



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

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

REMPEC/WG.41/12
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Agenda Item 12

**COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN TO PREVENT AND COMBAT
MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS**

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides information on on-going cooperation in the Mediterranean to prevent and combat marine pollution from ships as well as possible ways to strengthen this cooperation in the future. In particular, reference is made to the launch of the celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of the Centre and the outcome of the High-level Meeting to celebrate Forty Years of Cooperation in the Mediterranean to Prevent and Combat Marine Pollution from Ships, which was held in Malta on 4 October 2016, the coordination on response and assistance in case of major accidental pollution in the Mediterranean, the cooperation in the field of prevention of marine pollution from ships, the cooperation between REMPEC, the European Commission, the European Maritime Safety Agency and the Secretariats of Regional Seas Agreements, as well as the cooperation in the context of projects relevant to the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021).

Actions to be taken: Paragraph 33

Related documents: UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, REMPEC/WG.37/10, REMPEC/WG.37/12, REMPEC/WG.37/13, REMPEC/WG.41/4, REMPEC/WG.41/5, REMPEC/WG.41/7, REMPEC/WG.41/8, REMPEC/WG.41/9, REMPEC/WG.41/11/1, REMPEC/WG.41/13, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.3

Background

1 The Nineteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (“the Barcelona Convention”) and its Protocols (COP 19), which was held in Athens, Greece, from 9 to 12 February 2016, adopted Decision IG.22/18 related to Cooperation and Partners (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28), which requested the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), also referred to as UN Environment/MAP, Barcelona Convention:

- .1 to initiate discussions with relevant regional and international organisations with the aim to optimise synergies and coordination on response and assistance in case of major accidental pollution in the Mediterranean; and

- .2 to further expand the cooperation with regional and international organisations, bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies, and other relevant actors, including the private sector, with a view to mobilising as many actors as possible in support of implementing in a coherent, synergistic and effective manner the priorities established by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

2 The Eleventh Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), which was convened in Malta from 15 to 17 June 2015, agreed to consider starting to commemorate REMPEC's 40th Anniversary celebrations on the theme "*Cooperation in the Mediterranean to prevent and combat marine pollution*" toward the end of 2016. Moreover, the Meeting agreed on the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in document REMPEC/WG.37/13 to initiate the work in early 2016 and to mark this occasion throughout the year 2017 up until the closing of the Twentieth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 20) to be held in Tirana, Albania from 17 to 20 December 2017, in order to enhance REMPEC's visibility, build new partnerships and mobilise resources.

3 Following the review of document REMPEC/WG.37/12 relating to cooperation between REMPEC and the European Commission as well as the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), the Eleventh Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC also agreed to.

- .1 strengthen the possible synergies between the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) and the Consultative Technical Group for Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response (CTG MPPR) by requesting the CTG MPPR meetings to note any relevant MTWG developments;
- .2 explore possible synergies on future joint activities or projects in order to benefit from a stronger cooperation on topics of common interest, and to propose possible synergies to the various technical groups of the regional agreements and the CTG MPPR, within the framework of the Inter-Secretariat Meetings;
- .3 organise working-level exchanges between, on the one hand, the Mediterranean coastal States and, on the other hand, relevant entities such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), UN Environment together with UN Environment/MAP, the Joint UN Environment/United Nation (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) Environment Unit (JEU) and REMPEC, the European Commission as well as EMSA, to discuss cooperation arrangements and synergies between the European and regional mechanisms, in view of the organisation of a high-level meeting; and
- .4 to initiate discussions, in consultation with the IMO and UN Environment/MAP, to define, as soon as possible, the most appropriate way to cooperate and support the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021).

REMPEC's 40th Anniversary celebrations

4 In this context, with the theme "*Cooperation in the Mediterranean to Prevent and Combat Marine Pollution from Ships*", REMPEC organised on 4 October 2016 in Valletta, Malta, the celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of REMPEC and the High-level Meeting, which aimed primarily at bringing together all relevant stakeholders under one forum and with one clear objective: to collaborate and strive towards the protection of the Mediterranean Sea.

5 The event was organised by the Centre in collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure, and the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change, of the Republic of Malta.

