise had already been used in the past by REMPEC and the objective of having the Memorandum is to accelerate its activation thanks to prearranged agreements on various conditions for its activation (in particular financial and those concerning insurance).

POINT 5 OF THE AGENDA: REVISION PROCESS OF THE EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

28. Whilst tackling this subject, Mr. Lucien CHABASON, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan, also took the opportunity of wishing a fruitful meeting to the participants and to congratulate the Chairman and the other members of the Bureau on their election.

29. He remarked on the significance of this meeting following the Erika accident which had strongly stirred public opinion and on the eve of the new century and of the year which will witness the revision of the Emergency Protocol.

30. In his opinion, the prospect of the revision of the Protocol raised some basic issues on prevention, on REMPEC's mandate and on the programme for the next decade. It gives added value to the importance of REMPEC's current missions, to the quality of its actions, which it carries out, to the excellent management by its Director and to the total commitment of its staff. REMPEC's management lies within the framework of the harmonious co-operation existing between MAP and IMO – an example of the quality of co-operation in the Mediterranean.

31. The Coordinator underlined the fact that pollution in the Mediterranean is still a crucial issue and that the Erika accident had recalled the existence of the risk, even though the greater part of pollution is not due to accidents: with regards to navigation, pollution is mainly due to illicit discharges, to risks linked to alien species carried in ballast waters and to navigation by pleasure crafts.

32. He remarked that we can no longer adopt a defensive attitude when tackling the issue of pollution deriving from navigation and that, although much had been accomplished, a number of problems remained totally unsolved: port reception facilities, implementation of the various annexes of the MARPOL Convention. Public opinion believes that this is REMPEC's role even though it currently has no legal responsibility. REMPEC must, consequently, be given a larger mandate and this will be accomplished thanks to the revision of the Emergency Protocol.

33. In this light, the ongoing preparatory phase of the revision should avoid fragmenting international law and should position itself within the framework of this law.

34. The programme for the revision is the following: a new meeting of national technical and legal experts will be held during the last two weeks of February in Monaco – which has committed itself to contributing financially to the meeting and for this we thank Monaco -; if an agreed text is issued following this meeting, a diplomatic conference will be held in Malta in June for its adoption.

35. In the Coordinator's opinion, the revision will lead to an evolution in REMPEC's needs. He intends to propose to the Contracting Parties to strengthen REMPEC by the creation of an additional professional post within the budget for the 2002-2003 biennium, as well as by the necessary financial resources.

36. The Director of REMPEC then presented the document REMPEC/WG.18/5 which deals with the process leading to the revision of the Protocol. He pointed out that the text to be submitted to the group of national technical and legal experts could be distributed at the latest during November of this year after having been viewed by the Coordinating Unit and by IMO. He further indicated that the Bureau of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention had requested that the question of whether it would be better to revise the existing Protocol or to replace it with a new Protocol should be considered. The MAP's co-ordinator will make propositions on this question for the second meeting of national technical and legal experts.

37. During the ensuing debate, Tunisia, supported by the Meeting, expressed its great satisfaction at the intention shown by the Coordinator to propose a strengthening of REMPEC's means to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

38. The Meeting also asked to receive, as quickly as possible, the text of the draft of the revised Protocol so that each country would have enough time to study it in detail before the February meeting.

39. The representative of IMO underlined the importance that IMO gives to prevention and to all initiatives enabling such prevention. In this respect, he regards the prospect of the revision of the Protocol as essential as it would enable the improvement of the effective implementation of international conventions.

POINT 6 OF THE AGENDA: THE OPRC 90 CONVENTION AND THE OPRC WORKING GROUP

40. The representative of IMO presented document REMPEC/WG.18/6. He recalled the importance of the adoption by a diplomatic conference of the protocol, which extended the OPRC Convention to hazardous and noxious substances (Protocol OPRC-HNS). He pointed out that, following the Erika accident, and at the request of France and the European Union, IMO is again tackling the prevention of pollution by ships. In fact, the OPRC Working Group tackled the difficulties, which were encountered

47. During the ensuing discussion, the wish was expressed that the chemical industry create a group similar to MOIG so as to permit co-operation between governments and the chemical industry within the regional framework. It is, in fact, underlined that issues such as the provisional management of waste (oil and others) belongs to co-operation at a national level.

48. It was further indicated in an answer to a question raised by the Tunisian delegation that the question of provisional processing of wastes (from oil or others) was among topics for which co-operation should be considered at national level.

49. The Director of REMPEC recalled his wish that the industrial sector in other countries would emulate the French industry, which placed a professional officer at REMPEC's disposal.

50. The observers of IPIECA and MOIG presented a video on their activities (see **annex IV**).

AGENDA ITEM 8: COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES

51. The Secretariat introduced document REMPEC. WG18/8 containing information concerning co-operation with various international organizations and programmes namely:

- the European Union (E.U.);
- the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds);
- the World Meteorological Organization (WMO);
- the ILO/UNEP/WHO International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS);
- the Production and Consumption Unit and Chemical Unit within UNEP's Division of Technology/Industry and Economics (DTIE);
- the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);
- the Bonn Agreement, the Helsinki Commission for the Baltic Sea and the RAMOGE Commission;
- participation to the Working Group on the Evaluations of Hazards of Harmful Substances carried by Ships of the Joint Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of the Marine Environment.

52. A number of international organizations (governmental and non-governmental) expressed their point of view.

8.1 The European Union

53. The Representative of the European Commission presented the document REMPEC/WG.18/INF.13 and in particular the new decision setting up a Community framework for co-operation in the field of accidental or intentional marine pollution. He also underlined the E.U. intention to support actions within the framework of the Barcelona Convention.

54. The delegation of Cyprus, speaking also on behalf of Egypt and Israel, expressed its gratitude to REMPEC and to the E.C. for their support within the framework of the three countries' sub-regional co-operation.

55. The Director of REMPEC expressed the wish that his organization could obtain observer status at the Committee for the Control and Reduction of Pollution caused by Oil and other Harmful Substances discharged at Sea (ACPH). The representative of the E.C. undertook to transmit this request.

8.2 Meteorological Support to Marine Pollution Emergency Response Operations on the High Seas (WMO - MPERSS)

56. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization informed the Meeting that the Marine Pollution Emergency Response Support System (MPERSS) was now fully established and covering all oceans of the world. With particular reference to the Mediterranean Sea, the Meeting

noted that Meteo-France and the Hellenic National Meteorological Service from Greece were providing operational meteorological support under the MPERSS. The Meeting expressed its satisfaction to the very prompt reaction and efficient provision of meteorological information under the system during the emergency exercises carried out during December 1999 and July 2000. The Meeting recognized that MPERSS can now be considered to be fully operational in the Mediterranean Sea.

57. The Meeting also recognized that the efficiency of such a system is based on good communications, and that those at internal national level were fundamental for the successful implementation of an emergency operation. The details of the MPERSS national focal points could be found on the WMO website. For future meetings of REMPEC's Focal Points, the presence of these focal points in national delegations would be useful.

