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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**



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

REMPEC/WG.30/4/1  
2 April 2009

Malta, 21-24 April 2009

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Agenda Item 4

**PROGRESS REPORT ON REMPEC'S ACTIVITIES  
SINCE THE 8<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF REMPEC FOCAL POINTS**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**Introduction**

1. This report covers the period May 2007 - March 2009, that is to say activities conducted after the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points and before the 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention as well as the activities carried out after the said Contracting Parties Meeting based on the approved programme of activities of REMPEC for the biennium 2008-2009.
2. For the sake of clarity, this report has been divided under the following headings:
  - I. Report on Institutional Developments.
  - II. Report on Administrative and Other Related Issues.
  - III. Report on the Implementation of Activities.

**I. REPORT ON INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**

**Ratification of the Protocols**

3. Since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, 2002 ("Prevention and Emergency Protocol") has been ratified by another three Contracting Parties, namely Spain (09/08/2007), Montenegro (19/11/2007) and Syria (notification of this ratification has not yet been received from the Depositary).
- 4.. There are now twelve Contracting Parties which have ratified the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, whereas ten Contracting Parties are still Parties to the 1976 Emergency Protocol. The status of ratifications of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol to date is provided in **Annex I** to the present document.
5. In this regard, it has to be recalled that all Contracting Parties adopted, at their 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting held in Portoroz (Slovenia) in 2005, the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Pollution from Ships which can be considered as a roadmap for the implementation of the 2002 Protocol and serves as a basis for the programming of the activities of the Centre. Moreover, it has

also to be recalled that, due to the scope of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, the Centre was selected to implement the EU-funded Regional Euromed SAFEMED Project. It has to be noted that amongst the eight beneficiaries of this Euromed project which are also Parties to the Barcelona Convention, only two are Parties to the 2002 Protocol.

6. Contracting Parties which are still not Parties to the Prevention and Emergency Protocol are strongly encouraged to accede to this instrument.

### **Decisions taken at the 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties related to institutional developments**

- **Reporting and Compliance (Decision IG 17/3)**

7. One of the weaknesses pointed out during the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) evaluation exercise carried out since 2003, was that, despite MAP's existence for more than thirty years, it was impossible to assess the level of implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and to measure the progress made towards the achievement of the goals agreed under the Convention and Protocols. Consequently, the Contracting Parties have agreed, at their 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting, to set up a Compliance Committee (Decision IG 17/2: Procedures and mechanisms on compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols). They have also agreed on Decision IG 17/3: Format for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The part concerning the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol is provided in document REMPEC WG.30/INF.3. When it was requested to provide its input, the Centre has mainly taken into consideration the information already requested from the Focal Points for the updating of its Regional Information System (RIS).

8. Following the adoption of this reporting format, and as requested in Decision IG 17/3, a Working Group on Effectiveness has also been set up with the following goal: "to develop a list of indicators on the effectiveness of measures taken to implement the Convention and its Protocols and the decisions adopted by the Meetings of the Contracting Parties, and to guide the work for the preparation of the Regional Assessment Report on implementation for the years 2006-2007, for submission to and consideration by the 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2009." The Centre participated in the Working Group and has proposed a list of effectiveness indicators. This list will be proposed for the consideration of and discussion by the present Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points (REMPEC/WG.30/4/2) with a view to possibly recommend its adoption by the 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties which will be held in Marrakech (Morocco) in November 2009.

- **Adoption of a Governance Paper (Decision IG 17/15)**

9. With the adoption of Decision IG 17/15: Governance Paper, the Contracting Parties have also addressed several issues related to co-operation and integration of the MAP programme of work as well as institutional aspects such as the mandates of the Centres and MEDPOL, and the role and duties of the Focal Points.

10. **Programme of Work:** With a view to enhancing the coordination within the MAP system and the programming of activities, the Secretariat was requested to propose a five year indicative rolling programme which should highlight the crosscutting thematic. The biennium work programme will then have to refer to this five year rolling programme. One main cross-cutting thematic which has already been identified is "climate change".

11. **Executive Coordination Panel:** Under the Governance Paper, the coordination between the MAP Coordination Unit and the various MAP components has been strengthened by the setting up of an Executive Coordination Panel, composed of the MAP Coordinator, RACs Directors and MEDPOL Coordinator. The Panel is meeting once every quarter and the meetings are being held at the different Regional Activity Centres (RACs) with the second meeting held at REMPEC in May 2008.

12. Under the Governance Paper, the Contracting Parties have also streamlined the **terms of reference of the RAC's Focal Points** (cf. REMPEC/WG.30/INF.4) and also requested the Secretariat to prepare an **update of the mandate of the MAP components** in a harmonized way. As it was acknowledged by the Contracting Parties that REMPEC already has an updated mandate, with regard to REMPEC, the exercise carried out and which is still under preparation within the Secretariat has been to harmonize REMPEC's mandate with the format of the mandates of the other MAP Components.

- **Implementation of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities that may affect the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment (Decision IG 17/15).**

13. Following a proposal by the European Commission (EC) at the 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat contracted a consultant (financed by the EC) to conduct a study on how to implement the ecosystem approach into MAP policies. At their 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting, the Contracting Parties decided to “initiate a process, involving scientists and policy makers, and when appropriate, other competent bodies/organizations/authorities, aiming at the gradual application of the ecosystem approach”. Further information on the expected input by the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat is provided in document REMPEC/WG.30/INF.5.

