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REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)

CENTRE REGIONAL MEDITERRANEEN POUR L'INTERVENTION  
D'URGENCE CONTRE LA POLLUTION MARINE ACCIDENTELLE (REMPEC)

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN  
PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE



8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Focal Points of the  
Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response  
Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

Malta, 7-11 May 2007

REMPEC/WG.28/13  
11 May 2007

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

**Malta, 7-11 May 2007**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Eighth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) was convened in Attard, Malta from the 7 to 11 May 2007, pursuant to the decision of the Fourteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which agreed that a Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points be organized during 2006/2007 (UNEP (DEPI)/MED IG.16/13, Portoroz, Slovenia, 8 – 11 November 2005).

2. The principal objectives of the Eighth Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points were:

- a) to examine the implementation of the programme of activities of REMPEC since the Seventh Focal Points Meeting; and
- b) to discuss and propose the programme of priority activities of REMPEC for the biennium 2008-2009.

3. All REMPEC official Governmental Focal Points were invited to participate in the Meeting and in view of the fact that the Meeting was expected to endorse draft texts and take position on policy issues that will be reported to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties for possible adoption in December 2007, national focal points were invited to nominate jointly and in consultation with all national authorities concerned their representatives in the Meeting. Contracting Parties were also invited to include in their delegations observers representing their respective oil, chemical, port and shipping industries. The invitation to attend the Meeting was also extended to the specialized agencies of the United Nations, other governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as to the international professional organizations and associations whose activities are relevant for the work of REMPEC.

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

ALBANIA	LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA
ALGERIA	MALTA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	MONACO
CROATIA	MOROCCO
CYPRUS	SLOVENIA
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	SPAIN
EGYPT	SYRIA
FRANCE	TUNISIA
ISRAEL	TURKEY
ITALY	
LEBANON	

by an observer delegation from MONTENEGRO,

by representatives from the following United Nations Organizations:

- INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)
- UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME / MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP)

by a representative from the following International Organization:

- INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION COMPENSATION FUNDS

by a representative from the following Regional Activity Centre (RAC) of the MAP:

- SPA/RAC

by representatives from the following MAP partners/non-governmental organizations:

- HELLENIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (HELMEPA)
- INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE (IOI)
- INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION LTD. (ITOPF)
- MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP (MOIG)
- OIL COMPANIES INTERNATIONAL MARINE FORUM (OCIMF)
- SEA ALARM FOUNDATION
- THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION (IUCN)

and by representatives from the following other organizations:

- EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY (ESA)
- FEDERCHIMICA

5. A complete list of participants appears in **Annex I** to the present report.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING**

6. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Frederic Hebert, Director of REMPEC, on Monday, 7 May 2007 at 09.00 hours. The Director of the Centre welcomed all the delegations in the Meeting and highlighted the importance of REMPEC's Eighth Focal Points Meeting as an opportunity for the Contracting Parties to enhance regional co-operation. He expressed his appreciation for the participation in the Meeting of representatives from the industry as well as from other organizations whose work is relevant for the activities of the Centre, and called on delegations to take this opportunity to be better informed of their mutual activities. He underlined that amongst the various proposed agenda items, the Meeting will discuss technical issues and, in this regard, he expressed his wish that the Barcelona Convention system would be on the same footing as other regional agreements.

7. Mr. Paul Mifsud, UNEP/MAP Co-ordinator, welcomed the participants in the Meeting and pointed out that the objective of this Meeting was to prepare for the forthcoming Meeting of the Contracting Parties when the programme of activities proposed by REMPEC for the next biennium is to be adopted. In particular, he recalled the significant number of activities which were carried out within the MAP framework and the fruitful co-operation of MAP with the European Community, which is also reflected through the SAFEMED Project being implemented by REMPEC. He then encouraged the Contracting Parties to proceed with the ratification of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol and with its implementation, since, to date, only eight Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention had ratified it. Mr. Mifsud highlighted the important role played by REMPEC during the incident in the Eastern Mediterranean in the summer of 2006 and the close co-operation between UNEP/MAP, IMO and REMPEC as well as amongst the Contracting Parties, which enabled an efficient response to the oil pollution.

8. Mr. Stefan Micallef, Deputy Director, Marine Environment Division, IMO, welcomed all the delegations on behalf of the Secretary General of IMO. He stated that since the last Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, IMO has been very active in the field of prevention of ship-generated pollution. In this respect, he referred to the entry into force of the revised MARPOL Annex I and Annex II together with the consequential amendments of the IBC Code, as well as to the adoption of amendments to MARPOL Annex III in October 2006. He also stressed the work which was being carried out in the field of air pollution from ships, ballast water management, and ship recycling. He mentioned that the OPRC–HNS Protocol will enter into force on the 6 June 2007. Mr. Micallef drew the attention of the delegates to the theme of this year's World Maritime Day, which is "IMO's response to current environmental challenges" as unanimously decided by the IMO Council, and the initiatives taken in this regard. In conclusion, Mr. Micallef stated that IMO was looking forward to the relocation of REMPEC to new offices and reiterated the commitment of IMO to continue backstopping REMPEC and to assist the Centre in reaching its goals.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

### **2.1 Rules of Procedure**

9. The Meeting 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**

10. The delegation of Monaco proposed Slovenia as the Chair of the Meeting, Morocco as the Vice-Chair, and Spain as the Rapporteur. The proposal of Monaco was supported by Cyprus and Malta, and the Meeting unanimously decided to elect the following officers of the Meeting:

Mr. Matej David (Slovenia)	Chairperson
Ms. Khadija Keffaoui (Morocco)	Vice – Chairperson
Mr. Francisco Suarez Llanos-Galan (Spain)	Rapporteur

### **2.3 Working Languages**

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

## **AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

12. The Chairperson thanked the Meeting for supporting his election and proposed that the Provisional Agenda, contained in document REMPEC/WG.28/3/1, be adopted.