58. The Meeting expressed the wish that the co-operation of REMPEC with WMO's MPERSS programme should be continued.

8.3 International Oil pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds)

59. On the request of the Secretariat, the representative of ITOPF presented recent developments within the Conventions dealing with compensation. The financial consequences faced by States that remain party to the original Conventions (CLC 69 and Fund 71) and do not become party to the 92 Protocols to the CLC and Fund Conventions were underlined.

60. The delegation of Slovenia informed the Meeting that its country had ratified the 92 Protocols of the CLC and Fund Conventions.

61. The delegation of France welcomed that in the future the ceiling within the framework of the new Protocols will be 200 million SDR (approximately 270 million dollars). It however remarked that this sum still remains much less than the total estimated cost of the pollution caused by the ERIKA ; this explains why France undertook to obtain a revision of the Convention in order to raise the compensation amounts substantially. It underlined that it was not normal that tax payers be solicited after such an accident as it was in contradiction with the polluter-pays principle.

8.4 Bonn Agreement

62. In view of the decision by the Bonn Agreement to have France represent it at Meeting of REMPEC Focal points and vice versa when it is not possible for the Secretariat of REMPEC to attend Bonn Agreement Meetings, the delegation of France presented document REMPEC/WG.18/INF.19 containing a summary of the proceedings of the last meeting of Contracting Parties to the Bonn Agreement. The French delegation highlighted the importance of the co-operation in aerial surveillance to combat illegal discharges as well as research carried out in particular on the colour code.

8.5 RAMOGE

63. The delegation of Monaco gave some information on the RAMOGE Agreement which was signed on 16 May 1976 between France, Italy and the Principality of Monaco and established co-operation among the States for the protection of the marine environment and the littoral zone which extends from Marseilles to La Spezia. Conscious of the necessity to plan for joint action in case of accidental marine pollution, the three countries signed, on 7 October 1993, the RAMOGEPOL plan which covers an area which extends as far as the South of Sardinia. An exercise involving the French navy and the "Service de la Marine de Monaco" took place in Monegasque waters on 9 November 1999. A meeting of different stakeholders involved in the RAMOGEPOL plan took place in Toulon on 30 March 2000 which allowed for a fruitful exchange of information, in particular concerning aerial surveillance. Another exercise organized by the Italian competent authorities took place in Genoa on 3 - 4 October 2000 which involved the mobilization of more than 250 personnel, twenty vessels and two helicopters.

8.6 ITOPF

64. The representative of ITOPF recalled that in addition to that which is indicated in the report concerning the activities of REMPEC for the past biennium, his organization has, for a number of years,

participated actively to different training courses and exercises for response to oil pollution organized in the Mediterranean coastal States under *the aegis* of REMPEC.

65. ITOPF is very much committed to this co-operation and is pleased that participants to the various training courses are able to benefit from both its direct and practical experience in the field of response to oil pollution. ITOPF is very conscious of the personal contacts built during the training courses and exercises which, can but only, facilitate co-operation among the different parties when an oil pollution occurs.

66. Apart from training courses and exercises, in recent years, ITOPF has also been involved in a number of pollution incidents in coastal States, Parties to the Barcelona Convention. For example, among others, ITOPF has intervened in the case of the pollution resulting from the ERIKA on the French Atlantic coast, and in different spills in Greece and Turkey.

67. On a slightly different theme, ITOPF has also collaborated with a certain number of organizations operating in the Mediterranean such as the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG), IPIECA and other entities, for example oil companies. These activities allowed ITOPF's different partners to benefit from its practical experience in the field of pollution response, as well as for ITOPF to contribute to the overall increase in the level of preparedness in the Mediterranean.

68. Finally, ITOPF has prepared different studies and documents on the problems of response and in particular a document summarizing the problems caused by heavy fuel spills. This document was presented to the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of IMO. At the same time, ITOPF has jointly published with IPIECA a document describing the functioning of international conventions dealing with compensation for oil pollution damage, which can be distributed to the delegations.

69. ITOPF confirmed that it is committed to the co-operation with REMPEC that has existed for a number of years and hopes that this active co-operation will continue in the coming years.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ACCIDENTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

70. The Technical Expert of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC WG.18/9 and REMPEC. WG 18/INF.4 concerning alerts and accidents in the Mediterranean.

71. He emphasized that REMPEC does not always receive information on all events. A discussion followed concerning the improvement of the system and the necessity for the Centre to receive all possible information enabling it to benefit so as to improve its efficiency to the advantage of the Mediterranean countries. It was, however, underlined that there was no need to mention all the minor cases of pollution. After a proposition from the Tunisian delegation, it was agreed that REMPEC would draw up a model for a questionnaire, which would show the way in which it wishes to be informed on various pollution cases. The Contracting Parties are being invited to use it as often as possible or at least every time means are mobilized and in cases as deemed fit by the Parties. From the information received, REMPEC would draw up documents for future meetings of Focal Points, which would be more complete when compared with those distributed to date. These documents would include the lessons learnt from such events.

72. The Egyptian, Italian and Greek delegations provided additional details concerning certain incidents which their countries had to face.

73. The French delegation expressed its preoccupation concerning the Haven accident in 1991 off Genoa and the possibility that the oil remaining in the wreck was still present, thus constituting a threat of new pollution. The Italian delegation then pointed out that checks carried out after the cleaning operations in 1993 had shown that there remained on board the wreck approximately 3,000 tons of liquid and solid oil residues. In fact, between 10,000 and 50,000 tons of burnt heavy oil was spread over a large area to a depth varying from 200 to 700 metres. In conformity with the Italian law of June 1998, which authorized a transaction with the insurers and with IOPC Funds, a cleaning and restoration project was drawn up to remove the liquid oil remaining in the wreck, including the lubricants, to evaluate the extent and the quantities of deposits on the seabed as well as the hazard for the benthic ecosystems, to carry out cleaning operations on the seabed on the basis of the

evaluations choosing the technique which would be most cost-effective and taking into consideration the impact on the affected biotops. The project will have a five-year duration and will start in the coming months.

AGENDA ITEM 10: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONTRACTING PARTIES MEETING

10.1 Mediterranean Technical Working Group

74. In recalling the Recommendation of the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the Chemical Expert of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.18/10/1 on establishing a Mediterranean Technical Working Group. He further recalled that a number of regional agreements had set up permanent working groups of experts for the exchange of information on operational and technical issues. The purpose of such a Group was to facilitate the exchange of technical data and other scientific technological information on preparedness and response issues to marine emergencies pollution. As stated by the Contracting Parties' Recommendation, the Group will work by correspondence on topics decided upon by meetings of Focal Points. In order to assist the deliberations, the Chemical Expert explained that the Centre had prepared proposed guidelines for the method of work for the Mediterranean Technical Working Group as well as some topics, which could be considered by the Meeting as possible work items for the Working Group if its establishment is so formed.

75. After a preliminary exchange of view by the Meeting, it agreed on the recommendations of the Contracting Parties on the establishment of a Mediterranean Working Group. The Meeting proposed forming an informal drafting group to consider the proposed guidelines for the method of work further with a view to reporting back to this Meeting the outcome of its deliberations for the Meeting's consideration.

