

6th Meeting of the Focal Points of the
Regional Marine Pollution Emergency
Response Centre for the Mediterranean
Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.21/4
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Agenda Item 4

PROGRESS REPORT
(November 2000 – December 2002)

Note by REMPEC

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION CONCERNING
COOPERATION IN COMBATING POLLUTION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA BY OIL AND
OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES IN CASES OF EMERGENCY**

1. In response to the issues of both preventing and combating accidental marine pollution and in conformity with the strategies adopted in 1989 and 1997 as well as with the programmes approved by the various Ordinary Meetings of the Contracting Parties, REMPEC carried out activities aimed at improving and strengthening the regional system for co-operation and mutual assistance in cases of emergency and at increasing the levels of preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution of individual coastal States in the Mediterranean.
2. Since the last REMPEC's Focal Point Meeting, held in Malta by the end of October 2000, and as reported to the 12th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, held in Monaco in 2001, REMPEC mainly concentrated its activities on collection and distribution of information, capacity building, assistance to countries in case of emergency and implementation of the recommendations of the previous Contracting Parties Meetings.
3. The identified needs were as follows:
 - i) Prevention of the pollution of the marine environment from ships

The need to promote through regional co-operation the implementation and the enforcement of the IMO Conventions for the prevention of marine pollution from ships.
 - ii) Preparedness, response and co-operation to accidental marine pollution

- The need to strengthen the capacities of the coastal States in the Mediterranean and to facilitate cooperation among them in order to respond to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, especially in cases of emergencies in which there is a serious and imminent danger to the marine environment or when it can affect human lives.

- The need to assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region to develop their own national capabilities to respond to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea and to facilitate information exchange, technological co-operation and training.
- The need to provide a network for that exchange of information.
- The need to provide assistance in cases of emergency.

Collection and distribution of information

4. The major result within this activity is the continuing development of the Regional Information System (RIS). The updated documents have been printed and distributed according to the REMPEC distribution list. In addition, TROCS (Transport of Chemical Substances) database has been further developed and became now the "Mediterranean Integrated Decision Support Information System (MIDSIS)" which is not any longer a single database but a more sophisticated tool put at the disposition of all interested users in order to facilitate the decision making process in case of emergency.
5. Furthermore, and with the view to providing decision makers with technical information suitable to be utilized in the updating process of NCP's and databanks, several documents issued by other entities and considered of major interest for the Operational Focal Points of the Centre were also distributed. The complete list of the RIS documents, updated and delivered to REMPEC's Operational Focal Points in the countries is presented in [Annex 1](#).

Capacity Building

6. In the field of capacity building, the Centre continued to give priority to the development of national systems for preparedness and response and to the adoption of sub-regional contingency plans as well as to training.
7. Some indicators of the actual results achieved are as follows:
 - Status of ratification of IMO Conventions and related Protocols: at the end of 2002 out of 33 relevant Conventions and their Protocols, 10 were ratified by almost all Contracting Parties and 15 of them partly. During the past two years, the new ratifications were eighteen: one ratification for SOLAS Protocol 88, Load Lines Protocol 88, CSC 72, STCW 78, Intervention Protocol 69, OPRC 90, Bunkers Convention 2001 and SOLAS 74, two ratifications for SOLAS Protocol 78, Facilitation Convention 65, CLS Protocol 92, Fund Protocol 92 and Salvage Convention 89. In addition to that four countries denounced CLC 69, one country denounced CLC Protocol 76, three countries denounced Fund 71, one country denounced Fund Protocol 76. The status of ratification of the said Conventions and Protocols at the end of the year 2002 is presented in [Annex 2](#).
 - Status of National Contingency Plan:
 - 9 countries NCP's existed and not changed: Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Italy, Monaco, Morocco, Spain, and Tunisia;
 - 3 countries NCP's were revised: Algeria, Israel, Greece;
 - 2 countries NCP's prepared and waiting for approval: Malta, Turkey;
 - 4 countries NCP's under preparation / revision: Albania, Libya, Slovenia, Syria;
 - 1 country started the preparation: Lebanon;
 - 1 country no activities reported: Bosnia & Herzegovina.
 - the assistance provided to the national authorities of Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Libya, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey;
 - the further development of the national system for preparedness and response and related national Contingency Plan in Syria;

- the activities related to preparedness for and response to accidents in port areas in Turkey (Mersin and Iskenderun) and in Morocco (Nador);
 - a comprehensive project for the development of national capabilities of the Republic of Albania for the prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from sea based sources was prepared and submitted for financing to the LIFE Third Countries instrument of the EC in November 2002;
 - the activities aimed at establishing a sub-regional Contingency Plan for the South Western Mediterranean involving Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia;
 - the preliminary activities carried out in order to start the development of sub-regional Contingency Plans in the Northern Adriatic (Croatia, Italy, Slovenia) and in the Sicily Strait (Italy, Malta, to be extended in Tunisia).
8. In particular the results of the training/exercise component are remarkable. A large number of participants attended the meetings, training and workshops organized since November 2000: 81 participants attended 3 regional training courses, 85 participants attended 4 sub-regional training courses, 165 participants attended 6 national training courses, 79 participants attended a seminar on liability and compensation in Tunisia, 99 persons attended several (9) technical meetings making an impressive total of 509 participants.