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

**AGENDA ITEM 4: PROGRESS REPORT ON REMPEC'S ACTIVITIES SINCE THE 7<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF REMPEC FOCAL POINTS**

14. The Director of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.28/4 containing the progress report on REMPEC's activities since the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points.

15. The Director recalled that the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol had still to enter into force in a number of Contracting Parties. He thus urged Contracting Parties to give high priority to the ratification of the Protocol. Whilst referring the Meeting to the document under consideration for detailed information, the Director highlighted several significant issues.

16. With regard to the funding of the Centre's activities, the Director of REMPEC recalled that the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) continued to provide the basic funding for the Centre's activities. However, he pointed out that the Centre has, as in the past, benefited from European Union (EU) funding, notably through the SAFEMED Project. He also drew the attention of the Meeting to the funding made available through IMO's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) and called on countries to coordinate with IMO and REMPEC in order to maximize the benefits of this potential source of funding. He also reminded the Meeting of the voluntary contributions received by the Centre to support some activities or to fund additional staff. He finally expressed his wish to also explore possibilities for in kind support through partnerships on specific issues with interested stakeholders.

17. Referring to the activities in the field of preparedness for and response to marine pollution, the Director of the Centre stressed the importance of the finalization, in 2005, of two new sub-regional agreements and expressed the Centre's readiness to closely cooperate with all the sub-regional agreements in order to assist them in reaching their objectives.

18. As regards the participation of the Centre in response exercises and also the participation of other Contracting Parties in such exercises, the Director stressed the need to find a way to better plan these exercises and also to receive feedback in order to be able to share this information with all Contracting Parties.

19. Whilst referring to the activities in the field of prevention of pollution from ships, the Director recalled the adoption of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships which constitutes a roadmap of activities carried out by the Centre. He underlined that, during the current biennium, the SAFEMED Project has been the driving force behind the implementation of the Regional Strategy. He then referred to two interrelated activities in the field of detection and prosecution of illicit discharges from ships. Firstly, the AESOP Project, which was carried out during 2005/2006 and aimed at testing the reliability of satellites detections, and, secondly, an activity planned under MEDEXPOL 2007, scheduled to take place in November 2007. In this activity, the Centre intends to raise the awareness of people involved in the prosecution of offenders of illicit discharges and of other stakeholders. In this regard, the Director of REMPEC stressed the importance of the participation of these people in this activity in order to attain its objectives.

20. The Director then referred to the participation of the Centre in other fora. He informed the Meeting on the latest developments within the MAP system and in particular on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD). On this specific issue he informed the Meeting that, for the implementation of the MSSD, it was proposed to set up some thematic working groups. Consequently, a thematic working group on marine pollution was being proposed. He however informed the Meeting that during the last MSSD Steering Committee Meeting, he had expressed his concern for the setting up of such thematic working group pointing out that the Contracting Parties had already approved the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships which

contains its own implementation process with specific objectives and a timetable. The Director of REMPEC also briefed the Meeting on the ongoing MAP evaluation process. Finally, he provided the Meeting with some information on the participation of the Centre in international fora such as participation in IMO meetings and in meetings involving other regional agreements.

21. The Director also informed the Meeting on the changes that took place in the staff of the Centre since the last Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points. He expressed his concern on the fact that the permanent financing of some of the current staff of the Centre was not secured and that the Centre was dependant upon voluntary contributions to fund one general service staff post which was necessary for the good functioning of the Centre. In this regard, the Director informed the Meeting that he intended to address this situation to at least ensure that, in the short term, the Centre permanently funds the administrative general service staff posts which are required by the Centre.

22. With regard to the relocation of the Centre, the Director informed the participants that a few days before the Meeting, the Secretary-General of IMO visited Malta and took this opportunity to visit the premises that will be made available for the Centre by the Government of Malta in the near future, following some refurbishment work.

23. The Chairperson thanked the Director for his presentation of the activities carried out by the Centre since the last Focal Points Meeting and gave the floor to delegations to express their views on this Agenda Item. Fourteen delegations took the floor to express their general appreciation on the work carried out and also for the assistance received particularly in the fields of contingency planning, training and also in cases of emergency. Whilst reiterating their commitment to speed up the ratification process of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, some delegations took this opportunity to inform the Meeting of the latest developments in their country regarding the ratification process of the Protocol as well as of some other relevant IMO international maritime conventions. Delegations also informed the Meeting on activities related to the 2002 Protocol and also recalled the need of support from the Centre, both financially and technically. France welcomed the scheduled activity on illicit discharges insisting upon the importance of setting up a legal and judicial framework for prevention of pollution of illicit discharges. Another delegation, while expressing its satisfaction on the work carried out by REMPEC, suggested that, in the future, the Centre should seek to ensure when reporting, a stronger link between specific objectives of the Regional Strategy and activities.

24. The Meeting took note of the information contained in document REMPEC/WG.28/4.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAFEMED PROJECT**

25. The Meeting considered document REMPEC/WG.28/5 regarding the implementation of the European Union (EU) financed MEDA project "Euromed Co-operation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships – SAFEMED" which the Centre is implementing in ten Euromed Mediterranean Partners. Mr. Jonathan Pace, Senior Programme Officer, informed the Meeting that the project was being implemented on the basis of a contract signed in October 2005 between the European Commission (EC) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), acting on behalf of REMPEC. During the implementation of the project, IMO was providing technical and administrative support. Moreover, the EC's Directorate General for Energy and Transport (DG TREN) and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) were also providing technical support to REMPEC in the implementation of project activities.

26. After outlining the objectives of the project, Mr. Pace highlighted the five areas of activities covered by the project namely, flag State implementation, safety of navigation, protection of the marine environment, human element, and security of ships and port facilities. He then provided the meeting with a detailed overview of the activities implemented in 2006 and those planned for 2007-2008. Mr. Pace explained that with a view to extending some of the activities of the SAFEMED Project to those Contracting Parties which were not benefiting from the Project, REMPEC had included some project activities in its work programme which were being financed from its MTF budget. It was pointed out that several project activities were linked to some of the specific objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, and that the Project was in fact proving to be a valuable tool for the implementation of the Regional Strategy.