76. The informal drafting group was composed of Cyprus, France, Italy, Monaco, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey backstopped by the REMPEC Secretariat. The report of the informal drafting group is found at **Annex V**.

77. The Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points, after having considered the report of the informal drafting group, concurred with the proposed text in the document REMPEC/WG.10/1 as amended by the informal drafting group as the method of work for the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (**Annex VI**). The Meeting also agreed that the items of work for the coming biennium will be:

- an inventory of oil traded in Mediterranean ports or terminals;
- an inventory of bulk chemicals traded in Mediterranean ports or terminals;
- an inventory of the national legislations for the implementation of MARPOL 73/78, specifically Article 4 of the Convention on the prosecution of violations concerning illegal discharges.

78. The Meeting agreed that the lead country will be Italy and Mr. Ezio Amato will be the Chairman of this Working Group. Since all Focal Points could be members of the Working Group, the Meeting urged the Focal Points to nominate a technical person or an entity to be the contact point of this Working Group and to inform the Chairman as soon as possible. The representative of ITOPF offered the contribution of his organization to the Working Group.

79. In view of the anticipated revision of the Emergency Protocol and its extension to the prevention of pollution from ships, the Meeting also noted the importance in the design of projects to be submitted to potential donors in the field of aerial surveillance and agreed that such initiatives should be best left to be taken at sub-regional level by interested States as has been done in the past with other projects involving sub-regions in the Mediterranean. The Meeting further noted that the Mediterranean Technical Working Group should be kept informed of such initiatives.

10.2 Aerial surveillance

80. The Director of REMPEC asked the Centre's consultant, Mr. Mauro Bellini, to present his study which figured as an annex to document REMPEC/WG.18/10/2.

81. Many delegations expressed their congratulations on the quality of the study. Some delegations stated that some data lacked precision and were not homogeneous, so that the study, in spite of its quality, could not be publicized in its present state. The importance of this topic at the time where the Protocol will be extended to prevention was underlined. Certain delegations were doubtful with regards to the current possibility of using satellites for the detection of pollution and particularly of illicit discharges.

82. The delegations of the countries concerned by the pilot projects proposed in the study concurred in principle but underlined that these pilot projects should be examined in more details with the technical services involved both with regard to the availability of equipment existing in their countries for the purpose as well as to the purchase of aerial means where these do not exist. This latter point would require the dispatch of financial requests to donors and, consequently, the design of project for which the assistance of REMPEC (or of consultants) would probably be needed.

83. The French delegation underlined that it could accept the principle of a co-operation with Italy if the concerned zone were to cover not only the cetaceans sanctuary but also the oriental part of Corsica. It further stated that France would soon establish an area under jurisdiction beyond the 12 miles limit in order to prevent illegal and deliberate pollution of the marine environment.

84. The representative of Monaco will suggest that on the occasion of the next RAMOGE Commission, in December 2000, the RAMOGEPOL area would be proposed as a pilot zone for aerial surveillance.

85. The observer of WWF expressed his satisfaction as the topic is in line with the concerns of his organization in relation to the conservation of bio-diversity: the WWF undertook a study showing that 13 areas in the Mediterranean are of particular relevance in this field and three pilot projects cover some of these areas.

86. The Director of REMPEC concluded the discussion by recalling that the consultant's report is just a proposal and that the pilot projects will be dealt with in more detail where this is justified.

87. Certain delegations also highlighted that the availability of means to allow the surveillance of illicit discharges is not sufficient. Penal legislation must exist in each State so that offences are prosecuted. It was, therefore, proposed that an inventory of such penal provisions in the various countries would be one of the themes to be tackled by the Technical Working Group considered in agenda item 10.1.

88. Furthermore, the European Space Agency presented the VESPUCCI project aimed at studying the use of satellite techniques for the detection of illicit discharges. The Meeting authorized REMPEC to participate in the project provided that financial resources to cover the costs of such participation as well as a technical personnel are made available by the project.

10.3 Prevention of pollution from pleasure crafts

89. The Chemical Expert of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.18/10/3 concerning the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft. In introducing the document, he recalled the two recommendations approved by the last Meeting of Contracting Parties. He explained that the scope of the document was to primarily assist the Meeting in its discussion on the subject since it described the types of pollution that can arise from pleasure craft associated activities as well as some of the measures taken at the global level for the prevention of pollution from commercial vessels. He noted that these measures can be considered as points of departure for discussion when considering actions for the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities, since elements of commonality exist between sources of pollution from pleasure craft and commercial shipping. He also mentioned that the document made reference to the some initiatives taken within and outside the Mediterranean region to address this particular issue namely: the code of conduct for the Caribbean Region; the scientific study

to determine the state of the marine environment in Mediterranean ports of the RAMOGE area; and the work on the draft of a legal instrument for pleasure craft navigation in the Mediterranean by the Institut du Droit Economique de la Mer de Monaco (INDEMER) and the United Nations Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS). He also mentioned that the Regional Council of Brittany, France, has funded a six month bursary tenable at REMPEC on the subject, the beneficiary of it, arrived in REMPEC on the 16 October 2000 would be involved in making a survey and an analysis on the various initiatives taken at the local, national and regional level as well as by other external organizations so that an understanding of the extent of the pollution problem from pleasure craft and the solutions sought for its prevention can be obtained.

90. The observer from INDEMER presented the draft convention carried in document REMPEC/WG.18/INF.4. He pointed out that a first meeting of governmental experts from Mediterranean States was held on the subject and that another was in the pipeline. The draft was still in the preliminary phase and many issues were still awaiting a solution, particularly that concerning the definition of "pleasure crafts" and of the applicability to craft from non-coastal States.

91. A certain number of delegations expressed their satisfaction that this subject was being tackled given the importance of the impact of pleasure craft navigation on the ecosystems. They believed that the issue of pollution from pleasure crafts should be tackled within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, possibly by the development of a new Protocol. The French delegation stated that a Community directive, introduced into French law, prescribed that new ships under 25 m have on board facilities to receive used water. It also stated that French law forbids the use of paints with TBT on such ships.

92. The Meeting came to the conclusion that work on the subject must be followed up and the Director of REMPEC indicated that the Centre would study the current state of the art in the Mediterranean. Once done, this will be presented to the Focal Points, to the Co-ordinating Unit and to IMO. Future action within the framework of the mechanism of the Barcelona Convention could, consequently, be envisaged.

10.4 Action related to the prevention of pollution generated by ships

93. The Technical Expert of REMPEC presented document REMPEC/WG.18/10/4. The Meeting took note of the information provided.

94. Some participants expressed worries on the difficult setting up of funding of activities envisaged within the framework of the MEDA system. The Director was requested to press the European Commission so that the project on port reception facilities would receive the expected financing, taking into account the very damaging effects on the Mediterranean marine environment caused by the delay in the implementation of the project.

95. The delegation of Monaco regretted, however, that the practical measures undertaken are not sufficiently developed: port reception facilities, segregated ballast.

96. The Syrian delegation referred to the study of a project of port reception facilities and thanked the European Community for its support. The project however is not yet implemented and further support will be needed in that respect.