## **II. REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES**

### **Administrative and Financial Issues**

14. The most important development that took place during the period under review has been the move of REMPEC from its former premises in Manoel Island to the new premises situated at “Maritime House” in Lascaris Wharf, Valletta, which were allocated to the Centre after refurbishment by the Maltese Authorities in December 2007. This move entailed extensive preparatory work during the second half of 2007, as the Centre had occupied its former premises for more than thirty years. The new premises were officially inaugurated on the 2 May 2008 by the Hon. Dr Lawrence Gonzi, Prime Minister of Malta, in the presence of Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos, the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and Mr. Paul Mifsud, UNEP/MAP Co-ordinator.

15. With regard to human resources, during this reporting period the Centre continued to benefit from the support of the French Oil Industry which has extended its long-standing support by providing a Junior Programme Officer to the Centre seconded by TOTAL SA under the French Government’s mechanism *Volontariat International Scientifique*. The SAFEMED Project also allowed the Centre to benefit from the support of three long-term experts and an administrative assistant. Under the SAFEMED II Project, the Centre will also benefit from the support of two long-term experts and an administrative assistant. Furthermore, the Italian Government continued to fund, through a voluntary contribution, an additional Programme Officer at the Centre which was recruited in March 2007. The funding of this Programme Officer by the Italian Government will at least extend till the end of December 2009. In this regard, the Centre would like to acknowledge the generous contributions of the EC, France and Italy which were instrumental in the implementation of the activities by REMPEC.

16. To implement its programme of activities, the Centre has relied heavily on the funds it received from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) funded by the Contracting Parties. Other activities have been funded either through the SAFEMED Project or through the Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) of IMO or the GEF/UNDP/IMO GloBallast Partnerships Project.

17. It has to be noted that the basic budget of the Centre funded by MTF is under a strong constraint, as the whole UNEP/MAP budget has been frozen since 2004. In the meantime, the cost of salaries and activities has increased. Since 2004, the cost of salaries has increased by more than 10%, whereas the cost of organising a regional activity has, on average, increased by more than 20%. Although the Centre will endeavour to maintain some regional activities in its work programme, the organisation of more national training events will be actively considered as, in these cases, the support costs are borne by the country hosting the activity with the Centre financing only the cost of lecturers and small sundries.

18. It has also to be noted that, although the Centre is trying to cut costs and develop synergies with other institutions, the financial situation will most probably result in a reduction in the number of sponsored participants from the Contracting Parties in the events organised by REMPEC in the next biennium.

### **Security issues**

19. Security of United Nations (UN) personnel has recently been prompted on the front-stage following several attempts against the UN or UN related agencies in different parts of the world. As a result, the UN embarked on a strict enforcement of the security regulations and all UN related offices have been requested to ensure the enforcement of these regulations by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). The enforcement of these regulations has several consequences related to the responsibilities and duties of UN staff members, the office arrangements, the required training of the staff, and the organisation of activities.

20. Concerning the duty station (Malta) of REMPEC, the Centre and the other UN related offices located in Malta underwent a security assessment by the UNDSS regional representative in 2008. This resulted in several recommendations that the Centre will have to implement in the near future and which would also have some financial implications.

21. Regarding the other basic requirements, it has to be recalled that the security of UN personnel and offices primarily rests with the Host Country authorities but is also the responsibility of the Heads of the various UN offices. According to the UN regulations, the Head of Office of one of the UN offices, the Designated Official, is in charge of co-ordinating issues related to security. As REMPEC is the biggest UN office in Malta, the Designated Official in Malta, representing the UNDSS in Malta, has requested the assistance of the Senior Programme Officer of the Centre to act as the Country National Security Focal Point. The Security Management Team (STM) gathering the Heads of the various UN offices in the duty station has also been set up and will meet regularly to assess the security situation.

22. The main constraints related to the UN security regulations are faced when REMPEC officers or consultants recruited by the Centre are travelling abroad or when organising activities abroad. The travel of UN staff members (including individual consultants recruited by the Centre) is subject to the granting of a "security clearance". This clearance is given depending on the security phase in force in the country being visited. In some situations, the organisation of a meeting will not be authorised or will be restricted to specific locations, under the control of the country's security forces. As a general policy, meetings and missions should not be organised at any location which has a security phase in place higher than Phase One. At present, there are nine Mediterranean countries with at least a Security Phase One in force.

### **III. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE REMPEC FOCAL POINTS**

23. During the biennium 2008-2009, with a view to facilitating the effective implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, the Centre conducted or supported activities carried out under the following main orientations:

- promote the ratification, transposition, implementation and enforcement of international regulations to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from ships in the Mediterranean region;
- ensure prompt and efficient response to marine pollution incidents in the Mediterranean region; and
- strengthen synergy and improving exchange of information and expertise within and outside the Mediterranean region.