The list of participants in the REMPEC seminars, workshops and meetings and the distribution of participants per countries and their affiliation confirms the evaluation of the REMPEC training component being most successful especially if we consider that out of 2200 people trained since the creation of the Centre, 703 were trained in the last four years (1999-2000).

The list of all the results achieved since November 2000 in the Capacity Building field are given in [Annex 3](#).

9. Particular mention deserves the continuous improvement of the co-operation with IMO in the field of training, pilot projects as well as development of sub-regional agreements. In fact, within the framework of its "Technical Cooperation Programme" IMO continued to sponsor activities carried out by REMPEC in the Mediterranean region. The amount made available for 2002 – 2003 is \$151,000 while the previous biennium was \$ 120.000. The list of all the results achieved since November 2000 in the Capacity Building field is given in [Annex 3](#).

Assistance to countries in case of emergency

10. REMPEC regularly collected information concerning accidents that caused or were likely to cause the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea. Alerts and accidents, recorded in the Mediterranean up to December 2002 were presented in the Section 2 of Part C of the Regional Information System, which also gives an analysis of the situation regarding accidental marine pollution, by oil in the region.
11. Like in previous years, in most cases REMPEC received the first notification of accidents that had occurred through Lloyd's Casualty Reporting Services and only exceptionally the first information came from the Centre's national Focal Points
12. Since November 2000 there were no major marine oil pollution accidents in the Mediterranean region that would necessitated international co-operation in dealing with their consequences. All registered oil spills in the Mediterranean were of a very limited size and had been dealt with by the competent national authorities or clean-up contractors respectively.
13. Whenever so requested by the competent national authorities, REMPEC provided the assistance to the coastal States facing marine pollution incidents. The assistance ranged from facilitating communications, dissemination of information and reports, to providing the

countries concerned with expert technical advice concerning response measures, as it was in the cases of the cargo vessels "CAMADAN" carrying potentially hazardous cargo which suffers for an accident in Malta harbour in March 2002 and "GELFO" which sunk on 15th November 2002, 12 miles off the Moroccan coasts.

14. However, among the recorded incidents, one case was of particular importance: M/T "CASTOR", loaded with 29,500 tons of unleaded gasoline sustained a transverse crack of the main-deck during extremely severe weather conditions on 30 December 2000. REMPEC closely followed the development of the situation from 2 January 2001, until the final transfer of all cargo from the damaged tanker on 8 February 2001. On 4 January 2001, the Centre provided requested information on the product and on the procedures to deal with it to the Moroccan authorities. REMPEC participated in meetings organized on 21 January 2001 by the competent national authorities of Cyprus (the Flag State) and on 31 January 2001 by the Malta Maritime Authority.
15. During the period under observations some Contracting Parties to the Emergency Protocol that have coasts on more than one sea (e.g. France, Spain), were affected by serious marine pollution accidents that occurred outside the Mediterranean. REMPEC closely followed the development of the situation and the progress of response operations, keeping its official correspondents informed.

Co-operation with other organizations and relevant impacts.

16. During the implementation of the Project, co-operation with a number of specialized international governmental and non-governmental organizations has been established and successfully maintained, such as: MOIG, INTERTANKO, ITOPI, IPIECA, HELMEPA, UNEP Industry and Environment PAC in Paris, WMO, OECD, CEFIC, ICE, CEDRE, US EPA, ESA, ICRAM, the Helsinki Commission. In 2002 the Centre was granted the status of observer by the Bonn Agreement. Throughout the implementation of the Project, regular contacts, exchange of information and experience have taken place between REMPEC and the mentioned organizations, allowing sharing of experience and transfer of technology. This co-operation resulted in the improvement of the Centre's professional capacity and in the increased quality of its work in the implementation of Project activities.
17. Within the framework of this co-operation, some significant agreements were reached as follows:
 - i. with the Italian Ministry for the Environment and the Italian Coast Guard to organize in Naples and in Genoa, Italy the regional training courses MEDEXPOL 2000 and MEDEXPOL 2001 respectively;
 - ii. with ICRAM, in order to utilize its expertise in the field of the environment, as a component of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (Memorandum of Understanding signed in Malta on 28th October 2002);
 - iii. with BASF Ludwigshafen, in order to utilize its expertise in the field of HNS emergencies, as a component of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MOU in the process to be finalized);
 - iv. with the European Space Agency and ICRAM to have a Junior Expert at REMPEC within the framework of the EC project "Gaiant-Vasco" which is dealing with "satellite monitoring" in the Mediterranean. The junior will be at the Centre for an initial period of 7 months.
18. As in the past, the co-operation with the oil industry continued to develop and grow. In particular:
 - i. within the framework of the VIE (Volontaire à l'International en Enterprise) system, TOTALFINA ELF has continued to provide REMPEC with a junior marine biologist;

- ii. the Italian Oil Industry represented by U.P.I (Unione Petrolifera Italiana) since March 2002 has seconded an engineer to REMPEC for an initial period of two years.
19. In addition to that, within the terms of a "Convention de Stage" with the French University "Patheon-Assas Paris II" a junior graduate in law was at REMPEC for a period of seven months since 4th February 2002. She carried out a comparative study of the existing international regulations (IMO, EC, MAP) related to the maritime transport and the protection of the environment.