AGENDA ITEM 11: REVISION OF THE REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (RIS)

71. The Chemical Expert of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.18/11 concerning the revision of the Regional Information System (RIS). He noted that at previous Meetings of REMPEC's Focal Points, a report was given on the current status of the RIS and the activities undertaken in the preparations of the various sections making up the RIS carried out during the biennium under review. He explained that at previous meetings, with the exception of minor modifications to Part D of the RIS, there has not been a review of the current list of sections making up the various parts of the RIS and for the most part, this has remained unchanged since the list was first presented in 1989. He further explained that the Centre felt that, in view of the progress made both at the national, regional and global level, it might be appropriate to revisit the current list and perhaps reorganize it so that it might better serve the coastal States prepare and respond to accidental marine pollution. For this reason,

the Centre had prepared some proposals for its reorganization which were found in the two annexes to the document.

98. A demonstration of the new prototype version of the TROCS database was given and the Secretariat informed the Meeting that it was waiting for the French translation of certain information, which appears in this new version. It hoped that the new version could be circulated soon.

99. The Meeting approved the proposed modified list and changes, which appeared in Annex II of document REMPEC/WG.18/11 (**Annex VII**). The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by REMPEC in the continual development of the TROCS.

AGENDA ITEM 12: MEDITERRANEAN ASSISTANCE UNIT (MAU)

100. The Technical Expert of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.18/12 concerning the Mediterranean Assistance Unit. He outlined the arrangements recently made by REMPEC with a view to facilitating the mobilization and operation of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit. These included updating the list of experts and centres of expertise, arrangements concerning travel and issue of air tickets, personal insurance of MAU members and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with CEDRE. A similar Memorandum concerning expertise in chemical products is currently being negotiated with BASF.

101. He also informed the Meeting that the balance of the MAU Revolving Fund account was USD 19, 756.91 as at 30 June 2000, and that the Centre acquired two portable computers that could be used during MAU missions and contains databases and decision support tools.

102. He indicated that the Centre initiated contacts with relevant NGO's with a view to including in MAU their experts in ecological aspects of pollution response.

103. The Meeting took note of the information provided by REMPEC.

AGENDA ITEM 13: PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR THE 2002/2003 BIENNIUM AND BUDGET ESTIMATES

104. The Director of REMPEC introduced documents REMPEC/WG.18/13 and REMPEC/WG.18/13/Rev.1 concerning a proposed programme for the 2002-2003 biennium and a budget estimate.

105. He indicated that in Part I dealing with prevention, there is no figure associated with any of the action, since the extension of the Protocol has not been finalized and since REMPEC presently did not have necessary human and financial resources. He also recalled that certain activities were permanent and others were carried out on request of the countries, within the limits of the budget allocated to the Centre and the external contribution that could be obtained.

106. The Maltese delegation requested the industry to increase its participation. Moreover, it offered to put its resources at the disposal of REMPEC, for the activities organized by the Centre. The Director thanked this delegation for its kind offer.

107. The representative of IMO recalled that his organization was financially supporting training activities of the Centre. He specified that it would continue its support, however the level of this financial contribution would be known only after the meeting of Technical Co-operation Committee.

108. The delegation of the European Community recalled that negotiations were on going between the Directorate General Environment of the European Commission and REMPEC for the establishment of a jointly financed training course.

109. The French delegation suggested to call for the assistance of consultants not only for projects mentioned in the programme, but also for the preparation of projects for submission to donors for financing. This suggestion was agreed by the Meeting.

110. In reply to a question by the Italian delegation concerning the activities envisaged by REMPEC in the field of prevention, and more specifically salvage and routing, the Director of REMPEC emphasized that priorities must be set for the future and that financing should first be found. He indicated that at least 60,000 USD, in addition to the external financing, appeared to be required in the first phase.

111. The Meeting approved the submitted programme as amended, which appears in **Annex VIII**.

112. A certain number of delegations expressed the needs that they would like to have covered within the framework of this programme.

113. The Tunisian delegation recalled that due to its geographical position their country was particularly vulnerable to the pollution risk. It requested REMPEC support in setting up a procedures manual for the implementation of the national plan on urgent response to accidental marine pollution incidents. It also expressed the need for assistance in finding funds necessary for the implementation of certain prevention measures. Finally, it requested assistance in training of trainers.

114. The Lebanese delegation expressed its support for the ambitious programme that was proposed. It declared that, following the Workshop aimed at launching the national contingency plan, mentioned under Agenda Item 4, they would ask REMPEC to take into consideration the organization of a national training course for decision makers, focusing on the preparedness and response to oil and hazardous substances. The same delegation also requested REMPEC's assistance in the development of its national preparedness and response system. These requests were coherent with the recommendations of the Workshop held in Beirut in April 2000.

115. The Libyan delegation requested training linked to the undergoing extensive project for the development of oil and gas production. This request will be confirmed in writing.

116. The representative of Morocco requested the Centre to reconsider assisting his country in the preparation of the port emergency plan for the port of Nador.

117. The Egyptian delegation requested support for the organization of specialized training courses as well as for 3 / 4 regional exercises per annum.

118. Delegations of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia recalled the World Bank project carried out in their respective countries within the framework of GEF, and requested REMPEC to assist them in reactivating it.

119. The Director of REMPEC declared that he would examine the presented requests within the limits of means put at his disposal.

120. He recalled that his budget was decided by the Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. He asked REMPEC Focal Points that their requests be supported by the MAP Focal Points and by their participants in the Meetings of the Contracting Parties.

AGENDA ITEM 14: OTHER MATTERS

121. The French delegation informed the meeting of the imminent establishment of a "Mediterranean ecological protection zone". He explained that following the emotion stirred by the Erika accident, the issue of illicit discharges was brought up again. The question was raised with regards to the implementation of international conventions and of the French law enforcing the Conventions beyond the 12 nautical miles in the Mediterranean. In February 2000, the Prime Minister decided to create this zone under jurisdiction. This does not mean an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) but an area, which would enable the implementation of part XII of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea. France would be in a position to ensure the compliance with the provisions of international conventions, particularly of article 4 of the MARPOL Convention which deals with sanctions for illicit discharges: it will be possible to apply the French penal law of 1983 and to start criminal proceedings in national law courts for violations committed in this newly-established zone. This would also involve other provisions such as those related to dumping or other provisions within the Barcelona Convention system. The

creation of this zone, set-up within the framework of international law, should come into force before the end of 2000.

122. The Tunisian delegation raised the issue of compensation and expressed the wish to have a guide in this field, for oil as well as other substances pollution, dealing with legal, institutional and financial matters, within the regional information system. In this respect, the observer from ITOPF drew attention to the document jointly published in March 2000 by his organization and IPIECA. Whilst also recalling the manual published by IOPC Funds on the manner in which to present compensation claims, the Director stated that he would consider the matter.