24. Moreover, under the biennium 2008-2009, the majority of the activities implemented by REMPEC were tasks assigned to the Centre by the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, approved by the Fourteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Portoroz, Slovenia, 8-11 November 2005). The Centre also implemented relevant technical assistance activities forming part of IMO's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) as well as two major regional projects, namely, the EU-funded SAFEMED Project and the GEF/UNDP/IMO GloBallast Partnerships Project. A Table presenting in detail the activities carried out during the period referred to in the present document is attached as **Annex II**.

25. During the biennium, the Centre replied to several technical assistance requests from individual Mediterranean countries. In two occasions, technical assistance was also provided by another Contracting Party. This is a way to further enhance the co-operation between the Contracting Parties. However, in order to be in a better position to facilitate this type of exchange of knowledge and knowhow, it is very important that the Centre be made aware and kept informed by the Contracting Parties of any specific technical expertise they may wish to make available to other Contracting Parties as well as of any bilateral technical co-operation agreement they may implement. Implementing this mutual information system will also ensure that the Centre is making the best use of the resources available to implement activities financed by the Mediterranean Trust Fund.

26. The Centre would like to thank and acknowledge the co-operation of its Focal Points for their effective support in organising/supporting the activities and replying to the requests sent by the Centre. The Centre would also like to extend its thanks to the Consultants and Experts who have supported the implementation of several tasks.

- **Prevention, reduction and control of marine pollution from ships**

27. A priority need addressed during the biennium 2008-2009 was to assist the Mediterranean coastal States in ratifying, transposing, implementing and enforcing international regulations to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from ships. Under the biennium 2008-2009, the priority was given to the MARPOL Convention Annex I, with particular emphasis on its regulations relating to operational pollution from ships and their implementation and enforcement at national level.

28. To achieve this objective, the Centre concentrated its efforts on providing **specialized knowledge** on legal aspects, by organizing a regional seminar (MEDEXPOL 2007) dedicated to these issues. The Centre also embarked on the exercise of assessing the situation with respect to MARPOL Annex I implementation at national level, particularly as far as legislation is concerned. As a result, updated information is now available on the legislative framework of Mediterranean coastal States, gaps are identified, and recommendations for future actions at regional, sub-regional and regional level were put forward.

29. Attention was also given to operational aspects for the enforcement of MARPOL Annex I. The Centre worked towards setting up a sound basis for the development of **surveillance and monitoring systems** in the region. The objective was to test real-time surveillance and monitoring operations at the sub-regional level, which was achieved by providing an operational satellite monitoring service to three Maghreb countries (MARCOAST Project) and by preparing for a full-scale surveillance operation in the Western part of the Mediterranean region to be carried out in the second half of 2009.

30. Document REMPEC/WG.30/7 summarizing the activities carried out to date by the Centre in the field of illicit discharges, provides details related to the above mentioned activities.

31. The assistance provided by the Centre also included the **development and/or revision of regional implementation tools such as recommendations, principles, guidelines, proposals and procedures**. In this regard, following the adoption by the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona (Almeria, Spain, January 2008) of two sets of Guidelines developed by REMPEC, namely the Guidelines Concerning Pleasure Craft activities and the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean and the Guidelines on the Decision-Making Process for Granting Access to a Place of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance, the Centre updated the Principles and Guidelines Concerning Co-operation and Mutual Assistance (RIS/A).

32. The Centre also assisted the Mediterranean coastal States to prepare a submission to IMO to give effect to the **Special Area status of the Mediterranean Sea with respect to MARPOL Annex V** (Garbage from Ships). As a result, the Special Area status will enter into force on 9 May 2009, restricting release of garbage from ships in the Mediterranean Sea to domestic garbage.

33. Some of the objectives of the Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships were also achieved by implementing activities under the three-year **EU-funded MEDA Project on Euromed Cooperation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships – SAFEMED**, which the Center started to implement in 2006. When possible, a number of project tasks have been extended to other Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which are not benefiting from the Project. With respect to prevention, reduction and control of marine pollution from ships, the activities carried out within the SAFEMED Project encompassed flag State implementation,

Vessel Traffic Management Information Systems (VTMIS), and IMO's conventions related to the marine environment. In view of the encouraging results achieved under the SAFEMED Project, the European Commission and the Mediterranean partners agreed on the idea to launch a second EU-financed MEDA regional SAFEMED Project (SAFEMED II). As was the case for SAFEMED I, the SAFEMED II Project, which is a three year project, will be implemented by REMPEC between 2009 and 2011.

34. More information regarding the implementation of the SAFEMED Project may be found in document REMPEC/WG.30/8.

35. In 2008-2009, following extensive preparatory work carried out by REMPEC during the biennium 2006-2007, a five-year Project, entitled *Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries to Reduce the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water* ("GloBallast Partnerships") addressing five priority regions, including the Mediterranean region, was adopted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council at the end of 2007, with implementation starting in January 2008. The Project's Implementing Agency is the International Maritime Organization (IMO), with REMPEC acting as the Regional Coordination Organization (RCO) for the Mediterranean region, in collaboration with the UNEP/MAP's Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA).

36. Document REMPEC/WG.30/9 summarizing the activities carried out so far by the Centre within the GloBallast Partnerships Project provides details related to the above mentioned activities.

37. The Centre also held various regional, sub-regional and national training activities in the field of prevention of pollution from ships which were organised within the framework of its programme of activities 2008-2009 and within the framework of the above mentioned regional projects.