Implementation of the recommendations addressed to REMPEC by the 11th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties

20. Revision process of the Emergency Protocol REMPEC, in close collaboration with UNEP/MAP and IMO, has completed the preparation of the final draft proposal for the (new) Prevention Emergency Protocol. The Protocol was eventually adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, held in Malta, on the 25th January 2002. As at 31 December 2002, Monaco is the only country which has ratified it. The Annex to resolution 7 related to the mandate and responsibility of the Centre, was amended accordingly and adopted by the 12th Contracting Parties Meeting, held in Monaco in November 2001.
21. Prevention of pollution from non-commercial pleasure craft activities. With the contribution of a trainee (post-graduate in law) provided by the Regional Council of Brittany (France) for a six-month work placement at REMPEC, the Centre finalized an assessment of pleasure craft and related facilities in the Mediterranean. This should be considered as the first step for further investigations on the issue of preventing marine pollution from pleasure craft activities.

Prevention of pollution from ships.

22. The project proposed to the EC within the framework of EUROMED Programme (reception facilities in the Mediterranean region) was approved and the relevant contract signed in December 2001. The selection of the consultant to carry out the first two activities of the project (assessment of the situation in the MEDA countries in relation to the existing installations and the real needs for collection and treatment of solid and liquid wastes, as well as of oily ballast waters from tankers) of the project was finalized by September 2002, while the relevant activities started in the early December 2002. Since the MEDA project does not cover all the Mediterranean region, REMPEC intends to allocate some financial resources from MTF budget in order to cover also the countries which are not eligible for MEDA: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Libya and Slovenia. In addition to that, France, Greece, Italy and Spain will be invited to collaborate with REMPEC and to provide the Centre with all the information and data relevant to their countries, in order to give to the outcome of the project a regional dimension.

Personnel

23. Since the last Focal Points meeting some variation in the personnel at REMPEC occurred.
24. Ms. Helena Mallia and Ms. Catherine Galea left the Centre, and were replaced by Ms. Michaela Tabone and Ms. Francesca Sapiano respectively.
25. Mr. Stefan Micallef moved to UNEP, Nairobi in October 2001 and was replaced by Mr. Elias Sampatakakis, a Greek national in March 2002.
26. Mr. Alex Nicolau, seconded by the French Oil Industry was replaced by Ms. Emilie Dorgeville, whilst Mr. Francesco Strangis, since March 2002, was seconded to REMPEC by the Italian Oil Industry for a period of two years.

27. Since March 2002, within the framework of the EC-MEDA project for reception facilities, REMPEC has contracted Ms. Lilia Khodjet El Khil a newly graduate in maritime law of French-Tunisian nationality.
28. Mr. Jonathan Pace, a Maltese National was recruited in September 2002, following the decision of the 12th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to create a new post of the Programme Officer for dealing with the prevention of pollution from ships.
29. As at 31 December 2002, the staff component structure of the Centre is as follows:

Title	Name	Grade
Permanent Staff:		
Director	R. Admiral Roberto Patruno	D1
Senior Programme Officer (OPRC)	Mr. Darko Domovic	P5
Programme Officer (HNS)	Mr. Elias Sampatakakis	P4
Programme Officer (Prevention)	Mr. Jonathan Pace	P4
Information Assistant	Ms. Doreen Stellini	G6
Administrative / Financial Assistant	Mr. Christopher Sacco	G7
Secretary to the Head of Office	Ms. Michaela Tabone	G5
Secretary	Ms. Amanda Bonavia	G4
Secretary	Ms. Francesca Sapiano	G4
Document Reproducer	Mr. Anthony Zerafa	G3
Temporary Staff:		
Technical Assistant (MEDA)	Ms. Lilia Khodjet El Khil	P3
Junior Programme Officer	Ms. Emilie Dorgeville	P2
Junior Programme Officer	Mr. Francesco Strangis	P2

Reporting

30. In conformity with the decision taken in November 1998 by REMPEC's Focal Points' Meeting (REMPEC/WG.16/4 paragraph 102), the Centre has regularly reported to its official correspondents, on the activities carried out:
- i) circular letter 8/01 dated 10th August 2001 for the period January to June 2001;
 - ii) circular letter 2/02 dated 4th March 2002 for the period July – December 2001;
 - iii) circular letter 10/02 dated 5th August 2002 for the period January – June 2002.
31. Activities covering the period November 1999 – October 2001, were also reported to the 12th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Monaco 14 – 17 December 2001).

Gaps

32. Concerning prevention of the pollution of the marine environment by ships, although some funds were secured for the implementation of some activities, (namely: Assessment of the Maritime traffic in the Mediterranean, Regional Conference on the implementation of MARPOL 73/78 and the new Prevention – Emergency Protocol) and the project proposed to the EC within the framework of the EUROMED programme (Reception facilities in the Mediterranean region) was approved and the relevant contract signed by the end of 2001, certain gaps in the implementation of the Protocol and the regional strategy for the prevention of the pollution from ships still exist:
- i) the state of development of the national preparedness and response systems (including trained personnel, resources and organizational structures) in some Contracting Parties has not attained the desired level and can hinder the activation of the mechanisms for mutual assistance between neighbouring States as well as the possibility of developing sub-regional contingency plans;