27. Several delegations expressed their appreciation for the work being carried out by the Centre within the framework of the SAFEMED Project and commented on several aspects of the Project. In referring to possible follow-ups of the SAFEMED Project, the delegation of Turkey stated that it was important that any future projects include capacity building activities in the field of prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships. Furthermore, the delegation of Turkey underlined the added value of a regional Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Information System (VTMIS) in which all able and willing coastal States could participate. The EC delegation, whilst expressing its satisfaction with the implementation of project activities and welcoming the extension of SAFEMED activities to other Mediterranean coastal States not benefiting from the Project, stated that the EC was particularly looking forward to the establishment of the Project's permanent website and to the results of the activities related to security of ships and port facilities. Moreover, this delegation informed the Meeting that there will be a follow up to the SAFEMED Project in the form of SAFEMED II.

28. The Meeting took note of the information provided in document REMPEC/WG.28/5.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: DRAFT GUIDELINES ON PLACES OF REFUGE FOR SHIPS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

29. In introducing document REMPEC/WG.28/6, Mr. Pace outlined the process which led to the preparation of the draft Guidelines on the Decision Making Process for Granting Access to a Place of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance annexed to the said document. The Meeting was informed that, in line with Specific Objective 12 of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships which addresses the need to designate Places of Refuge and with a view to assisting Mediterranean coastal States in designating places of refuge, REMPEC had, within the framework of the SAFEMED Project, commissioned a Consultant to prepare a Study on guidelines and procedures that could be followed by Mediterranean coastal States during the decision making process concerning the designation of places of refuge for ships in need of assistance, in accordance with IMO Assembly resolutions A.949(23) and A.950(23). The Consultant's report, containing the guidelines and procedures as well as other relevant information, was presented and discussed during a three day Regional Workshop on Places of Refuge organised by REMPEC in Barcelona, Spain between the 28 and 30 November 2006 with the support of the Spanish Maritime Administration. Taking into consideration the comments and proposals made at the Workshop, REMPEC, with the assistance of the Consultant and in liaison with IMO and the EC, prepared the final version of the Study which was disseminated to the REMPEC Focal Points.

30. Mr. Joseph Zerafa, SAFEMED Project Officer (Maritime Safety), provided the Meeting with a detailed overview of the various sections of the draft Guidelines on the Decision Making Process for Granting Access to a Place of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance.

31. The Chairperson stated that on the basis of the Consultant's Study, REMPEC had prepared the proposed draft Guidelines annexed to document REMPEC/WG.28/6, which were being presented for endorsement by the present Meeting of Focal Points as a supplement to section VI of the "Principles and Guidelines Concerning Cooperation and Mutual Assistance", and invited delegations to comment as appropriate.

32. The delegation of Tunisia, whilst supporting the proposed draft Guidelines, suggested that reference be made to Article 16 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention. In reply, the Director of REMPEC informed the Meeting that reference to Article 16 of the Protocol will be made in the recommendation proposing the adoption of the Guidelines addressed to the Contracting Parties.

33. Turkey, whilst also supporting the adoption of the draft Guidelines, made reference to some paragraphs of the Guidelines which recalled various articles of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and stated that the endorsement by Turkey of the draft Guidelines should not be construed as acceptance by Turkey of UNCLOS.

34. Whilst agreeing in principle with the draft Guidelines, the delegations of Algeria, EC, France and Italy requested some modifications in the draft text of the Guidelines. The Meeting agreed with the changes proposed by these delegations and tasked the Secretariat to prepare the relative necessary amendments to the draft Guidelines and to circulate the amended text of the Guidelines to the Meeting with a view to their endorsement. Following the circulation of the revised text of the Guidelines, some delegations requested amendments to the revised text in order to clearly indicate that the Guidelines are not applicable to situations regulated by the provisions of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979 (SAR Convention). The Meeting endorsed the draft Guidelines on the Decision Making Process for Granting Access to a Place of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance as they appear in the Annex to document REMPEC/WG.28/6/Rev.1 with the understanding that the Secretariat reflects the last requested amendments in the draft Guidelines to be submitted to the 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, for adoption.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: DRAFT GUIDELINES CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND PLEASURE CRAFT ACTIVITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

35. The Director of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.28/7 and recalled that this issue of prevention of pollution from pleasure craft was first discussed outside MAP in 2002. He also recalled the process within MAP that led to the preparation by REMPEC of the proposed draft Guidelines annexed to the document under consideration, making also reference to several Expert Meetings that were organized in connection with the development of the draft Guidelines.

36. Ms Lilia Khodjet El Khil, Programme Officer (Marine Environment Protection), recalled that the draft Guidelines were of a recommendatory nature and hence did not create new obligations for the Contracting Parties. She then described the process followed for the development of the draft Guidelines and the methodology used, highlighting that relevant requirements of international or regional instruments applicable to pleasure craft were taken into consideration. It was recalled that REMPEC conducted a wide consultation process for issues that were not directly under its mandate. Ms Khodjet El Khil finally summarized the discussion and conclusions of the Second Meeting of National Experts held in Monte Carlo, Monaco between 13 and 15 February 2007, which were reflected in the draft Guidelines.

37. The Meeting took note of the proposal of Monaco to include, in paragraph 2.1.2. of the draft Guidelines, a reference to the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 1979.

38. The Tunisian delegation informed the Meeting that various Ministries which would be involved in the implementation of the draft Guidelines in Tunisia provided positive feedback but also raised the issue of follow-up actions, and technical and financial support from REMPEC for their implementation. The Director of REMPEC suggested that this specific request be raised under Agenda Item 11 of the Meeting, which was related to REMPEC's programme of activities for the next biennium.

39. The participants acknowledged the relevance of this regional initiative and expressed their appreciation for the work accomplished. The Meeting endorsed the draft Guidelines with the understanding that the Secretariat would reflect the proposal of Monaco in the Guidelines and recommended their adoption by the next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF PORT RECEPTION FACILITIES**

40. The Director of REMPEC briefly introduced document REMPEC/WG.28/8/1, emphasizing the importance of the proposal put forward to the Meeting by the Secretariat in relation with the Special Area status of the Mediterranean Sea under Annex V of the MARPOL Convention.