- **Efficient preparedness and response to marine pollution incidents in the Mediterranean region**

38. A core part of the mandate of REMPEC is to enhance the level of preparedness at national, sub-regional and regional level to face marine pollution incidents in the Mediterranean region. To enhance preparedness capacities, the Centre implemented a **training programme** aimed at updating the general and specialized knowledge of the Mediterranean coastal States with respect to contingency planning to properly respond to an accident involving oil or Hazardous Noxious Substances (HNS).

39. Expertise was also provided to the Mediterranean coastal States to support their efforts aimed at revising, completing or updating **national and sub-regional operational agreements and emergency plans**. On the operational side, the Centre, through the organisation of alert and communication exercises also tested the response network's reaction capacity.

40. During the period under review, the Centre has been informed by Mediterranean coastal States about some pollution **incidents which occurred in the region**. In particular, the Centre has been in contact with the national competent authorities of Croatia for the UND ADRIATIK incident, of Greece for the DIAMOND I, INTERCEPTOR and the THEOFILOS incidents, of Italy for the MARTI PRIDE incident, of Morocco for the GC TIGER incident, of Malta for the IRAN DENA, of Spain for the NEW FLAME incident, and of Turkey for the JOJO-A incident. For a number of incidents, the Centre ran forecasting models and provided, through its expert network advices, relevant technical information (Vide document REMPEC/WG.30/5).

41. The Centre also directed its efforts towards the development of or upgrading of **decision support tools**, including sensitivity mapping, spill forecasting models, MIDSIS-TROCS and remote sensing techniques.

42. Another objective of the biennium 2008 - 2009 in the field of preparedness and response to marine pollution incidents was to establish or strengthen **frames of collaboration** with relevant competent regional and international organisations that could be involved in response operations to face marine pollution incidents occurring in the Mediterranean region. This objective was achieved by developing cooperation agreements with other specialized institutions or Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) which could assist the Centre or the Contracting Parties in facing an accident. During the period under review, REMPEC also continued to liaise and co-operate with other regional agreements in order to exchange information on various issues related to its mandate. Moreover, the

Centre's long standing close co-operation with the oil industry also continued through *inter alia* its co-operation with the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG). Detailed information on these cooperation agreements is provided in document REMPEC/WG.30/5.

43. As entrusted by the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Focal Points, REMPEC acted as the Secretariat for the **Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG)** aimed at facilitating the exchange of technical data and other scientific information on preparedness and response issues related to marine pollution emergencies. During the biennium 2008-2009, the MTWG's work focused on the development of a set of tools, namely the Mediterranean Guidelines on Oiled Shoreline Assessment, the Decision Support Tool on Waste Management and the Guidelines on Sunken Oil Assessment and Removal Techniques. The work undertaken by the MTWG was relayed by REMPEC at the international level (IMO's OPRC-HNS Technical Group). During the biennium under consideration, the Centre received valuable feedback and input from the Contracting Parties which is a strong encouragement to proceed with the MTWG in this direction. A detailed overview of the work achieved by the Group can be found in document REMPEC/WG.30/6/1.

- **Strengthen synergy and improving exchange of information and expertise within and outside the Mediterranean region.**

#### **Information and communication tools**

44. In the field of communication and information tools, the Centre has taken great care to update its database on alerts and accidents in the Mediterranean and make it available online. The database, which can now be consulted online or downloaded, includes new features. Although according to the provisions of the 1976 and 2002 Protocols, the Contracting Parties shall communicate information regarding pollution incidents to REMPEC, the Centre receives only a few reports on pollution incidents from the Contracting Parties. The vast majority of information on incidents is in fact received via a subscription to the Lloyds Maritime Intelligence Unit (LMIU) casualty reporting system.

45. The Centre also started developing a new version of its website to facilitate access to information and to transfer part of the Regional Information System (RIS), which is still mainly based upon paper documentation, to an IT based documentation. The Centre expects that this new website will be available by the end of 2009. In this regard, INFO/RAC also approached the Centre to assist in setting up the REMPEC Info System which will be part of INFO/MAP. After internal consultation between the MAP co-ordinator and Blue Plan, it was decided to postpone this activity to the next biennium, once the new REMPEC website will be available.

46. Under the umbrella of the SAFEMED Project, the Centre has also developed a Geographic Information System (GIS) on maritime traffic in the Mediterranean Sea which will be available to the public with some preselected queries. A demonstration of this tool will be given during the present Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points under Agenda Item 8.

#### **Participation in MAP fora and other meetings**

47. Since the last Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points held in May 2007, REMPEC has continued to actively participate in various meetings organised within the framework of MAP. Moreover, the Centre also enhanced its working relations with the other MAP components with regard to activities related to its mandate.

48. During the period under review, the Centre has been invited to participate in various meetings. The Centre represents the Barcelona Convention in the Regional Agreements Inter-Secretariat Meeting, which, once a year, gathers the representatives of HELCOM, Bonn Agreement, Lisbon Agreement, Black Sea Commission, Barcelona Convention as well as the European Commission and EMSA, to exchange information on activities related to marine pollution preparedness and response. The Centre is also invited to participate in the Consultative Technical Group, which is a subsidiary body set up by EMSA, to discuss technical issues related to preparedness and response. As already explained, the Centre also participates in the IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group and regularly attends the sessions of IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC). In another field of activity, the Centre also follows the work carried out by the

European Group of Experts on Satellite Monitoring of Sea-Based Oil Pollution (EGEMP), although not attending each session of the Group.

