



**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)**

10th Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional
Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre
for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.32/4/2
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Agenda Item 4

**NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION OF,
PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS
FOR THE PERIOD 2009-2011**

Note by the Republic of Montenegro

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document reports on the progress made by the Republic of Montenegro in the field of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships since the 9th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 13

Related documents: REMPEC/WG.32/4

1. In the period since the last REMPEC Focal Points Meeting, Montenegro has made significant progress in the area of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships.
2. During 2010, the Maritime Safety Department (MSD) of Montenegro has initiated the revision of the Draft National Contingency Plan (NCP). Considering the changes in the organizational structure of the Government of Montenegro, the Draft NCP from 2007 no longer reflected the current situation as new Ministries were formed with new authorizations and areas of responsibility.
3. Understanding the importance of protecting the marine environment from pollution and aware of the need for the revision of the NCP, and having in mind good long-lasting collaboration with REMPEC, we jointly undertook activities to revise the 2007 NCP.
4. The first of these activities was the visit to Montenegro of a consultant from REMPEC, with a view to establishing the progress that the country has made in this field since the last Focal Points Meeting in 2009, including the changes in the national legislation and cooperation between authorized bodies. During his visit the consultant met with all relevant ministries and institutions which would be involved in the NCP. The result of this visit established the basis for the drafting of the new NCP.
5. Subsequently, MSD organized a National Workshop on Oil Pollution which was aimed at introducing all relevant subjects related to marine oil pollution and highlighting the need of a good national prevention and intervention system. It can also be said that this workshop greatly contributed to raise awareness amongst all participants on the importance of protecting and preserving the marine environment.
6. Following the workshop and based on the recommendations of REMPEC, MSD initiated the preparation of the new draft NCP.

7. In order to test the operational aspects of the new draft NCP, a National Workshop on Contingency Planning including a table-top exercise financed by the Technical Cooperation Division of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was jointly organized by MSD and REMPEC. The three days workshop was held between 7 and 9 September 2010 in Bar, Montenegro and was conducted by two experts from REMPEC and a representative of IMO. Experiences and conclusions from the exercise were implemented in the Draft NCP.

8. The last version of the Plan, revised by REMPEC and IMO, is in compliance with the provisions of all relevant conventions dealing with marine pollution. Also, it satisfies the specific national needs, having in mind the resources available in Montenegro. It provides a framework for international cooperation, establishes the principles of Government and oil industry cooperation, and gives the option to engage private enterprises in case of a pollution incident.

9. Since the new NCP provides for a minimum level of national oil spill response equipment, MSD, through the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs, submitted a project for the procurement of equipment from the European Union's Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) funds. Beside the procurement of oil spill response equipment, the project also includes the development of a VTMIS system, which will greatly contribute to the safety of navigation and pollution prevention especially in the area of supervision and control of transport of dangerous goods in the Montenegrin ports, as well as along the south coast of the Adriatic Sea. The project was approved and is currently in its final stages. This project also comprises two studies: risk assessment and sensitivity mapping. Relevant training on different levels is also an integral part of the project.

10. It is important to emphasise that the legal basis for the enactment of the NCP is the Law on Prevention of Sea Pollution from Sea-going objects. The Law is currently under revision by the National Assembly committees and its adoption is scheduled before the summer recess of the Assembly. Thus, the adoption of the NCP is expected six months after the adoption of the Law.

11. It is also important to mention that between the two Focal Points Meetings, Montenegro ratified a set of international conventions: BWM Convention 2004, CLC 92, CLC Protocol 2003, Fund 92, AFS 2001, HNS 96, and Bunker 2001. The next step is the ratification of OPRC 90 Convention and its OPRC-HNS Protocol 2000.

12. Actions to be taken in the future include further collaboration with REMPEC with the aim of taking part in sub-regional and regional response systems, in the first instance with the neighboring countries and in the second instance with other Mediterranean countries.

13. **The Meeting is invited to take note of the information provided in the present document.**