41. The representative of IMO stated that so far, since the entry into force of MARPOL Annex V, only two of the eight designated Special Areas had entered into effect, and in welcoming the initiative of REMPEC, encouraged the Mediterranean coastal States to take on board the proposal submitted by the Secretariat with a view to enhancing the protection of the marine environment in the region.

42. Ms. Khodjet El Khil then provided the Meeting with a detailed overview of the document. She recalled the activities carried out by the Centre in the field of port reception facilities, particularly under a project related to port reception facilities in the Mediterranean region, financed by the European Commission's MEDA Fund, and implemented between 2002 and 2004. The project's objective was to facilitate the implementation of MARPOL Annexes I (Oil) and V (Garbage), under which the Mediterranean Sea has been designated as a Special Area. Similar activities were also conducted by REMPEC in Albania, Croatia, Slovenia, Libya and Montenegro.

43. The Meeting noted that one of the main outputs of REMPEC's activities in the field of port reception facilities was the availability of reliable information related to the existing situation on port reception facilities in the Mediterranean region, this being the outcome of field-missions conducted in seventy-four ports/oil terminals of fifteen Mediterranean countries. As for garbage, the assessments carried out concluded that almost all surveyed ports in the Mediterranean region provided adequate port reception facilities. It was also recalled that specific legislation requiring the provision of port reception facilities applied to Mediterranean EU Member States. This notwithstanding, the Special Area status of the Mediterranean Sea with regard to MARPOL Annex V did not come into effect, the reason being that the Mediterranean coastal States Parties to the MARPOL Convention did not, as is required by the MARPOL Convention, notify IMO that adequate reception facilities were provided in all their ports.

44. Ms. Khodjet El Khil outlined the procedure followed within IMO for the Special Area status of MARPOL Annex V to take effect namely that, upon receipt of the required notifications, an MEPC Resolution is adopted establishing a date from which the Special Area requirements shall take effect. She stated that the Secretariat was therefore proposing that the Mediterranean countries present a joint submission to IMO's MEPC containing the necessary notifications on the measures taken with respect to port reception facilities for garbage. The Secretariat also proposed that REMPEC be entrusted to co-ordinate action at the regional level, in order to facilitate this joint action.

45. Several delegations supported the proposals of the Secretariat. Moreover, the delegation of Cyprus offered to be the lead country for the relative submission to the MEPC which was to be co-sponsored by other Mediterranean coastal States Parties to the MARPOL Convention.

46. The Meeting agreed with the proposals of the Secretariat and welcomed the initiative of Cyprus to act as a lead country to submit, in collaboration with REMPEC, the co-sponsored document to MEPC 57, tentatively scheduled in March 2008. Moreover, the Meeting recommended that the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, at their 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting, support the decision of the Meeting to entrust REMPEC to co-ordinate the joint action at the regional level, with a view to give effect to the Special Area status of the Mediterranean Sea under MARPOL Annex V.

47. The representative of IMO stated that the IMO Secretariat welcomed the decision of the Meeting and was looking forward to receiving the joint submission to the MEPC.

48. The representative of the EC also welcomed the decision of the Meeting and expressed his satisfaction that the EC financed MEDA project on port reception facilities had resulted in concrete positive results.

49. The representatives of HELMEPA and IUCN also expressed their appreciation for this particularly timely decision taken by the Meeting with a view to having the Special Area status of the Mediterranean Sea taking effect under MARPOL Annex V.

50. The representative of IMO introduced document REMPEC/WG.28/8/2 describing the IMO's internet based port reception facilities database established with a view to facilitate the wider dissemination of information on port reception facilities. The system was operational since March 2006 as one of the modules of IMO's GISIS (Global Integrated Shipping Information System). The system enables the countries to update the information on port reception facilities on line through an appointed GISIS Focal Point and strongly encouraged the countries to take action in this field. Finally, the Meeting was informed of the Action Plan to tackle the issue of inadequacy of port reception facilities approved by MEPC 55 and the follow-up actions to be taken in the future for its implementation. The Meeting took note of the information provided.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: RECENT MARINE POLLUTION INCIDENTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

51. When introducing document REMPEC/WG.28/9/1, the Director of REMPEC explained that the objective of the document was to recall the obligations of Contracting Parties regarding notification of incidents to the Centre, also referring to the accident database of REMPEC and the need to keep it updated. He stated that in the future, it is hoped that the information of this database would be integrated in a Geographical Information System (GIS)

which together with data on maritime traffic may provide useful information on risk assessment.

52. On behalf of the Greek delegation, which was not in a position to attend the Meeting of Focal Points, the Director also informed participants of the latest developments concerning the response to the 'SEA DIAMOND' incident.

53. Whilst taking note of the information provided, several delegations stressed the importance of reporting incidents in order for coastal States to be aware of potential risks and take immediate appropriate response actions.

54. The delegations of Egypt and Spain provided the Meeting with information on recent incidents that have occurred in their countries (i.e. the 'GRIGOROUSSA-1' and the 'ANNA-P.C.' in the Suez Canal and the 'SIERRA NAVA' in the Straits of Gibraltar), and on the response operations carried out by the respective national competent authorities. At the request of several delegations, the delegations of Egypt and Spain provided further information on the incidents.

55. The representative of the IOPC Funds referred the Meeting to document REMPEC/WG.28/INF.4 and informed the participants of recent developments in the international regime on liability and compensation for oil pollution damage. The Meeting took note of the information.