49. On a case by case basis, the Centre also participated in conferences, meetings and seminars to introduce the outcome of activities carried out within the Barcelona Convention and related to the centre's activities. During the last biennium, for instance, the Centre participated in the "High level Mediterranean Conference on the Integrated Maritime Policy and the Mediterranean", organised by Slovenia and the European Commission on 10 June 2008 and in the "Biomarine Forum 2008", a worldwide event organised in France in October 2008. The Centre also participated in the "International Conference on the Sound Management of Ship Generated Wastes" organised also in France, with a view to raise interest on the possibility to build public private partnerships to address the issue of inadequacy of port reception facilities.

**The Meeting is invited to** take note of the information provided and comment as appropriate.

**ANNEX I**

**STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF THE 2002 PREVENTION AND EMERGENCY  
PROTOCOL TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION**

<b>Contracting Parties</b>	<b>Ratification Date</b>
<b>Albania</b>	-
<b>Algeria</b>	-
<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</b>	-
<b>Croatia</b>	1 October 2003
<b>Cyprus</b>	-
<b>European Commission</b>	25 June 2004
<b>Egypt</b>	-
<b>France</b>	2 July 2003
<b>Greece</b>	27 November 2006
<b>Israel</b>	-
<b>Italy</b>	-
<b>Lebanon</b>	-
<b>Libya</b>	-
<b>Malta</b>	18 February 2003
<b>Monaco</b>	3 April 2002
<b>Morocco</b>	-
<b>Montenegro</b>	19 November 2007
<b>Slovenia</b>	16 February 2004
<b>Spain</b>	9 August 2007
<b>Syria</b>	Date of ratification still to be notified by the Depositary
<b>Tunisia</b>	-
<b>Turkey</b>	4 June 2003

**ANNEX II**

TITLE	DATE & LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE OF FINANCING
<b>R.S.S.0. 1                    RATIFICATION OF RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONVENTIONS RELATED TO THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Provide technical advice and assistance to individual countries for the ratification and/or transposition into national laws of relevant international maritime conventions	August – Sept 2008	Following a request received from Malta, the Centre reviewed the proposed draft new Maltese legislation implementing the Bunkers Convention, 2001 and provided advice/recommendations to the competent Maltese authorities. Malta has acceded to the Bunkers' Convention on 12 November 2008 and the Convention came into effect for Malta on 12 February 2009.	MTF
	14 – 17 April 2008 Alexandria, Egypt	Implementation of the GloBallast Partnerships Project: an Introductory Course on Ships' Ballast Water Management Issues was organised with the support of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT). The Training course provided sound general knowledge on all aspects related to implementation and enforcement by the 2004 Convention on Ballast Water Management from Ships.	GloBallast (IMO's ITCP)
	11 – 12 Sept 2008 Dubrovnik, Croatia	Implementation of the GloBallast Partnerships Project: During the First Meeting of the Regional Task Force, the GloBallast national Focal Points formally established a Regional Task Force and decided upon its Terms of Reference, which includes a task related to the development a regional strategy on ships' ballast water management, complying with the requirements of the 2004 Convention on Ballast Water Management from Ships. During the Meeting, which was organised in close-co-operation with the Croatian national competent authorities, an agreement was reached on the form and the content of such Strategy.	GloBallast & MTF (REMPEC & SPA/RAC)
	21 – 24 Oct 2008 Gebze, Turkey	Implementation of the GloBallast Partnerships Project: a regional training course on Port Biological Baseline Survey was organised within the framework of the GloBallast Partnerships Project and of the SAFEMED Project in close collaboration with the national competent authorities of Turkey. The training course provided technical information and know-how in relation to sampling and follow-up measures.	MTF & SAFEMED

(R.S.S.O. – Regional Strategy Specific Objective)

TITLE	DATE & LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE OF FINANCING
Support to the organization and delivery of national training courses on prevention of pollution from ships	12 – 14 June 2007 Bar, Montenegro	A national training course on the MARPOL Convention was organised as part of the capacity building activities implemented by REMPEC in Montenegro in accordance with the terms of the bilateral MoU between REMPEC and Montenegro.	MTF
<b>R.S.S.O. 2 ENSURING EFFECTIVE MARITIME ADMINISTRATIONS</b>			
Fellowship Funding for a post-graduate course leading to the degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Maritime Law at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI)	2007-2009 Malta (IMLI)	Six students from five SAFEMED Project beneficiaries have benefited from these scholarships.	SAFEMED
Fellowship funding for a post-graduate course leading to the award of the degree of Master of Science at the World Maritime University (WMU)	2007-2009 Malmö, Sweden (WMU)	Eight Students from six SAFEMED Project beneficiaries benefitted from these scholarships.	SAFEMED
Training Course on Flag State Implementation	5 - 9 Nov 2007 Malmö, Sweden (WMU)	A short specialized course on Flag State Implementation was held for the SAFEMED Project beneficiaries.	SAFEMED
Workshop on the Implementation of the Voluntary International Maritime Organization Member State Audit Scheme	4 - 6 March 2008 Malta	A three-day regional workshop was held in Malta in which representatives from eight SAFEMED Project beneficiaries participated together with representatives from Malta and Monaco.	SAFEMED
Regional Seminar on the Human Element Influence on Maritime Accidents	17-19 June 2008 Lisbon, Portugal	A three-day seminar was held at the offices of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) in Lisbon in which participants from nine SAFEMED Project beneficiaries and from Italy and Portugal participated.	SAFEMED