6 Over one hundred and thirty (130) participants representing Mediterranean coastal States, organisations and institutions, attended the event, which was opened by His Excellency Mr Kitack Lim, IMO Secretary-General, Mr Jan Dusík, Director of the Europe Office of UN Environment, and the Honourable Dr George W. Vella, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Mr Joe Mizzi, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and the Honourable Dr José A. Herrera, Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change, who reaffirmed the support of the Government of Malta to REMPEC's regional mission in the years to come.

7 During the Ministerial Session chaired by the Honourable Dr George W. Vella, Ministers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus and Greece together with twelve (12) other representatives of the twenty (20) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention attending the event, expressed their satisfaction on REMPEC's achievements and called on its continuous assistance to the Mediterranean coastal States within its mandate and beyond, in particular for the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, in the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol) to the Barcelona Convention, which was adopted by COP 19 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, Decision IG.22/3). Mr Gaetano Leone, UN Environment/MAP Coordinator, moderated the first panel with former Directors/Head of Office of the Centre (i.e. Mr Jean Claude Sainlos, Admiral Roberto Patrino, Mr Frédéric Hébert and Mr Jonathan Pace), whilst Mr Gabino Gonzalez, Head of Office of REMPEC, moderated the second panel gathering long standing Partners, including:

- .1 Mr Thomas Liebert, Head, External Relations and Conference Department, International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds);
- .2 Ms Elda Belja, Lecturer/Admissions Officer, IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI);
- .3 Ms Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission or HELCOM);
- .4 Ms Anne Vissio, Executive Secretary, Accord relatif à la Protection de l'Environnement Marin et Côtier d'une Zone de la Mer Méditerranée (RAMOGE Agreement);
- .5 Mr Rob Cox, Technical Director, IPIECA - The global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues;
- .6 Mr Franck Laruelle, Technical Team Manager, International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF);
- .7 Mr Stéphane Doll, Director, Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre);
- .8 Mr Renato Frigerio, HSE Manager of BASF Italia Spa and Chairperson of the Transport Emergency Service Committee (S.E.T.) of the Federazione Nazionale dell'Industria Chimica (FEDERCHIMICA);
- .9 Dr Giovanni Coppini, Operational Oceanography Laboratory (OCEAN-LAB) at the Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Climate Change (CMCC); and
- .10 Mr Vincent Attard, President, Nature Trust.

8 Whereas the revamp of the website is under consideration, a specific logo and tagline for REMPEC's 40th Anniversary as well as a commemorative book were published and distributed to the dignitaries and participants, whilst a video produced for the event was projected during the event. These visual materials as well as a video recording of the entire event, which are available on REMPEC's website, have been disseminated widely in various occasions in particular within the framework of the programme of events of the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU).

9 The Secretariat takes this opportunity to reiterate its gratitude to all governments as well as intergovernmental, non-governmental, regional and international organisations, and all individuals who contributed to the organisation of this successful event and the production of the visual materials.

10 In this context, the Secretariat proposes to encourage all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and partners to continue taking part in commemorating REMPEC's 40th Anniversary by supporting the Centre in enhancing its visibility and promoting new partnerships as well as in mobilising resources.

Coordination on response and assistance in case of major accidental pollution in the Mediterranean

11 In accordance with Decision IG.22/18 related to Cooperation and Partners adopted by COP 19 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28), an Inter-Agency Meeting on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance related to Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Pollution Incidents in the Mediterranean Region was convened on 25 February 2016, at IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom. The Meeting attended by representatives from IMO, UN Environment/MAP, the JEU and REMPEC, met to exchange views and develop a common strategy towards synergies between UN initiatives and structures in place in the field of preparedness and response to oil and HNS spills.

12 As detailed in document REMPEC/WG.41/8, the preparation of the "*Draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents*", includes a complete review of the Mediterranean "*Principles and Guidelines on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance*", pursuant to the programme of work of the MTWG for the biennium 2016-2017.