56. Mr. Gabino Gonzalez, Programme Officer (OPRC) introduced document REMPEC/WG.28/9/2 that reflected the involvement of REMPEC in the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean. The invaluable assistance provided by governments within the region and outside the region as well as the support of other intergovernmental and international organizations was highlighted. Mr. Gonzalez then provided the Meeting with some background information on the incident and pointed out that requests for assistance were made by the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon through REMPEC and the European Commission, and also to other countries on a bilateral basis. Mr. Gonzalez recalled the High Level Co-ordination Meeting on the Response to the Marine Pollution Incident in the Eastern Mediterranean convened by IMO and UNEP which led to an agreed response coordination structure and the adoption of an action plan. Whilst referring to REMPEC's policy on dissemination of information during the incident, he stressed the importance of maintaining regular contacts with all entities involved in international and regional assistance. He finally also described the type of technical assistance provided by REMPEC to Lebanon and Syria remotely or on-site and concluded his presentation by expressing the need to reinforce the human resource of the Centre during an incident in order to respond to the emergency and at the same time continue working on the programme of activities of the Centre.

57. The representative of Lebanon took the floor to thank REMPEC and all governments, as well as intergovernmental, non-governmental and international organizations, for their assistance in responding to the oil pollution incident in his country following the bombing of the Jieh powerplant between 13-15 July 2006 due to the conflict in the Eastern Mediterranean. He pointed out that these actions succeeded in reducing the impact of the pollution but that the shoreline remains affected. He stated, that due to the nature of the incident, Lebanon was not covered by the international liability and compensation regime for oil pollution damage. Finally, he also informed the Meeting about further needs of assistance in particular with respect to waste management.

58. The Syrian delegation, whilst expressing its appreciation for the assistance provided by the Centre, referred to the difficult clean up operations carried out by the competent national

authorities in Syria during the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean, without any compensation.

59. The delegate from the EC recalled that, following the incident, it had activated the Civil Protection Mechanism and that the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) coordinated the response provided. He also informed the Meeting that the International Charter (Space and Major Disasters) was activated in order to provide satellite images of the polluted area. The EC representative highlighted the regular communications between MIC, REMPEC, EMSA, other international organizations and the Lebanese Ministry of Environment, and recalled that equipment and/or experts were provided by Norway, Finland, Spain, Cyprus, France, Germany, Italy and Denmark. He concluded by referring to the Workshop on the lessons learnt from the incident which was organized by the EC in December 2006.

60. The Italian delegation then took the floor to describe the joint action of the Italian Ministry of Environment and the Italian Coast Guard which set up a task force to monitor the situation on the Lebanese coastline, at sea and underwater. This task force was composed of a management cell and divers who, by means of a ship and a plane equipped with a SLAR device, monitored the whole Lebanese shoreline and cleaned the seabed in front of the Jieh powerplant.

61. The French delegation thanked REMPEC for providing the opportunity to discuss the lessons learnt from this incident. The representative of France mentioned that France received three requests for assistance through the Lebanese Government, MIC and REMPEC. The need for follow-up actions in the long term was recalled. The French representative also outlined the French contribution to the response operations in Lebanon which initially consisted in collecting information in order to identify the most rational response. The representative of France informed the meeting about the deployment in Lebanon of equipment and personnel from various entities: Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Defence (CEPPOL), CEDRE, and recalled the actions undertaken with regard to long term impact assessment. She further informed the meeting that IFREMER and CEDRE had still to carry out follow-up missions. She finally concluded by recalling that the assessment of the situation prior to any intervention is an essential condition and emphasized the need to support the transport of experts and equipment.

62. The Spanish delegation took the floor to present the contribution of Spain which deployed equipment and experts in Lebanon. This delegation associated itself with the concern of France regarding the transport of equipment. The Spanish delegation also informed the Meeting of new developments at the European level aimed at providing means of transport for equipment in emergency situations.

63. The Libyan delegation raised its concern regarding the need for security clearance which impeded REMPEC to dispatch experts on site in the early stages of the incident.

64. The MAP Coordinator emphasized the importance and the need for the countries to consider media relations in emergency situations.

65. The Director of REMPEC stated that the Centre did its best to assist Lebanon and Syria, and reiterated the willingness of the Centre to continue supporting both countries. He then recalled the security clearance requirement existing within the United Nations system and pointed out that the Centre had to respect this regulation. He also emphasized that REMPEC closely collaborated and coordinated its efforts with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) which was one of the few UN entities which could obtain security clearance at that time.

66. Mr. Gonzalez introduced document REMPEC/WG.28/9/3 (up to paragraph 10) focusing on the response coordination. He recalled the existence of Principles and Guidelines on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance adopted by the Contracting Parties and invited the delegates to consult them. Mr. Gonzalez pointed out the importance of centralizing and coordinating the information. He particularly stressed the need for the Centre to be permanently kept informed regarding initiatives of assistance or missions carried out in an affected area in order to be in a position to facilitate the coordination of the assistance. Mr. Gonzalez concluded his presentation by pointing out that there could be improvement in the coordination and that the Centre should play a more central role in such circumstances.

67. The EC delegation took the floor to express its wish to enhance the cooperation mechanisms between organizations providing assistance at the national, regional and international levels. This delegation requested some clarification with respect to the wording used in the English version of document REMPEC/WG.28/9/3 which referred to a “clearing mechanism”.

68. The Director of REMPEC thanked the EC delegation for its remarks and explained that by “clearing mechanism”, it was meant that REMPEC should play a central role for gathering the information, assessing its accuracy and circulating it in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

69. The Meeting agreed with the proposed role of REMPEC as outlined in paragraph 10 of document REMPEC/WG.28/9/3 subject to the clarification provided by the Director of REMPEC.

70. Mr. Gonzalez then introduced document REMPEC/WG.28/9/4 which contained a proposal to change the method of work of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG). In this respect, he recalled the agreement of the Contracting Parties on the establishment of the MTWG and on the Guidelines concerning the method of work of the Working Group. He also mentioned that although the Contracting Parties were aware of the difficulties encountered by the MTWG while carrying out its work, the Parties fully supported the MTWG since its establishment. He further stated that part of the tasks assigned to the MTWG were currently covered by some of the activities carried out by REMPEC within the framework of the SAFEMED Project as well as within its programme of activities. He then invited the Meeting to consider the proposal of the Secretariat, as contained in paragraph 13 of the document, to:

- envisage the MTWG as a regional forum through which the Contracting Parties would contribute to the relevant work carried out at a global level (e.g. IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group);
- maintain the MTWG as a correspondence group;
- nominate REMPEC as the Secretariat of the MTWG and task the MTWG Secretariat to amend the Guidelines for the MTWG accordingly, and to circulate them to the Focal Points;
- designate appropriate national entities and/or officials as contact points for the MTWG.