- ii) the reporting obligations are not observed by a number of Contracting Parties and the standard pollution reporting system to inform coastal States directly or through the Centre is not always adhered to;
 - iii) the extension of the scope of national contingency plans to hazardous substances other than oil is still in its infancy;
 - iv) the incorporation of the oil industry within the organizational infrastructure for preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution in some Contracting Parties is insufficient;
 - v) the establishment, where necessary, of port reception facilities for the collection of wastes from ships has not been completed;
 - vi) the development of monitoring activities in the Mediterranean in order to prevent, detect and combat pollution, and to ensure compliance with the relevant international regulations (operational/illegal discharge from ships) needs a well established, co-ordinated action of all parties concerned;
 - vii) pollution from non-commercial leisure craft, although covered by certain provisions of the new Prevention Emergency Protocol, calls for taking additional measures in order to prevent and to abate the harmful effects on the marine environment caused by certain activities related to pleasure craft.
33. Concerning personnel, the present permanent component at REMPEC (one director, three programme officers and six general service staff - a total of ten staff members) is still not enough to respond to all the requests of the countries. The increasing demand from the countries as well as the new mandate and responsibilities related to the new Protocol will require a different organization of the Office.
34. The activities carried out by REMPEC now are not comparable in terms of quantity and quality to those carried out at the time the staff and structure of the Centre were defined (eight persons). In this new dimension, also some posts of the general service staff need to be reclassified. Taking into account the increased responsibilities and functions of both the post of the Documentalist G6 and of the Document Reproducer G3, they should be reclassified respectively, G7 and G4. These adjustments will not lead to a perceptible increment of the budget.
35. Furthermore, the very significant increased volume of work in the administration goes beyond the administrator's capacity. An assistant G6 level is requested, while the administrator post should be reclassified P1. In addition and in order to properly manage the newly reorganized library, an assistant to the Documentalist, G4 level, is also needed.
36. The proposed additional staff, together with the temporary staff provided by external sources within the framework of some projects and the two Junior Programme Officers provided by the French and the Italian Oil Industries, would give the Centre the capacity to deal with its present mandate and responsibilities quite comfortably. However, in order not to increase significantly the budget of REMPEC, a solution might be achieved through some voluntary additional contributions by individual countries or a country to the Centre for this purpose. On these assumptions an organization chart of the Centre is given in [Annex 4](#).
37. Taking into consideration the proposed strategy in the Mediterranean region for the next twelve years in the field of prevention of pollution from sea based sources and preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution, if the Contracting Parties would decide to go further and to extend the mandate of REMPEC which might become the "Monitoring Centre in the Mediterranean Region" for anything related to prevention, a new "Operational Division" should be created. In that case the necessary staff should be seconded by the countries, on a rotation basis, for a period of two years. To give the new division the capacity to be

operational on a 24-hour basis, a staff of 16 people (coming from the Navy, Coast Guard Corps or Harbour Master Corps) would be required.

Premises of the Centre

38. The contract between the Government of Malta and VISET (the consortium taking over the development of the cruise line terminal) was signed in 2002 and the construction of the new premises for REMPEC should start by March 2003. It is envisaged that the relocation of the Centre should take place in 36 – 48 months from that time. In order to give REMPEC the possibility to continue to operate from Manoel Island up to the time the new premises will be ready, the Government of Malta made all the necessary structural alterations within the present building, allowing the Centre to accommodate the new staff and organize its work more efficiently, in a proper and comfortable environment.

Administration

39. A table with the justification of expenses and obligations as at 31st December 2002 for activities financed through the MTF budget is given in Annex 5.

Action to be taken by the Meeting of Focal Points

40. The Meeting is invited to take note and express its views on the Report.

REMPEC

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION (Since November 2000)

1. Regional Information System (RIS)

- i) New brochure on TROCS (E);
- ii) New version of the technical document "The significance of a safety data sheet", edition 2001;RIS/D/4 (E);
- iii) "Basic documents recommendation, principles and guidelines concerning accidental marine pollution, preparedness, response and mutual assistance, as well as prevention of marine pollution from ships", edition 2002, RIS/A (E, F);
- iv) "Guide for combating accidental marine pollution in the Mediterranean", edition 2002, RIS/D/1 (E, F);
- v) "Recommendations for the prevention of pollution and adverse environmental effects from pleasure crafts in the Mediterranean Sea" (E, F);
- vi) REMPEC brochure issued for the 25th Anniversary of the Centre (E);
- vii) REMPEC brochure prepared for the WSSD in Johannesburg entitled "Protecting the Mediterranean against Maritime Accidents and illegal discharges from ships, towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean region, issued in June 2002 (E, F);
- viii) "Alerts and accidents in the Mediterranean", edition 2002 (E, F).

2. Documents issued by UNEP/MAP

- i) New brochures of the "Mediterranean Action Plan" (MAP) and the "Mediterranean Commission Sustainable Development" (MCSD).

3. Documents issued by other Organizations

- i) Brochure of the "Mediterranean Oil Industry Group" (MOIG);
- ii) Safety Digest: "Lessons from Marine Accidents Reports" 1/2001, 2/2001, 3/2001;
- iii) "Reconnaissance Study in the Mediterranean Sea on the Monitoring of Illicit Vessel Discharges"; issued by the EC Environment / EC Joint Research Centre, Ispra (E);
- iv) Operational guide on "Containers and packages lost at sea" issued by CEDRE (E, F).