*(R.S.S.O. – Regional Strategy Specific Objective)*

TITLE	DATE & LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE OF FINANCING
<b>R.S.S.O. 4 PROVISION OF RECEPTION FACILITIES IN PORTS</b>			
<b>R.S.S.O. 5 DELIVERY OF SHIP GENERATED WASTES</b>			
Submission of a document to MEPC for the entry into force of the Special Area Status of the Mediterranean Sea under MARPOL Annex V	2007-2008	REMPEC co-ordinated, at the regional level, the submission by Mediterranean coastal States notifying IMO that adequate reception facilities for garbage were provided in their respective ports with a view to give effect to the Special Area Status of the Mediterranean Sea under MARPOL Annex V. The submission was presented to the 57 <sup>th</sup> Session of the IMO MEPC, which decided that the Special Area Status will enter into force on 1 May 2009.	MTF
<b>R.S.S.O. 6 IMPROVED FOLLOW-UP OF POLLUTION EVENTS AS WELL AS MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE OF ILLICIT DISCHARGES</b>			
<b>R.S.S.O.7 TO IMPROVE THE LEVEL OF ENFORCEMENT AND THE PROSECUTION OF DISCHARGE OFFENDERS</b>			
Preparation of a study concerning the level of enforcement in the Mediterranean of MARPOL Annex I Regulations	2007-2008	Two consultants were recruited to assess the level of implementation of MARPOL Annex I. This was primarily a SAFEMED task which was complemented by MTF funds to cover some other countries. A final report was issued proposing ways to improve the situation at a national, sub-regional and regional level.	SAFEMED & MTF
Regional Seminar on Illicit Discharges from Ships and Prosecution of Offenders (MEDEXPOL 2007)	27 – 30 Nov 2007 Marseille, France	This Seminar focused on legal aspects and enforcement issues. It was an opportunity for magistrates from the Contracting Parties to get first-hand experience on the issues at stake. As a follow-up of the views expressed by the participants in the seminar, REMPEC initiated the coordination for the establishment of a network of magistrates and/or relevant personnel, by requesting the Contracting Parties to nominate a contact point. However, to date, only three countries have nominated a contact point for the network.	MTF

(R.S.S.O. – Regional Strategy Specific Objective)

TITLE	DATE & LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE OF FINANCING
Participation in a pilot project on satellite monitoring	2007 – 2008 Morocco-Algeria-Tunisia	For a period of one year, these 3 countries received satellite images provided by the MARCOAST Project reporting possible oil spills near their coastal areas. A total of 454 possible spills were reported on the 250 satellite images made available by the European Space Agency (ESA). The Centre also involved MOON to give some hindcast and forecast on some spills detected with high confidence.	External (ESA)
Organization of a joint aerial surveillance operation	2009	As approved by the Contracting Parties, the operation has been proposed to Spain, France, Monaco, Italy, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Spain, France, Italy and Morocco have confirmed the availability of an airplane. Preparations for the operation have started. The operation is scheduled for the second half of 2009.	Mediterranean Countries participating in the operation & MTF
Feasibility study on aerial surveillance for the maritime area of Cyprus	2007-2008 Cyprus	Following a request from Cyprus, the Centre, in close co-operation with the French Customs, assessed the needs of Cyprus with regard to aerial surveillance means for the monitoring of marine pollution.	MTF & France
<b>R.S.S.O. 8 TO REDUCE THE POLLUTION GENERATED BY PLEASURE CRAFT ACTIVITIES</b>			
Development of comprehensive guidelines for the application of principles underlying the sustainable development and respect for the environment by pleasure craft activities.	2008	The Guidelines concerning pleasure craft activities and the protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean endorsed by the 8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points were approved by the Contracting Parties at their 15 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting. They have been added to the Centre's Regional Information System (RIS) Part A.	
<b>R.S.S.O. 9 REDUCED RISK OF COLLISIONS BY ESTABLISHING SHIP'S ROUTING SYSTEMS</b>			
Study on maritime traffic flows in the Mediterranean Sea	2008	The study was prepared by Lloyd's Maritime Intelligence Unit (LMIU) on 2004/2005 data and was disseminated in August 2008. It provides reliable information to assess the main shipping lanes and possible future developments. A Geographical Information Systems (GIS) has also been developed to visualize the main results.	SAFEMED