123. The Italian delegation asked the Unione Petrolifera group (which includes all Italian oil companies) to present to the meeting the study carried out on maritime traffic in the Strait of Bonifacio. The group's representative recalled that the strait, located between Corsica and Sardinia, was of great ecological value and which should be protected especially against maritime traffic related risks. However, he also recalled that it was "a strait used for the international navigation" in the sense of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea where it was, consequently, impossible to prohibit the navigation. The French and Italian governments had obtained a certain number of decisions within the framework of IMO (traffic organization, system of compulsory reporting by ships in the strait, zones to avoid and recommendations that ships flying all flags should avoid the strait). Furthermore, they have prohibited tankers and chemical carriers flying their flags from passing through the Strait. Unione Petrolifera requested its members to enforce the same rules on a voluntary basis and presented the same recommendation to MOIG.

124. On behalf of the coordinator of the project, Mr. Fusco presented the pilot project "EUROMED – civil protection". This project deals with a vast range of subjects linked to natural disasters (earthquakes, forest fires, hydro-geological risks ...). It dealt in depth on a subject entitled "short-term maritime risks" within the framework of which the Steering Committee decided to carry out two activities in Malta. Part 1, which took place the week prior to the meeting of Focal Points, consisted of "a training and information course on maritime risks" addressed to high-level officials responsible for risk management and fire-fighting at sea and in ports, for oil transport and oil spills. Part 2 is entitled "short-term maritime risks – Mediterranean institutional coordination" and has been conceived in the form of "a seminar, which will specifically deal with the institutional interaction between the civil protection/civil defense and REMPEC-IMO in the Mediterranean". This seminar should take place at the beginning of February 2001.

125. Some delegations aired their surprise in receiving such a document just a few minutes prior to its presentation. This prevented them from reading it in depth in their own country and from taking a clear stand. The representative from the European Union envisaged to provide major information on this pilot project and the French delegation requested this information to be circulated to focal points.

126. Furthermore, a comment was made that, within the framework of existing Conventions, many countries had already set up their institutional response systems against maritime risks (implementation, for example, of article 6 of the OPRC Convention) and that the formulation of "Part 2" of the project could be interpreted as a questioning of the States' internal organization.

127. The French delegation suggested to rephrase Part 2 as follows: "Maritime risks and Mediterranean co-operation examined within the framework of a seminar whose aim would be as follows: 1) allow an exchange of information between States with regards to national response provisions established within the framework of relevant international instruments: IMO/OPRC Convention, Barcelona Convention/Emergency Protocol; 2) strengthen co-operation in this field".

128. It was agreed that the outcome of the seminar should be circulated to REMPEC's focal points.

AGENDA ITEM 15: APPROVAL OF THE REPORT

129. The Meeting adopted the present text together with its Annexes, as the report of the Meeting on 28 October 2000.

AGENDA ITEM 16: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

130. The Meeting was closed by the Chairperson at 17 h. on Saturday, 28 October 2000.

ANNEX(E) I

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organization of the Meeting
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Progress report on REMPEC's Programme of Activities (1999 - 2000)
5. Revision process of the Emergency Protocol
6. OPRC Convention and OPRC Working Group
7. Co-operation between governments and the oil, chemical and shipping industries concerning preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution
8. Co-operation and co-ordination with other International Organizations and Programmes
 - 8.1 EU
 - 8.2 WMO -MPRESS
 - 8.3 IOPC Funds
 - 8.4 Others
9. Accidents in the Mediterranean
10. Recommendations from the Contracting Parties Meeting
 - 10.1 Mediterranean Technical Working Group
 - 10.2 Aerial surveillance
 - 10.3 Prevention of pollution from pleasure craft
 - 10.4 Actions related to the prevention of ship's generated pollution
11. Revision of the Regional Information System (RIS)
12. Mediterranean Assistance Unit
13. Proposed programme for the 2002/2003 biennium and budget estimates.
14. Other business
15. Approval of the Report
16. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.18/3/1/Rev.1	Provisional Agenda
REMPEC/WG.18/3/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
REMPEC/WG.18/3/3/Rev.1	Draft Timetable
REMPEC/WG.18/4	Progress Report (November 1998 - October 2000)
REMPEC/WG.18/4/Rev.1	Progress Report (November 1998 - October 2000) <u>Annex 3</u> : Status of Project Budget at 26/10/2000
REMPEC/WG.18/5	Revision Process of the Emergency Protocol
REMPEC/WG.18/6	OPRC Convention and OPRC Working Group
REMPEC/WG.18/7	Co-operation between Governments and the Oil, Chemical and Shipping Industries
REMPEC/WG.18/8	Co-operation and Co-ordination with Other International Organizations and Programmes
REMPEC/WG.18/9	Accidents in the Mediterranean
REMPEC/WG.18/10/1	Mediterranean Technical Working Group
REMPEC/WG.18/10/2	Aerial Surveillance
REMPEC/WG.18/10/3	Prevention of Pollution from Pleasure Craft
REMPEC/WG.18/10/4	Actions related to the Prevention of Ships' Generated Pollution
REMPEC/WG.18/11	Revision of the Regional Information System (RIS)
REMPEC/WG.18/12	Mediterranean Assistance Unit
REMPEC/WG.18/13	Proposed Programme of Priority Activities 2002-2003. Proposed Relevant Budget for the Biennium
REMPEC/WG.18/13/Rev.1	Proposed Programme of Priority Activities 2002-2003. Proposed Relevant Budget for the Biennium <u>Annex I</u> : Proposed Medium-Term Programme (2002-2003) of Priority Activities in the Field of Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Pollution of the Marine Environment from Sea-based Activities
REMPEC/WG.18/14	Final Report of the Meeting

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.18/INF.1	List of Documents
REMPEC/WG.18/INF.2	List of Participants
REMPEC/WG.18/INF.3	Report of the Concurrent Communication Exercise between REMPEC and the Civil Protection Unit, Madrid, Spain, carried out within the framework of the European Chemical Industry's Responsible Care Programme - ICE; and between REMPEC and METEO France within the framework of the World Meteorological Organization's Marine Pollution Emergency Response Support System (MPERSS), August 2000. (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.18/INF.4	"Projet de convention sur la navigation de plaisance en mer Méditerranée". Submitted by INDEMER. (French Only)
REMPEC/WG.18/INF.5	Basic Documents, Recommendations, Principles and Guidelines Concerning Accidental Marine Pollution Preparedness, Response and Mutual Assistance, July 2000 (RIS/A)
REMPEC/WG.18/INF.6	Supplement 1998 - 2000 to the List of Alerts and Accidents in the Mediterranean (RIS/C/4). (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.18/INF.7	Final Act of the Conference on International Co-operation on Preparedness and Response to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances. OPRC-HNS Protocol, 2000. Submitted by IMO
REMPEC/WG.18/INF.8	Update on ICE - Emergency Response. Submitted by CEFIC. (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.18/INF.9	Recent Development within the Framework of the International Conventions on Liability and Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage. Submitted by IOPC Funds. (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.18/INF.10	Report of the Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Wilhelmshaven, Germany, 20-22 September 2000. Submitted by Bonn Agreement
REMPEC/WG.18/INF.11	Pollution Report - HazMat Containers on Israeli Shorelines. Submitted by MCED, Ministry of Environment, Israel. (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.18/INF.12	Guide for Combating Accidental Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean, October 2000 (RIS/D/1). (English Only)
REMPEC/WG.18/INF.13	Cooperation and Coordination with other International Organisations and Programmes. Submitted by the European Commission. (English Only)