71. The representative of IMO explained to the Meeting the role and the main objectives of the IMO OPRC/HNS Technical Group. He underlined that the proposal submitted by REMPEC would enable IMO to enhance global cooperation and capacity in preparing for and responding

to pollution incidents as, through the MTWG, the needs of the Mediterranean countries, specifically those which are in the process of developing their national plans for preparedness and response, would be voiced at international level.

72. Several delegations strongly supported the proposals of the Secretariat. In supporting the proposals, the representative of the EC stated that, in consideration of the experience gained by EMSA on several technical issues related to preparedness and response to oil pollution, he envisaged that EMSA would participate in the MTWG on behalf of the EC.

73. The Meeting unanimously agreed upon the proposals of REMPEC as outlined in paragraph 13 of document REMPEC/WG.28/9/4.

74. The Chairman expressed his gratitude, also on behalf of all the delegations, to Mr. Ezio Amato for his efforts in leading the MTWG since its establishment in the year 2000.

75. Mr. Gonzalez then introduced the technical part of document REMPEC/WG.28/9/3 (paragraph 11 to 41). Following the agreement by the Meeting on the new method of work of the MTWG, he proposed to consider three possible tasks to be assigned to the MTWG based on the lessons learnt from the recent incident in the Eastern Mediterranean. He introduced the first proposal concerning the reinforcement of knowledge on shoreline clean up assessment through the development of standard Guidelines on the matter, based on a gap analysis of existing Guidelines, which would be followed by the preparation and delivery of a standard training course on shoreline clean up assessment. He then proposed a second task regarding waste management and suggested to develop a standardized matrix approach based on available technical Guidelines and taking into account the logistical and regulatory constraints at national level. As a third task, due to the lack of Guidelines on the subject matter and the increasing number of cases of sunken oil, he suggested to consider the development of technical Guidelines on sunken oil assessment and recovery techniques, including practical related matters such as safety measures. Mr. Gonzalez concluded his presentation by highlighting that the recent incident demonstrated the importance of decision support tools such as forecasting models and the use of satellite imagery which appeared to be efficient and useful for defining the response strategy during the spill in the Eastern Mediterranean during the summer of 2006.

76. Several delegations expressed their strong support for the proposed actions in the field of shoreline clean up assessment, waste management and sunken oil. Israel emphasized the usefulness of satellite imagery and forecasting models in assisting countries faced with an oil pollution incident. With regard to decision support tools, Israel informed the Meeting that, during the Eastern Mediterranean oil spill in summer 2006, it had supplied REMPEC with near-real time satellite imagery of SISCAL and provided information to the Cyprus Oceanographic Institute to run the predictive model for the oil slick movement.

77. The Meeting unanimously agreed with the proposals made by REMPEC in paragraphs 23, 29 and 35 of document REMPEC/WG.28/9/3.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10: DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION**

78. The Director of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC WG. 28/10 drawing the attention of the Meeting to several issues related to dissemination of information. He first referred to the network of REMPEC Focal Points, which was the official link between the Centre and the Contracting Parties, and underlined the importance of co-ordination at the national level amongst all the REMPEC Focal Points (i.e. Governmental, OPRC and

Prevention). He also urged the Centre's Focal Points to closely liaise with the MAP national Focal Point and to keep this Focal Point informed of REMPEC's activities. The Director stated that it was of utmost importance that whenever a new Focal Point is nominated, the Centre receives official notification of the appointment. Likewise, REMPEC should be informed whenever the contact details of Focal Points change.

79. The Director of REMPEC reminded delegations that, in cases of emergency, the Centre should be contacted through the 24 hours emergency mobile phone line indicated in the Centre's annual circular letter "Communications with REMPEC" issued in the beginning of each year.

80. The Director proposed to the Meeting that, with a view to improving the dissemination of information by the Centre, circular letters be circulated via email, thus avoiding the delays and difficulties encountered when faxing the said letters. With regard to the dissemination of reports of meetings, the Director of REMPEC suggested the use of new tools such as CD-rom(s).

81. The Director informed the Meeting that during the current biennium the Centre had concentrated on rebuilding its database on maritime accidents in the Mediterranean Sea, which dates back to 1983 and needed a thorough review. He finally pointed out that the Centre's website required review and updating in order to make it more user-friendly and also to meet the expectations of the general public.

82. Several delegations took the floor to express their agreement with the proposal of the Director of REMPEC to disseminate circular letters and meetings' reports via e-mail and CD-rom(s) respectively. In addition, there was a general agreement on making better use of REMPEC's website by uploading meetings' documents and reports as well as other technical documents on the website. Consequently, the Meeting agreed to the proposals contained in paragraphs 8 and 11 of document REMPEC/WG.28/10.

83. The EC delegation suggested that all Contracting Parties should consider the creation of a functional mailbox to which all Focal Points of a Contracting Party could have access, whilst the delegation of Turkey mentioned the possible use of a group e-mail.

84. In reply to an intervention by Tunisia, the Director of REMPEC informed delegations that, in cases of emergency, incident related information and requests for assistance could henceforth be communicated to both the relevant national REMPEC Focal Point/s as well as to the operational centres.

85. Mr. Gonzalez referred to paragraph 15 of document REMPEC/WG.28/10 regarding the second version of the Centre's decision support tool MIDSIS-TROCS (Mediterranean Integrated Decision Support and Information System – Transport Oriented database on Chemical Substances). He pointed out that the development and the production of the second version of MIDSIS-TROCS encountered many difficulties resulting in delays in its finalization. In the meantime, new developments have taken place at the international level mainly regarding the classification of chemicals and their related GESAMP profiles. As a consequence, MIDSIS-TROCS still displays the old nomenclature of chemicals. In the light of the above, Mr. Gonzalez asked delegations whether they were in favour of the dissemination of this decision support tool or if they would opt to suspend the use of the second version of MIDSIS-TROCS until same is updated to reflect the new classification of chemicals.