STATUS OF CONVENTIONS

	SOLAS Convention 74	SOLAS Protocol 78	SOLAS Protocol 88	LOAD LINES Convention 66	LOAD LINES Protocol 88	COLREG Convention 72	CSC Convention 72	CSC Amendments 93	STCW Convention 78	STCW-F Convention 95	SAR Convention 79	FACILITATION Convention 65	MARPOL 73/78 (Annexe I / II)	MARPOL 73/78 (Annexe III)	MARPOL 73/78 (Annexe IV)	MARPOL 73/78 (Annexe V)	MARPOL Proto. 97 (Annexe VI)	INTERVENTION Convention 69	INTERVENTION Protocol 73	CLC Convention 69	CLC Protocol 76	CLC Protocol 92	FUND Convention 71	FUND Protocol 76	FUND Protocol 92	LLMC Convention 76	LLMC Protocol 96	SALVAGE Convention 89	OPRC Convention 90	HNS Convention 96	OPRC/HNS_2000	BUNKERS CONVENTION_01	ANTI FOULING_01		
Albania																				X	X		X	X											
Algeria	X	X		X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X				d		X	d		X										
Bosnia&Herzegovina																																			
Croatia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	d		X	d		X	X			X	X					
Cyprus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X			X				d	X	X	d	X	X										
Egypt	X	X	X	X	X	X		X				X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					X		X	X					
France	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	d	X	X	d	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Greece	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X				d	X	X	d	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Israel	X	X		X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X																				X	
Italy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	d	X	X	d	X	X			X	X						
Lebanon	X	X		X			X	X				X	X	X	X	X		X		X															
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	X	X		X				X																											
Malta	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X							d	d	X	d	d	X										
Monaco	X			X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X		X		d		X	d		X								X		
Morocco	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X		X	X	d		X	d	X	X										
Slovenia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	d		X	d		X								X		
Spain	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	d	X	X	d	X	X	X	X							X	
Syria	X	X	X	X		X		X				X	X					X		X				X								X			
Tunisia	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	d		X	d		X		X	X							
Turkey	X			X	X			X			X					X							X			X	X								

Variations since July 2000:

a) New ratifications

SOLAS 74	Syria
SOLAS Protocol 78	Morocco, Syria,
SOLAS Protocol 88	Syria
LL Protocol 88	Algeria
CSC Convention 72	Lebanon
STCW F- Convention 78	Syria
Facilitation Convention 69	Lebanon, Malta
Int. Protocol 69	Morocco
CLC Protocol 92	Morocco, Turkey
Fund Protocol 92	Morocco, Tunisia
Salvage Convention 89	France, Syria
OPRC Convention 90	Slovenia
Bunkers Convention 01	Spain

b) Denunciations

CLC Convention 69	Italy, Malta, Morocco, Slovenia
CLC Protocol 79	Malta
Fund Protocol 71	Italy, Malta, Morocco, Slovenia
Fund Protocol 76	Malta

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED AND RESULTS ACHIEVED BETWEEN
NOVEMBER 2000 AND DECEMBER 2002

1. Dissemination of Information (see Annex 1)
2. Training
 - 2.1 Regional Training
 - i) MEDEXPOL 2000, held in Naples, 5 –10 November 2000, for “government administrators and senior managers on preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution”.
20 participants. Financed by MTF.
 - ii) MEDEXPOL 2001, held in Genoa, 10- 14 December 2001, on “prevention, preparedness and response to accidents involving HNS at the ship-shore interface”.
33 participants. Financed by MTF.
 - iii) MEDIPOL 2002, held in Malta, 29 October – 2 November 2002, on “response to oil and chemical spills for government administrators and senior managers”.
28 participants. Financed by MTF.
 - 2.2 Subregional Training
 - i) Held in Malta, 14 – 16 November 2000, on “new developments in shoreline clean-up techniques for Cyprus, Egypt and Israel”.
11 participants. Financed by LIFE TCY96/INT/08.
 - ii) Held in Algiers, Algeria, 4 – 5 October 2001, seminar on “the development of a subregional operational system to prevent pollution from ships and to respond in case of accidental marine pollution”, for Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.
14 participants. Financed by IMO-TCD.
 - iii) Mediterranean subregional training course on “preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution for supervisors and on-scene commanders from Arabic speaking Mediterranean coastal States”, held in Alexandria, Egypt, 11- 15 May 2002.
29 participants. Financed by IMO-TCD.
 - iv) Held in Bizerte, Tunisia, 29 May – 1 June 2002 on “preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution” for trainees from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.
31 participants. Financed by IMO-TCD.
 - 2.3 National Training
 - i) National seminar on “accidental marine pollution (oil –HNS) preparedness and response for supervisors and on-scene commanders”, held in Casablanca, Morocco, 7 – 10 January 2001.
29 participants. Co-financed by MTF and IMO-TCD.