*(R.S.S.O. – Regional Strategy Specific Objective)*

TITLE	DATE & LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE OF FINANCING
<b>R.S.S.O. 10 IMPROVED CONTROL OF MARITIME TRAFFIC</b>			
Training programmes for vessel traffic services managers and operators	3 – 14 Sept 2007 Tyne and Wear (UK)	Two five-day induction courses on Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) were held in a training institute based in the United Kingdom and representatives from eight SAFEMED Project beneficiaries benefitted from these courses.	SAFEMED
<b>R.S.S.O. 12 TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR THE DESIGNATION OF PLACES OF REFUGE IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE RISKS OF WIDESPREAD POLLUTION</b>			
Identification of appropriate procedures to facilitate the designation of places of refuge	2008	The guidelines on the decision-making process for granting access to a place of refuge for ships in need of assistance endorsed by the 8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC were adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 15 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting. They have been added to the Centre's Regional Information System (RIS) Part A. An inventory of policies adopted in this field by all Contracting Parties, based on a questionnaire, is being compiled within a study evaluating the capacity number and location of tugs in the Mediterranean, currently under preparation.	SAFEMED
<b>R.S.S.O. 13 TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF DESIGNATING THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AS EMISSION CONTROL AREA UNDER MARPOL ANNEX VI</b>			
Assistance in the preparation of a proposal to designate the Mediterranean Sea as a SOx Emission Control Area (SECA) under MARPOL Annex VI	2007	A study was commissioned to report on the preliminary steps to be taken before submitting such a proposal. The first part of the study deals with the ratification process of MARPOL Annex VI and the second part deals with the preparations that are required for submitting an application to IMO for the Mediterranean to be designated as a SECA. The cost estimates provided by the Consultant in the Study indicate that the required relative preliminary studies will cost approximately 550,000 Euros.	SAFEMED
<b>R.S.S.O. 14 TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE EMERGENCY TOWING CAPACITY BE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE MEDITERRANEAN TO ASSIST VESSELS INCLUDING TANKERS, IN DISTRESS</b>			
To evaluate the capacity number and location of tugs throughout the Mediterranean ports	2008-2009	A study based on a questionnaire is currently being finalised.	SAFEMED

(R.S.S.O. – Regional Strategy Specific Objective)

TITLE	DATE & LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE OF FINANCING
Organization of a sub-regional training course on practical issues related to salvage operations	11 – 13 Nov 2008 Izola, Slovenia	A Sub-Regional Training Course on Marine Emergencies was organised in co-operation with the Slovenian Maritime Administration and the Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief of Slovenia. The aim was to familiarise Administrations such as the maritime and the civil protection Administrations with the specific character of maritime casualties and response to emergencies at sea.	MTF
<b>R.S.S.O. 15 PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS IN COMMERCIAL PORTS AND OIL TERMINALS</b>			
To evaluate the capacities in terms of safety of the Mediterranean Oil Terminals	2008	The Centre has liaised with the Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF) which is currently developing a scheme aiming at enhancing safety of operations at terminals.	External & MTF
<b>R.S.S.O. 16 TO ENHANCE THE LEVELS OF PRE-POSITIONED SPILL RESPONSE EQUIPMENT UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF MEDITERRANEAN STATES</b>			
To organize and deliver a regional workshop on contingency planning systems in the Mediterranean region	11 – 12 May 2009 Marseille, France	Following the decision taken during the MOIG Workshop held in Malta in May 2007, a Regional Government and Industry Workshop on Co-operation, Preparedness for and Response to Oil Spills in the Mediterranean addressing the level of risks and preparedness in the region will take place in Marseille, co-organized with the oil industry.	MTF & External (MOIG)
<b>R.S.S.O. 17 TO ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND TO FACILITATE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY</b>			
Co-operation with the scientific community	2007-2009	REMPEC has co-operated closely with the Mediterranean Operational Oceanography Network (MOON) with regard to oil forecast models and metro-oceanographic data.	

*(R.S.S.O. – Regional Strategy Specific Objective)*

TITLE	DATE & LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE OF FINANCING
Participation in the relevant international fora	2007- 2009	The Centre actively participated and contributed to the work of IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group primarily through the work undertaken by the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) which acted as a regional forum through which the Contracting Parties indirectly contributed to the work carried out by the IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group.	
<b>R.S.S.O. 18 TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY, SPEED AND EFFECTIVENESS OF DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN CASE OF MARINE POLLUTION INCIDENTS THROUGH DEVELOPMENT AND INTRODUCTION OF TECHNICAL AND DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS</b>			
Development of a decision support tool for oily waste management following a spill	2008-2009	In the framework of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG), a consultant has been recruited to undertake a study on oily waste management following a spill with a view to develop in a second phase, an electronic based tool to facilitate the decision-making process. The study was based on a questionnaire.	MTF
National Training Course on MEDSLICK	4 – 5 June 2007 Lattakia, Syria	A national training course on MEDSLICK oil spill drifting model (Version 5.1.2) was organized in Syria with the assistance of the Oceanographic Centre of the University of Cyprus.	MTF
Co-operation with the Mediterranean Operational Oceanography Network (MOON)	2007-2009	Since 2007, the Centre has started involving the Mediterranean Operational Oceanography Network (MOON) in some of its activities, in particular during a marine pollution incident, in order to run some forecast models and, in case of possible illicit discharges, some hindcast models.	MTF
Maintaining the level of preparedness of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU)	February 2009	The MAU Agreements with FEDERCHIMICA and CEDRE have been renewed. The Agreement with ICRAM (now ISPRA), is currently under review.	MTF
Upgrade of REMPEC's website	2008	A complete review of the Centre's website has been initiated with a view to facilitate dissemination of information and easy access to decision support tools. The new REMPEC website is expected to be launched later this year.	