86. Whilst there was general agreement on the dissemination of the second version of MIDSIS-TROCS, Israel expressed its apprehension on the distribution and use of this tool due to the major changes that took place in the classification of chemicals.

87. Mr. Gonzalez informed the Meeting that a note was inserted in the second version of MIDSIS-TROCS to draw the attention of users to the new classification of chemicals. Following this intervention, the Meeting agreed to authorise REMPEC to disseminate the second version of MIDSIS-TROCS

**AGENDA ITEM 11: PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF REMPEC ACTIVITIES FOR BIENNIUM 2008/2009**

88. The Director of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.28/11 containing the proposed programme of REMPEC activities for biennium 2008/2009 by first explaining its strategic objectives and specific goals that were set on the basis of the needs identified within the Mediterranean region. He then described the modus operandi to reach these goals as well as the related proposed activities. The Director of REMPEC stated that these activities were identified taking also into consideration the Regional Strategy for Prevention and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships as well as the ongoing implementation of the EU-funded MEDA SAFEMED Project, and other projects and programmes. He particularly emphasized the need to associate Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) with REMPEC's activities and enhance collaboration between the Centre and other organisations. The Director of the Centre also highlighted the benefit of developing bilateral comprehensive programmes of activities with specific countries. He finally pointed out that the draft proposed programme, aimed at providing the participants with general orientations, was being submitted to the Meeting for an exchange of views, in order to identify priority actions.

89. There was general agreement by the delegations which spoke on the proposed objectives and goals of the proposed programme of activities of the Centre. However, whilst supporting the proposed programme, some delegations expressed their concern on the generic wording used in the document. The delegation of Israel, whilst underlining the good quality of the document, commented on the structure of the proposed programme, proposing some reshuffling of activities. Moreover, Israel stated that, in future, the Secretariat should submit to the Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points a work programme containing specific activities, together with relative budget allocations.

90. The UNEP/MAP Co-ordinator took this opportunity to inform the Meeting on the ongoing MAP evaluation process, within which the format for MAP's and RAC's programmes of activities was being discussed.

91. Various delegations requested that REMPEC considers some specific activities when finalising the Centre's programme of activities for submission to the next MAP Focal Points Meeting.

92. With respect to activities related to sensitivity mapping, the delegation of Morocco requested the assistance of REMPEC in implementing a project in this field, which was submitted by Morocco to IMO for financing.

93. The delegations of France and Monaco supported activities in the programme which were related to legal and judicial aspects of illicit discharges from ships. In that respect, the MEDEXPOL Workshop scheduled in November 2007 could serve as a basis for activities to be planned for the biennium 2008-2009 in this field.

94. The Delegation of Italy, referred to the possible extension to the entire Mediterranean Sea of the use of Vessel Traffic Management and Information Services (VTMIS) and Automatic Identification System (AIS) as a means to enhance the protection of the marine environment in the region. In this regard, Italy proposed the organisation of training activities related to the use of VTMIS and AIS in order to facilitate the effectiveness of AIS in the Mediterranean region in the near future. The Italian delegation stated that Italy would consider financial and/or in-kind contributions to REMPEC for such activities.

95. With regard to bilateral programmes of activities, the delegation of Montenegro expressed its willingness to follow up the current programme of activities related to the development of national capacities for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships, by signing another Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with REMPEC. The delegation of Albania also expressed its wish to conclude a similar agreement with REMPEC for the development of its national capacities for preparedness and response to marine pollution from ships.

96. The representative of Egypt requested the assistance of REMPEC for the development of a national contingency plan for hazardous and noxious substances.

97. As for specific training activities, the delegation of Slovenia proposed to include in the work programme of the Centre, a training course on salvage operations and related matters.

98. The delegation of the EC emphasized the benefits of simulation exercises with deployment of equipment. In this respect, the representative of Egypt stated that such exercises were important to ensure that sub-regional agreements remain active. Moreover, the delegation of Syria pointed out the need of having a regional stockpile of pollution response equipment.

99. The delegations of France, Israel and Turkey emphasised the importance of activities related to the development of information and decision support tools. Moreover, the delegation of Turkey emphasised the importance of preparing, with REMPEC's assistance, a National Action Plan for Prevention of Pollution from Ships, in line with REMPEC's Regional Strategy.

100. The representative of IOI recalled the existing partnership agreement between REMPEC and IOI, and identified some activities proposed in the Centre's draft work programme which were of mutual interest.

101. The representative of OCIMF expressed the willingness of the industry to cooperate with REMPEC not only in the field of safety of operations in oil terminals which had been referred to by the Director of REMPEC, but also in other fields in which OCIMF and its members could share experiences and knowledge.

102. The Director of REMPEC thanked delegations for their proposals and indicated the way forward for the adoption of the Centre's programme of activities and its related budget. He specified that, on the basis of the objectives and goals described in the first part of document REMPEC/WG.28/11 and taking into consideration the views expressed by delegations in the present Meeting, REMPEC would draft a detailed programme for submission to the next MAP Focal Points Meeting.

103. The Chairperson concluded that there was a general agreement on the proposed programme of activities annexed to document REMPEC/WG.28/11 which reflected the needs of the Mediterranean coastal States. He invited the Meeting to adopt the proposed programme

of activities of REMPEC on the understanding that the Secretariat would prepare, for the next MAP Focal Points Meeting, a detailed programme reflecting the comments and proposals made by delegations. The Meeting agreed with the proposal of the Chairperson.