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

1. Directory of Competent National Authorities in charge of accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance and other relevant information, March 1999 (RIS/B/1).
2. Inventory of Centres of Expertise and Centres of Resources, which can be put, under certain conditions, at the disposal of a State, which so requests, in cases of emergency, February 1999 (RIS/B/2).
3. Directory of Companies offering Services in the Mediterranean in case of emergency, February 1999 (RIS/B/4).
4. Guidelines for the Use of Dispersants for Combating Oil Pollution at Sea in the Mediterranean Region, October 1998 (RIS/D/2).
5. "Exercise Larnaca" - Report of the Joint Subregional Oil Spill Response Exercise (Cyprus, Egypt, and Israel), Larnaca, Cyprus, 2-5 November 1998.
6. Proposed Amendments to Both the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Case of Emergency and to the Annex to Resolution 7 Concerning the Objectives and Functions of REMPEC, (REMPEC/WG.17/4).
7. Report of the Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of the LIFE Third Countries Project for the Development of Spill Response Capabilities of Cyprus, Egypt, Israel held in Tel Aviv, Israel, 8-9 March 1999 (REMPEC/CEI/WG.5/10).
8. Report of the Subregional Training Course on the Use of Dispersants and Other Chemical Agents, Haifa, Israel, 26-29 April 1999.
9. Report of the Bilateral Training Course (Croatia and Slovenia) On Oil Spill Response, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 9-11 June 1999.
10. Report of the National Training Course On Oil Spill Response Techniques and the Use of Response Equipment, Tripoli, GSP Libyan Arab Jamahiriya , 21-23 June 1999.
11. Report of the Communication Exercise between REMPEC and CEDRE (France) carried out within the framework of the European Chemical Industry Responsible Care Programme - ICE, July 1999.
12. Report of the Regional Training Course on Accidental Marine Pollution Crisis Management (MEDEXPOL 99/1), Tunis, Tunisia, 11-16 October 1999.
13. Report of the Joint Subregional Oil Spill Response Exercise (Cyprus, Egypt, and Israel), Haifa, Israel, 9-11 November 1999.
14. Report of the Regional Alert Exercise "MEDIPOLEX 99", 7 December 1999.
15. Report of the National Training Course on Preparedness For and Response To Accidental Marine Pollution (for supervisors and on-scene commanders), Lattakia, Syrian Arab Republic. 13-15 December 1999.

16. Report of the First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the LIFE Third Countries Project for the Development of the National system for Preparedness and Response to Accidental Marine Pollution in the Syrian Arab Republic, Damascus, Syria, 4-5 March 2000 (REMPEC/SYR/WG.1/6).
17. Report of the Regional Training Course on New Techniques for Shoreline Pollution (Oil/Chemical) Clean-up (MEDEXPOL 99/2), Brest, France, 21-25 March 2000.
18. Report of the National Workshop on National Contingency Plan for Preparedness for and Response to Accidental Marine Pollution, Beirut, Lebanon, 10-12 April 2000.
19. National Seminar for Government Administrators and Senior Managers, Rabat, Morocco, 25-27 April 2000.
20. Report of the Subregional Training Course on Training of Trainers, Anthalassa/Nicosia, Cyprus, 16-18 May 2000.
21. Report of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee of the LIFE Third Countries Project for the Development of Spill Response Capabilities of Cyprus, Egypt, and Israel held in Nicosia, Cyprus, 19 May 2000 (REMPEC/CEI/WG.7/1).
22. National Training Course on Accidental Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response for On-scene Commanders and/or Supervisors (Oil and Chemical Spills), Algiers/Sidei Fredj, Algeria, 4-8 June 2000.
23. Report of the First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Life Third Countries Project for a Risk Assessment of the Ports of Mersin and Iskenderun, Turkey and Associated Capacity Building for the State of Readiness and for Response to Marine Pollution (LIFE TCY98/TR/011), Ankara, Turkey, 19-20 September 2000.
24. Practical Guide for Marine Chemical Spills, January 2000 (RIS/D/12).

ANNEX IV MOIG / IPIECA Presentations

The Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG) is a regional oil industry forum dealing with oil spill preparedness and response for the Mediterranean region. MOIG represents a network of industry experts in oil spill response in order to ensure proper coordination by the oil industry in case of a major oil spill incident in the Mediterranean Sea.

On October 25th 2000, a presentation of the IPIECA and MOIG activities was given to the representatives of Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention attending REMPEC's Focal Points Meeting. A MOIG meeting was organized in parallel to the REMPEC's Focal Points Meeting, held from 26 to 28 October 2000.

MOIG is still a sub-group of the IPIECA, which provides financing, and secretariat. At a future date, it is intended to become an independent group, financed by companies with a permanent independent secretariat.

During the presentation, the MOIG chairman underlined the importance of being well prepared and organized due to the significant traffic which will increase in the future.

The objectives of the MOIG were clearly expressed:

- 1) To promote regional cooperation, through:
 - the creation of a regional network of contacts and focal points;
 - the encouragement oil industry and companies to participate in MOIG activities;
 - the promotion of industry involvement in REMPEC's activities.
- 2) To enhance the preparedness for oil spill pollution response, through the exchange of information, continuing training and exercises through a more efficient use of the equipment resources of the industry

To date, MOIG has achieved the following goals:

- 1) A regional interface between industry and REMPEC;
- 2) A regional network with 14 active members;
- 3) Organization of 3 exercises;
 - in February 1988 in Cyprus, with BP Cyprus, in Larnaca Bay
 - in July 1999, in Tunisia, with the Tunisian oil industry, at the Bizerte refinery
 - in October 2000 in Malta, with the Maltese authorities in Marsaxlokk Bay
- 4) MOIG participated in Lebanon in the seminar as a first initiative which will lead to the preparation of the National Contingency Plan;
- 5) MOIG acted as an observer in the Tunisian exercise held on September 22nd and 23rd in Tunis (Operation Blanche en Mer 2000);

The next MOIG Meeting is scheduled to take place in June 2001, in Corinth (Greece), in collaboration with the Corinth refinery (Motor Oil Hellas). For this occasion, an exercise will be organized.

ANNEX V

Report for the establishment of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group

Representatives from Cyprus, France, Italy, Morocco, Monaco, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, and REMPEC Secretariat, meet in order to discuss details of agenda item 10.1, Mediterranean Technical Working Group.

A number of topics were taken into consideration and suggestions were made in order to amend the proposed guidelines on the method of work of the WG. The participants agreed on the following:

- Upon agreement among the members of the WG, Inter-sessional meetings may be held if needed. The organisational costs will be on a voluntary basis and covered by the participating Countries. It was recommended that Countries make the necessary budgetary arrangements to this end.
- Allow the WG to deal with more than one topic if appropriate. For this purpose, the guidelines were amended accordingly.
- Since the official working languages of the Mediterranean Action Plan are both, English and French, it was decided to delete point 2 of paragraph 6.

All the Focal Points participating in the WG will appoint a WG Chairman for the sessional (biennium) period.