TITLE	DATE & LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE OF FINANCING
Review and update as necessary the Regional Information System (RIS)	May 2008	The database on alerts and accidents in the Mediterranean Sea has been reviewed and can now be accessed online. The database can also be downloaded and includes new features such as <i>inter alia</i> filters, automatic generated reports, GIS files.	MTF
Upgrade of MIDSIS-TROCS	2008	Contacts were established with some relevant organisations to establish partnerships for the update of the decision support tool scheduled for 2010-2011.	
<b>R.S.S.O. 19 TO INCREASE AS MUCH AS IT IS PRACTICAL, THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE FIELD OF PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION BY OIL AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES</b>			
Training Course on pollution prevention and control.	11 – 22 June 2007 Brest-Marseille, France	The INFOPOL training course was chosen for the implementation of this SAFEMED Project task and representatives from eight SAFEMED beneficiaries participated.	
National Workshop on oil spill compensation procedures and Civil Liability Conventions and Compensation Fund	17 – 19 July 2007 Cairo, Egypt	A national workshop on oil spill pollution compensation was organized in co-operation with the IOPC Funds, ITOPF and the International Group of P & I Clubs.	MTF
National Training Course on sensitivity mapping	2 – 4 July 2008 Rabat, Morocco	A national workshop on sensitivity mapping was organized together with the Moroccan Authorities to take stock of the existing materials and decide upon the next steps to be implemented at national level.	IMO ITCP
National Workshop on the use of dispersants	21 – 22 Oct 2008 Algiers, Algeria	The workshop was intended to assist the Algerian Authorities in deciding upon a national policy on the use of dispersants.	IMO ITCP

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TITLE	DATE & LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE OF FINANCING
National Workshop on contingency planning for hazardous and noxious substances	28 – 30 Oct 2008 Alexandria, Egypt	This workshop was organized following the accession of Egypt to the HNS 2000 Protocol to the OPRC 1990 Convention in order to assist them in the implementation of the Protocol. The workshop included the new IMO Model course "Introduction to the Response to HNS in the Marine Environment" "Manager Level" which was translated in Arabic by the Egyptian authorities.	MTF
Organization of and participation in exercises	10 – 12 June 2008 Tarragona, Spain  17 – 18 Sept 2007 Porto Torres, Italy  8 October 2008	The Centre participated in several exercises from its base in Malta organized by the national competent authorities.  The Centre also took part in sub-regional exercises organized within RAMOGEPOL and Lion Plan (Nurra 2007) – (Mediterraneo 2008)  The Centre organized an alert and communication exercise involving the Chemical Industry (International Chemical Environment ICE test) and acted as liaison Centre between Egypt and the UK manufactures.	
<b>R.S.S.O. 20 TO REVISE THE EXISTING RECOMMENDATIONS, PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES , AND TO DEVELOP NEW ONES AIMED AT FACILITATING INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PREVENTION AND EMERGENCY PROTOCOL</b>			
Mediterranean Guidelines on Oiled Shoreline Assessment	2008-2009	During the biennium, the Centre, with the assistance of a consultant and the support of the IMO-OPRC HNS Technical Group, within the framework of the MTWG, has developed guidelines on oiled shoreline assessment with a view to harmonize at a regional level the way of conducting these surveys in case of emergency in order to ensure that common methodology and terminology are used by all experts involved.	MTF

TITLE	DATE & LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE OF FINANCING
<b>R.S.S.O. 21 TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF INDIVIDUAL COASTAL STATES TO RESPOND EFFICIENTLY TO MARINE POLLUTION INCIDENTS THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF SUB-REGIONAL OPERATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND CONTINGENCY PLANS</b>			
Programme of activities in the field of marine pollution from ships	4 June, 2007 Bar, Montenegro	The programme of activities implemented by REMPEC in Montenegro since 2006 continued in 2007 with the development of a draft National Marine Pollution Contingency Plan. The Second Meeting of the national authorities took place with a view to agree upon a fourth version of the draft National Contingency Plan and on a set of recommendations for its implementation	MTF
Assist individual countries with expertise for the development, improvement and maintenance of their systems and operational arrangements	2008-2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following a request by the Croatian Authorities, the Centre has reviewed the new marine pollution contingency plan for Croatia which has now been adopted</li> <li>• The Centre has also been marginally involved in the preparatory work in connection with the national marine pollution contingency plan for Malta.</li> <li>• At the request of the Albanian Authorities, the Centre is currently reviewing a draft marine pollution contingency plan prepared by the Spanish Authorities within the framework of a bilateral technical assistance project for Albania.</li> </ul>	MTF
Support the organization of sub-regional joint activities and meetings	21 – 22 April 2008 Tunis	The Centre facilitated the organisation of the Third Meeting of the Competent National Authorities in charge of the Implementation of the Sub-Regional Plan for Marine Pollution in the South-Western Mediterranean	MTF