## **AGENDA ITEM 12: OTHER BUSINESS**

104. In introducing its submission REMPEC/WG.28/12, the delegation of Italy emphasized the usefulness of the Automatic Identification System (AIS) not only for safety of life at sea but also for the protection of the marine environment. The delegation of Italy recalled that improved control of maritime traffic through the use of AIS in conjunction with VTS was one of the specific objectives of Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships already adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. The Italian delegation stated that Italy has been identified to act, at the EU level, as the Regional Centre for monitoring maritime traffic in the Mediterranean and was offering to extend this service to other Mediterranean non-EU coastal States. In this regard, Italy has completed, at the national level, the development and implementation of the AIS and was willing to share its experience and knowledge with the Mediterranean non-EU coastal States.

105. The Meeting took note of the information contained in document REMPEC/WG.28/12 and noted the positive opinion expressed by some delegations on the proposal of Italy.

106. The representative of the Sea Alarm Foundation referred to its document REMPEC/WG.28/INF.3 and outlined the objectives and activities of the Sea Alarm Foundation in the field of preparedness and response to oil pollution. She pointed out that the Foundation was closely collaborating with both governments and industry as well as with regional organizations, and looked forward to co-operating with REMPEC in the future.

107. The EC delegation provided the Meeting with an overview of EMSA's activities in the Mediterranean Sea in the field of marine pollution from ships. The delegation informed the Meeting that EMSA had to date contracted nine oil response vessels, two of which were stationed in the Mediterranean Sea. The delegation stated that, in the near future, it was expected that some other vessels will be chartered. The EC delegation also informed the Meeting of the "CleanSeaNet Service" which was launched in April 2007 and provided EU Member States with oil slick satellite images. Out of the 130 possible oil slicks detected to date, 52 concerned the Mediterranean Sea. Finally, the EC delegation invited delegates to visit the "MISTRA BAY" recovery vessel, stationed in Malta, after the closure of the day's session.

108. Israel and Tunisia expressed their interest in the possible use of the oil response vessels by non-EU Member States when faced with an oil pollution incident. The EC delegation, referring to document REMPEC/WG.28/9/6, informed the Meeting that this matter was still under consideration.

109. Syria, supported by Arab delegations, reiterated the wish to have Arabic interpretation during REMPEC meetings and also to have an Arabic version of the material issued by REMPEC. In his reply to this request, the Director recalled that the official languages of the Centre were French and English. However, he stated that the Centre was exploring possibilities for external funding with MOIG, in order to have Arabic interpretation in some specific training activities organised by REMPEC.

110. On the proposal of Syria, the Meeting expressed its deep appreciation to Rear Admiral Roberto Patruno, the previous Director of REMPEC, and to Mr. Darko Domović, ex-Senior

Programme Officer of the Centre, who both retired since the last REMPEC Focal Points Meeting, for the services rendered to REMPEC and to the Mediterranean region.

**AGENDA ITEM 13: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

111. The Meeting adopted the present report together with its annexes.

112. The delegations of Lebanon and Syria made a reservation on the wording “the conflict in the Eastern Mediterranean” in paragraph 57 of the present report.

**AGENDA ITEM 14: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

113. Before closing the Meeting, the Chairperson thanked delegations for their input and contributions during the Meeting for the benefit of the Mediterranean region. In this respect, he recalled the important role of REMPEC with regards to prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships.

114. The UNEP/MAP Co-ordinator congratulated REMPEC for a successful meeting and thanked delegations for their active participation. Moreover, he expressed his appreciation to IMO for participating in the Meeting, which demonstrated the co-operation which exists between UNEP/MAP and IMO.

115. The Director of REMPEC thanked all delegations, IMO and UNEP/MAP for their participation and expressed his appreciation to the Chairperson for the smooth running of the proceedings.

116. The Chairman closed the Meeting at 13.15 hours on Friday, 11 May 2007.

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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 activities since the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points
5. Implementation of the SAFEMED Project
6. Draft Guidelines on places of refuge for ships in need of assistance in the Mediterranean
7. Draft Guidelines concerning the protection of the marine environment and pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean
8. Developments in the field of port reception facilities
9. Recent marine pollution incidents in the Mediterranean Sea
10. Dissemination of information
11. Proposed programme of REMPEC activities for biennium 2008/2009
12. Other business
13. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting
14. Closure of the Meeting

## ANNEX III

### LIST OF DOCUMENTS

#### WORKING DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.28/3/1	Provisional Agenda.
REMPEC/WG.28/3/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda.
REMPEC/WG.28/3/3	Draft Timetable and Agenda.
REMPEC/WG.28/4	Progress Report on REMPEC's Activities since the 7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.28/5	Implementation of the SAFEMED Project (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.28/6	Draft Guidelines on the Decision Making Process for Granting Access to a Place of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.28/6/Rev.1	Draft Guidelines on the Decision Making Process for Granting Access to a Place of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.28/7	Draft Guidelines Concerning Pleasure Craft Activities and the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.28/8/1	Developments in the Field of Port Reception Facilities (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.28/8/2	IMO's Port Reception Facility Database (PRFD) (Document submitted by IMO).
REMPEC/WG.28/9/1	Accidents in the Mediterranean (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.28/9/2	REMPEC's Involvement in the Marine Pollution Incident in the Eastern Mediterranean during the summer 2006 (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.28/9/3	Lessons Learnt from the Marine Pollution Incident in the Eastern Mediterranean during the summer 2006 (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.28/9/4	Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) (Note by the Secretariat).

REMPEC/WG.28/9/5	Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.28/9/6	Developments in Oil Spill Response Capacity at Sea in the Mediterranean (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.28/10	Dissemination of Information (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.28/11	Proposed Programme of Activities for the Biennium 2008/2009 (Note by the Secretariat).
REMPEC/WG.28/12	Project on Regional - AIS (Automatic Identification System) (Document submitted by Italy).
REMPEC/WG.28/13	Report of the Meeting

### **INFORMATION DOCUMENTS**

REMPEC/WG.28/INF.1	Provisional List of Documents.
REMPEC/WG.28/INF.2	List of Participants.
REMPEC/WG.28/INF.3	Sea Alarm Foundation - International Cooperation (Document submitted by Sea Alarm Foundation).
REMPEC/WG.28/INF.4	The International Regime on Liability and Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage - Recent Developments (Document submitted by IOPC Funds).