Sub-WGs could be constituted if appropriate to achieve goals according to the Protocol. They could either be constituted during Focal Points Meetings or by Contracting Parties. In this case, REMPEC will inform the Focal Points.

The results of WG or Sub-WGs work will be submitted at Focal Points Meeting.

Regard the items to be assigned to the WG and, eventually, to Sub WGs, participants recommend to the Focal Point Meeting, the following items that could be considered:

- 1) Inventory of oil commonly traded in Mediterranean ports or terminals;
- 2) Inventory of bulk chemicals traded in Mediterranean ports or terminals;
- 3) Inventory of national legislations for the implementation of MARPOL 73/78; article 4: sanctions for illicit operational oil discharges.
- 4) Elaboration of project files for the financial donors (to be carried by the individual sub-groups). This should mainly concern the pilot projects in the field of aerial surveillance. They should be established on a sub-regional base by the interested States under the auspices of a lead Country nominated by these States (or under the auspices of REMPEC). On establishment, the request for financing will be submitted directly to the financial donors by the lead Country or through REMPEC as it has been done in the past. The members of the Technical WG, will be informed by REMPEC of the establishment of the sub-groups.

The above-mentioned inventories (1-3) will be developed within the framework of the Technical Working Group, which will work, by correspondence under the auspices of the lead Country concerned.

The lead Country concerned will issue a report to be presented during REMPEC's Focal Points Meeting.

A lead Country has to be appointed for the next biennium.

ANNEX VI

Guidelines for the Mediterranean Technical Working Group

Purpose

1. The purpose of establishing this Group is to facilitate the consideration of an issue or specific item by the Meetings of REMPEC's Focal Points on the basis of a consolidated report prepared by a "lead country" through consultation by correspondence with interested delegations, international organizations and appropriate entities.

Prerequisites

2. The Group should operate under the instructions of and report to the Meetings of REMPEC's Focal Points. The Meetings of REMPEC's Focal Points should decide on the item(s) to be considered by the Group and establish a list of priorities of the Group. The Group will consider one or more items of work at a time. When allocating an item of work, the Meetings of REMPEC's Focal Points should take into consideration that it would be desirable that the Group complete the work in time by the next meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points (i.e. within a two-year period).

3. The Meetings of REMPEC's Focal Points should periodically examine and review these guidelines and make recommendations as appropriate to facilitate the work of the Group.

Participation

4. After a Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points has agreed on the issue to be considered by the Group, the profile of expertise of the Group should be considered. Participation is open to all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, international organizations and appropriate entities which can provide the necessary expertise on a timely basis or which have a particular interest in the issued under consideration. Any Contracting Party, international organization or appropriate entity can join in the work of the Group and any contribution should be accepted at any stage of the work of the Group.

Method of work

5. A "lead country" should be designated by the Meetings of REMPEC's Focal Points to coordinate the work of the Group and act as Group "leader".

6. Responsibilities of the Group "leader" should include:

- 1) preparation, maintenance and circulation of the list of participants;
- 2) establishment of deadlines for the preparation of draft texts and receipt of comments and proposals thereon from the participants;
- 3) preparation and circulation of the draft texts and comments thereon;
- 4) preparation and submission to REMPEC (see paragraph 9 below) of the report on the work in time for the Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points;
- 5) introduction of the above-mentioned report to the Meetings of REMPEC's Focal Points.

7. Responsibilities of participants should include:

- 1) active participation in the work of the Group;
- 2) compliance with the deadline established by the Group "leader";
- 3) relaying to other group members copies of comments, proposals, etc. submitted to the Group "leader".

8. The responsibilities of REMPEC should include:
- 1) to translate the report of the work of the Group;
 - 2) to circulate the report of the work in both languages on behalf of the Group "leader" to the Meetings of REMPEC's Focal Points;
 - 3) cover the cost of participation of the Group's "leader" to the Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points.

Outcome of the Group's work

9. The results of work carried out by the Group should normally take the form of a report reflecting the information received from members of the Group. Such a report should be accompanied by a succinct report summarizing the work and indicating which members have provided input to the process. Where it has not been possible to prepare an agreed consolidated report, there should be clear indication in the document on which there was disagreement.

Submission of the Group's report

10. The final report of the Group's work should be submitted to the first meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points to meet after the work would have been assigned. It should be submitted to REMPEC 12 weeks before the opening of the Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points to allow enough time for translation and distribution to the Focal Points.

11. In the case that the Group has not finalized its work in time to meet this deadline, a progress report should be received by REMPEC not later than 12 weeks before the opening of the Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points to ensure enough time for translation and circulation to the Focal Points for their consideration.

Existence of the Group

12. The Meetings of REMPEC's Focal Points should periodically review the necessity for the continued existence of the Group and make recommendations accordingly to the Meetings of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

ANNEX VII

**New List of the Regional Information System
(oil and hazardous substances)**

PART A: BASIC DOCUMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES CONCERNING ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

PART B: DIRECTORIES AND INVENTORIES

SECTION 1 Directory of competent national authorities in charge of accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance and other relevant information.

SECTION 2 Inventory of Centres of Expertise and Centres of Resources which can be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of a State, which so requests, in cases of emergency.

SECTION 3 Directory of Mediterranean Meteorological Centres.

SECTION 4 Directory of companies offering services in the Mediterranean in case of emergency.

PART C: DATABANKS AND INFORMATION SERVICES

SECTION 1 Description of the Centre's databank on hazardous substances and information services provided by the Centre.

SECTION 2 Alerts and Accidents in the Mediterranean.

SECTION 3 Database on the transport of chemical substances - TROCS.

PART D: OPERATIONAL GUIDES AND TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS

SECTION 1 Guide for combating accidental marine pollution in the Mediterranean.

SECTION 2 Guidelines for the use of dispersants for combating oil pollution at sea in the Mediterranean region.

SECTION 3 Concise dictionary of marine anti-pollution terms.

SECTION 4 The significance of a Material Safety Data Sheet.

SECTION 5 Personal protective equipment and monitoring devices for maritime chemical emergencies.

SECTION 6 The TROCS database and its use in response to lost packages washed ashore.

SECTION 7 Theory and practice of foams in chemical spill response.

SECTION 8 Standardized classification system for chemicals accidentally spilt at sea.

- SECTION 9 Risks of gaseous releases resulting from maritime incidents.
Risks of gaseous releases resulting from maritime incidents - Supplement.
- SECTION 10 Impact of spilled hazardous substances on human life and the marine environment.
- SECTION 11 Compendium of notes on preparedness and response to maritime pollution emergencies involving hazardous substances.
- SECTION 12 Practical guide for marine chemical spills.
Practical guide for marine chemical spills - Supplement.

ANNEX VIII

**PROPOSED MEDIUM TERM PROGRAMME (2002 - 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	
		2002	2003
<u>TITLE I. PREVENTION OF POLLUTION BY SHIPS *</u>			
I. <u>Control the effective implementation of the relevant IMO Conventions :</u>	REMPEC		
1. Strengthening national capacities for exercising the power of flag State, port State and coastal State:			
a) Regional training programmes;			
b) Pilot programmes.			
2. Develop regional co-operation to increase efficiency of port State Control.			
II. <u>Port reception facilities</u>			
Implementation of Action Plan adopted in Cairo, December 1991.			