- ii) National seminar on “accidental marine pollution preparedness and response for supervisors and on-scene commanders, held in Tartous, Syria, 7-10 July 2001.
26 participants. Financed by LIFE TCY99/INT/017/SYR.
- iii) National Seminar on “the national system for preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution”, held in Algiers, Algeria, 2-3 October 2001.
37 participants. Financed by IMO-TCD
- iv) National Seminar on “accidental marine pollution preparedness and response for decision makers”, held in Beirut, Lebanon, 3-5 December 2001.
24 participants. Financed by MTF.
- v) National Seminar on “strategies for effective marine chemical spill response in port areas and their approaches, held in Malta, 7 –9 January 2002.
25 participants. Financed by MTF.
- vi) National Seminar (as above) held in Tripoli, Libya, 12-14 January 2002.
24 participants. Financed by MTF.
- vii) National seminar on “liability and compensation for oil pollution damages”, held in Tunis, Tunisia, 9 -10 July 2002.
79 participants. Financed by MTF.

3. Development of National and Subregional Preparedness and Response Capacities

- 3.1 The implementation of the project LIFE TCY99/INT/017/SYR for the development of the Syrian national system for preparedness and response (financed by the LIFE Third Countries mechanisms of the EC) continued during the whole period under observation. The following specific activities were carried out and/or completed:
 - i) Fact finding mission and finalizing the proposal concerning the preparation of sensitivity maps of the Syria coasts and adjacent sea (March – June 2002).
 - ii) Preparation of three (3) draft local and two (2) draft area contingency plans for main Syrian ports (March – July 2002).
 - iii) Preparation the proposal for setting-up the National Operational Oil Spill Response Centre (March – April 2002).
 - iv) Third meeting of the Steering Committee of the project, Malta, 29 –30 April 2002.
 - v) Meeting of the project's monitoring team with the Syrian authorities and REMPEC, Damascus, Syria, 14 August 2002.
 - vi) Identification, selection and preparation of TOR for the consultants for the preparation of sensitivity maps and of a comprehensive national training programme, respectively (June – September 2002).
- 3.2 The implementation of the project LIFE TCY98/TR/011 for a Risk Assessment of Mersin and Iskenderun, turkey and associated Capacity Building for the State of Readiness and for Response to Marine Pollution (financed by the LIFE Third Countries mechanism of the EC).

- i) Completion of the risk assessment study – first phase of the project (March – September 2002);
 - ii) Second Meeting of the Steering Committee, Mersin, Turkey, 21 – 22 June 2002.
- 3.3 Development of the Sub-regional system for preparedness and response in the southwestern Mediterranean: Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia (financed by IMO/TCD funds).
- i) Preparation and dissemination of a draft Sub-regional Contingency Plan and a draft Sub-regional Agreement (March-May 2002).
 - ii) Second Meeting of the competent national authorities of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, Bizerte, Tunisia (27-28 May 2002).
 - iii) Dissemination of recommendations and of a questionnaire for the preparation of the second draft Sub-regional Contingency Plan (June 2002).
- 3.4 Assessment of the needs (May 2002) and the preparation of Recommendations for oil spill response equipment at Moni Power Station, Cyprus (Report distributed in September 2002).
- 3.5 Preliminary activities for a project (Financed by IM/TCD funds) concerning the preparation of an emergency plan for the port of Nador, Morocco, including the identification and selection of consultants, preparation and signing of the contract (May – September 2002).
- 3.6 Fact Finding mission in December 2002 and preparation of a draft emergency plan for the port of Nador.

4. Assistance in Case of Emergency

During the period under observation REMPEC provided upon request:

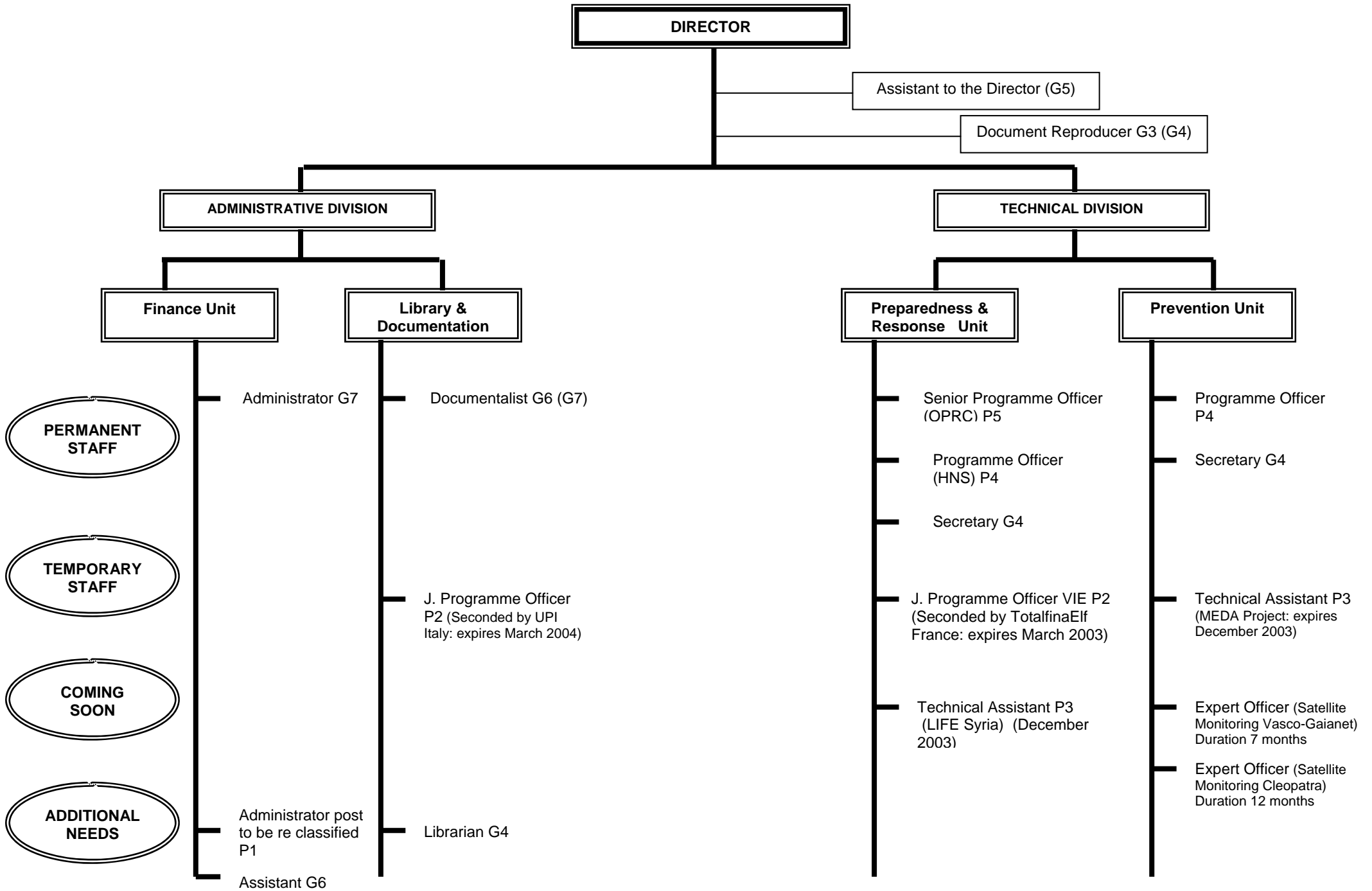
- 4.1 Advice to the Cypriot, Maltese and Moroccan authorities in relation to the case of the M/T CASTOR (January 2001).
- 4.2 Advice to the Maltese authorities in case of an accident involving M/V Camadan”, a ship carrying potentially hazardous cargo (March 2002).
- 4.3 Advice to the Moroccan authorities in case of the sunk of the cargo vessel “GELFO” with some bunkers on board (December 2002).
- 4.4 Updated information and progress reports to the Mediterranean coastal States on the “Prestige” accident.

5. Prevention of Pollution from Ships

- 5.1 In spring 2002 REMPEC started the implementation of the project MEB/B7/4100/97/0415/8 concerning Port Reception Facilities for Collecting Ship-Generated Garbage, Bilge Water and Oily Wastes (financed by MEDA mechanism of the EC):

- i) the first Meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Malta on 6 –7 May 2002.
 - ii) identification of potential consultants for activities A and C of the project, preparation of ToR and call for tenders in July 2002.
 - iii) tenders were received in August/September 2002 and the Selection took place at REMPEC 19 – 20 September 2002.
 - iv) the relevant contract with the selected Consultant Company “Environmental Protection Engineering” (EPE) was signed on 4 December 2002.
- 5.2 A questionnaire aimed at assessing coastal States’ existing capacities and arrangements for the prevention of pollution from ships was prepared during spring/summer 2002.
- 5.3 The preparatory activities for the “Regional Conference on the implementation of MARPOL 73/78 and the new Prevention and emergency protocol in the Mediterranean Region” which is going to be co-organized in 2003 by the Greek authorities and REMPEC, started in summer. A meeting on this matter was held at REMPEC with the Greek Minister of the Merchant Marine on 25 November 2002.
- 5.4 With a view to exploring the potential for the surveillance of oil spills by remote sensing from satellite based platforms REMPEC initiated/intensified contact with various international (ESA, EC/ISPRA,..) and national centres involved in Earth Observation activities.

REMPEC's ORGANIZATION CHART



**Regional Marine Pollution Response Center for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)
STATUS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE BUDGETARY BIENNIUM 2002 – 2003 (MTF Budget)**

ACTIVITY	Budget 2002 (in US\$) as Approved by the Contracting Parties Revision 3	Spent or obligated up to December 2002 (in US\$)	Objectives	Achievements	Remarks
Preparedness & Response					
1201- Assistance from REMPEC or through REMPEC's consultants to the countries in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) developing their capacities in the fields of preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution; b) assistance in preparing and developing port emergency response systems and developing pilot projects for external financing to enhance the preparedness and response of Mediterranean ports; c) preparing and developing bilateral and multilateral agreements as well as pilot projects for external financing. 	25,000	2,650 (s) 22,350 (o)	To strengthen the capacities of the coastal states in the Mediterranean and to facilitate co-operation among them in order to respond to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, especially in case of emergencies when there is a serious and imminent danger to the marine environment, or when it can affect human lives. To assist coastal states of the Mediterranean region to develop their own national capabilities to respond to accidents in their ports or vicinities causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea. To promote the establishment of national bilateral and/or subregional agreements for the preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution and to facilitate exchange of information, technological co-operation and training.	Activities carried out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Finalization of a standard form to be utilized as a reference framework for the preparation of multilateral agreements. b) Risk assessment at Moni Power Station, Cyprus and recommendation for an equipment stock pile to respond to potential accidents. Activities to be carried out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) in Albania : preparatory work to the development of the National Contingency Plan(project proposal presented to LIFE 2003) b) in Turkey, development of emergency contingency plans for the ports of Mersin and Iskenderun 	
Co-operation					
2202- Assistance to countries in case of emergency and management of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU)	4,000	-	To keep the Mediterranean Assistance Unit ready to be activated at the request of the countries in case of accidental marine pollution in the Mediterranean	The Centre has improved the organization of MAU: a Memorandum of Understandings have been agreed with ICRAM, the Italian Center of expertise for environmental maritime issues, and BASF Ludwigshafen a European Centre of expertise on HNS.	This is a permanent activity that may be activated if a country requests the assistance of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit. Balance of \$4,000 will be rephased to 2003.