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION	
		2000	2001
<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		
<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		

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION	
		2000	2001
<p>V. <u>Routing system</u></p> <p>1. Vessel traffic services in the Mediterranean</p> <p>2. Traffic separation schemes</p> <p>3. Areas to be avoided by the shipping traffic (sensitive areas, protected areas, etc.)</p>	REMPEC		
<p>VI. <u>Pleasure crafts</u></p> <p>Preparation of a proposal for a legal instrument related to prevention of pollution from pleasure crafts.</p>	REMPEC (UNEP/MEDU OTHERS)		

* the Contracting Parties should approve an increase in the Centre's budget and personnel component in order to give REMPEC the capacity to cope with the new additional responsibilities.

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT	Year of Realization		Budget approved biennium 2000-2001		Budget proposed biennium 2002-2003	
		2002	2003	MTF	Other sources	MTF	Other sources
<p><u>TITLE II. PREPAREDNESS FOR, RESPONSE TO AND CO- OPERATION IN CASE OF ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION</u></p> <p>I. <u>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:</u> Basic documents, Recommendations, Principles and Guidelines concerning marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance.</p> <p><u>PART B :</u> Directories and Inventories</p> <p>1. Directory of competent national authorities in charge of accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance and other relevant information – SECTION 1.</p> <p>2. 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						

(*) Updating the RIS as a permanent activity of REMPEC

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION		Budget approved biennium 2000-2001		Budget proposed biennium 2002-2003	
		2002	2003	MTF	Other sources	MTF	Other sources
3 Directory of Mediterranean Meteorological Centres – SECTION 3							
4. Directory of companies offering services in the Mediterranean in case of emergency – SECTION 4.							
5. Computerization and maintenance of the RIS.							
PART C: Databanks and Information Services							
6. Maintenance of a partially computerized databank on hazardous substances.							
7. Acquisition of behaviour simulation models.							
8. Description of the Centre's databank on hazardous substances and information services provided by the Centre – SECTION 1.							
9. List of Alerts and Accidents in the Mediterranean – SECTION 2							
10. Develop and maintain the TROCS database – SECTION 3.					(*) 22000		(*) 24000
PART D: Operational Guides and Technical Documents							
11. Associated risk of gases and volatile liquids spilled at sea. (Supplement) – SECTION 9.							
12. Impact of spilled hazardous substances on human life and the marine environment – SECTION 10.							

(*) part of EC voluntary contribution to MTF.

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION		Budget approved biennium 2000-2001		Budget proposed biennium 2002-2003	
		2002	2003	MTF	Other sources	MTF	Other sources
13. Compendium of notes on preparedness and response to maritime pollution emergencies involving hazardous substances – SECTION 11							
14. Practical Guide for marine chemical spills (Supplement) – SECTION 12.							
II. <u>Assistance to countries which so request, in developing their national capabilities</u>			Sub-total	16000	22000	16500	24000
A. <u>National and Subregional Systems</u>			on request				
1. Assistance to countries in developing their information sources at the national level by providing computerized material developed by REMPEC.	REMPEC		on request				
2. Providing assistance to countries which so request, to develop their national system for preparedness and response.	REMPEC/Consultant		on request	10000		10000	
3. 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.	REMPEC/Consultant		on request				
4. Development of sub-regional systems for combating major marine pollution accidents : Eastern Mediterranean, Western Mediterranean, Adriatic	REMPEC/EC/ Consultant		on request	20000	(*) 809000	20000	(**) 714000

(*) 3 LIFE projects (Cyprus, Egypt, Israel – Syria – Turkey)

(**) 2 LIFE projects (Syria - Turkey)

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION		Budget approved biennium 2000-2001		Budget proposed biennium 2002-2003	
		2002	2003	MTF	Other sources	MTF	Other sources
5. Providing assistance to States, which so request, for the preparation and development of bilateral/multilateral operational agreements amongst neighbouring coastal States.	REMPEC/Consultant	on request		8000		8000	
B. <u>Port Emergency Response System</u>				38000	809000	38000	714000
6. Design of pilot projects for external financing to enhance the preparedness and response systems of Mediterranean Ports.	REMPEC/EC/Consultants/Others	on request		7000		7000	
		Sub-total		7000		7000	
C. <u>CAMP</u>		on request					
7. Development of operational sensitivity maps in the Mediterranean (Projects co-financed by: SMAP/MEDA/LIFE mechanism 80%; related country 16%; MAP 4%).	REMPEC in co-operation with other organizations	on request		-		40000	
		Sub-total				40000	
III. <u>Training</u>							
1. Specialized regional training course on oil and hazardous substances.	REMPEC	X	X	134000		140000	
2. Providing assistance to States, which so request in the preparation of national training seminars/workshops/courses.	REMPEC	on request		20000	(*) 120000	20000	(*) 140000
3. Making available teaching documents for national training activities.	REMPEC	X	X				
4. Preparation of a training programme on preparedness and response in ports.	REMPEC/Consultants	X	X	10000		12000	
		Sub-total		164000	120000	172000	140000

(*) IMO/TCD contribution for national training courses in the Mediterranean Arabic-speaking countries.

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION		Budget approved biennium 2000-2001		Budget proposed biennium 2002-2003	
		2002	2003	MTF	Other resources	MTF	Other resources
IV. <u>Co-operation and mutual assistance in case of emergency</u>							
1. Organization and administration of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit to assist combating accidental marine pollution.	REMPEC	X	X	8000		8000	
2. Organization of alert exercises aimed at testing the use of the standard alert message and communications network "MEDIPOLEX".	REMPEC	X	X				
3. Organization of operational exercises	REMPEC	X	X				
4. Maintenance of relations and contacts with the representative organizations of oil and shipping industries.	In co-operation with a Contracting Party or with the Oil Industry	X	X				
5. Co-operation with the chemical industry (ICE project).	REMPEC	X	X				
6. Organization of "paper exercises" with chemical industry (ICE programme).	REMPEC in co-operation with an ICE Emergency Centre	X	X				
		Sub-total		8000		8000	
		Total		233000	951000	281500	878000

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION		Budget approved biennium 2000-2001		Budget proposed biennium 2002-2003	
		2002	2003	MTF	Other resources	MTF	Other resources
<p><u>TITLE III</u> <u>PREVENTION OF MARINE POLLUTION RESULTING FROM OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES *</u></p> <p>I. <u>Preparation of guidelines, standards and joint criteria</u></p> <p>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).</p> <p>2. Preparation of common standards for the disposal of oil and oily mixtures from installations into the Protocol area (article 10, para 1a).</p> <p>3. Preparation of common standards for the use and disposal of drilling fluids and drill cuttings into the Protocol area (article 10, para 2).</p> <p>4. Preparation of guidelines regarding the use of chemicals for the activities (article 9, para 2).</p> <p>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).</p>	REMPEC						

- The Contracting Parties should increase the Centre's budget and personnel in order to give REMPEC the capacity to cope with those new additional responsibilities.