ACTIVITY	Budget 2002 (in US\$) as Approved by the Contracting Parties Revision 3	Spent or obligated up to December 2002 (in US\$)	Objectives	Achievements	Remarks
2203- Development and support to subregional operational systems for combating major marine pollution incident: Eastern Mediterranean, Western Mediterranean, Adriatic	10,000	10,000 (o)	Assistance and support to the sub-regional operational system in the Mediterranean	First technical meeting between Croatia, Italy and Slovenia to develop the Sub-regional Contingency Plan in Northern Adriatic.	
Information					
2201- Development of the regional information system (RIS), library, website and information dissemination network, databanks, TROCS and the Mediterranean Information Decision Support Integrated System (MIDSIS)	12,000	1,600 (s) 10,400 (o)	To provide the Contracting Parties with: a) all relevant legal, technical and operational information required for facilitating international co-operation in the field of preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution in the Mediterranean Sea, and b) all relevant technical information required for minimizing the impact of oil or chemical pollution in the marine environment.	Continuous development of the Regional Information System (RIS). The updated documents and publications are delivered to REMPEC's operational focal points every six months. REMPEC's website has been totally reviewed and improved and it is under continuous development. A new library has been set up, giving REMPEC the capability to cope on call with any request of data and technical information. The TROCS database has been further developed, updated and reorganised as "Mediterranean Information Decisions Support Integrated System (MIDSIS)" and put at the disposition of the operational Focal Points of the Centre.	
Training					
3201- Regional training courses on preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution (MEDIPOL/ MEDEXPOL)	50,000	50,000 (s)	To organize and carry out regional training courses for OSC and Governmental senior officers responsible to deal with accidental marine pollution.	MEDIPOL 2002 held in Malta in October 2002	
3202- Assistance to countries in the organization of National Training Courses, seminars and workshops	10,000	2,700 (s) 7,300 (o)	To organize national training courses in the countries on their request	The Centre has organised and financed the national seminar on compensation in Tunisia in July 2002. A national training course on preparedness and response is going to be organized in Albania.	
Meetings/Conferences					
3301- Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points	76,000	76,000 (s)	REMPEC's Focal Point Meeting to discuss the work carried out by the Centre, future programmes, the New Prevention Emergency Protocol, the new strategy for the next decade 2004-2014, as well as the proposal for the 2004-2005 budget.	Focal Point Meeting, Malta 12 – 14 February 2003.	

ACTIVITY	Budget 2002 (in US\$) as Approved by the Contracting Parties Revision 3	Spent or obligated up to December 2002 (in US\$)	Objectives	Achievements	Remarks
3302 – Conference on the implementation of both MARPOL 73/78 and the regional strategy on the prevention of pollution from ships in the Mediterranean (new Protocol)	64,000	-	To discuss the problems related to the implementation of MARPOL 73/78 and new Protocol in the Mediterranean and to recommend suitable and possible solutions.	The conference, which is going to be organised by the Greek authorities, was originally meant to be convened in 2002. It was moved to early November 2003.	Balance of \$64,000 will be rephased and spent in 2003.
3303 – Meeting of National operational authorities from Cyprus, Egypt and Israel	11,000	-	To facilitate the smooth running of the Sub-regional Operational agreement between Cyprus, Egypt and Israel.	Due to the difficulties in the region, the meeting was postponed to 2003.	Balance of \$11,000 to be rephased and spent in 2003.
General					
1601 – Travel on Official Business of REMPEC Staff	49,830	39,000 (s)	1) To participate in the meeting of UNEP/MAP, IMO, EC, BA, HELCOM, MOIG, CEFIC-ICE; 2) To implement the activities of the 2002 workplan; 3) To attend seminars and conferences of interest; 4) To visit the countries.	The activity gives the possibility to achieve the objectives of the REMPEC programme as approved by the Contracting Parties.	Balance of \$ 10830 to be rephased and spent in 2003.
Prevention					
1202 – Assessment of the maritime traffic in the Mediterranean and related risks	20,000	-	To collaborate with the Mediterranean Industry and Blue Plan in carrying out a comprehensive assessment of the maritime traffic in the Mediterranean region and related risks, to be used as a reference document for decision makers in the countries and in the region when discussing about sustainable development in the Mediterranean.	Preliminary activities started late November 2002.	Balance of \$20,000 to be rephased and spent in 2003.

Note

- Spent (s)
- Obligated (o)
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