13 The "*Draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents*" is the result of a wide and regular consultation process, which required a close cooperation between REMPEC and the institutions that may be involved in the coordination of mutual assistance in case of marine pollution incident, including Cedre, the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) – Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) and EMSA, FEDERCHIMICA, the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS), the Intervention in Chemical transport Emergencies (ICE), IMO, the IOPC Funds, IPIECA, the Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), the International Salvage Union (ISU), ITOPF, the JEU, the Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Ocean Observing System (MONGOOS) as well as the Sea Alarm Foundation (SAF).

14 The practical information and guidance material provided by the "*Draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents*" will reinforce the relationship and the coordination of means and services between the main stakeholders in the field of cooperation and mutual assistance in case of pollution incident and will strengthen the regional capacities to face major oil spill accidents.

15 In line with the Guidelines for the MTWG and, as detailed in document REMPEC/WG.41/13, the Secretariat proposes to contribute to the work carried out at a global and European level in the field of marine pollution cooperation in case of emergency.

16 To maintain the level of preparedness of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU), as one of the mechanism in place described in the "*Draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents*", the Centre renews on a regular basis the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) within the framework of the MAU with its members, namely Cedre, FEDERCHIMICA, ISPRA, MONGOOS and SAF, as described in document REMPEC/WG.41/4. The Centre also maintains a very close working relationship with these organisations, within the framework of other activities relevant to its mandate.

17 In this regard, it should be noted that, in parallel with the above-mentioned work, REMPEC contributed to the preparation of the Environmental Emergencies Guidelines: Voluntary guidelines for the provision and receipt of international humanitarian assistance for environmental emergencies through UN Environment/UN OCHA¹, published in 2017 by the JEU and envisages to participate in the 2017 Environment and Emergencies Forum to be organised by the JEU, in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26 to 27 September 2017.

18 Other examples of cooperation in the areas of response and assistance in case of major accidental marine pollution in the Mediterranean are provided in document REMPEC/WG.41/13, in particular the development of the joint Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (CGI SCP) between Cyprus, Greece and Israel, the support provided to the Government of Lebanon for the development of its draft National Contingency Plan, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ITOPF, and the Lebanese Petroleum Administration (LPA).

19 In this context, the Secretariat proposes to continue exploring other cooperation arrangements required to provide the necessary technical support and the assistance to Mediterranean coastal States to respond efficiently to accidental marine pollution.

Cooperation in the field of prevention of marine pollution from ships

20 The Centre has also progressed in areas of cooperation in the field of prevention of marine pollution from ships, in particular:

- .1 in the context of the international efforts leading to the entry into force of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention), on 8 September 2017, through the implementation of activities carried out in the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme as well as through the assessment of the level of implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management pursuant to the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, Decision IG.22/20), which involved sixteen (16) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), as detailed in document REMPEC/WG.41/7;
- .2 in the field of illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean, as explained in document REMPEC/WG.41/11/1, which presents measures undertaken and proposes further actions to enhance administrative and judicial cooperation; operational cooperation as well as cooperation with other regional and international organisations; and
- .3 in respect of the implementation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex V regulating the prevention of pollution by garbage from ships, especially the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes, through the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) / Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy Thematic Programme (ENRTP) "Marine Litter-MED" Project, as presented below and further detailed in document REMPEC/WG.41/4.

Cooperation between REMPEC, the European Commission, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the Secretariats of Regional Seas Agreements

21 Further to the High-level Meeting follow-up letter co-signed by the Honourable Dr George W. Vella, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Malta), and Mr Gabino Gonzalez, Head of Office of REMPEC, addressed to relevant Ministers of all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, it was agreed with Mr Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries to set a meeting with relevant services of the European Commission (Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV), DG ECHO, and the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE)) as well as other EU agencies to discuss further cooperation with REMPEC.

¹ http://www.eecentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/EE_guidelines.pdf

22 Whereas the date of such meeting is still pending confirmation, the European Commission and REMPEC have had several opportunities to meet and cooperate, in particular during the Working Party on Civil Protection (PROCIV) Workshop: Civil Protection Maritime Challenges, which was organised in St. Julian's, Malta, from 19 to 20 January 2017, within the framework of the programme of events of the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union. On that occasion, Mr Alfonso de la Fuente Garrigosa, acting Head of Unit, Civil Protection Policy, DG ECHO and Ms Biljana Zuber, Programme Manager, DG ECHO visited REMPEC Offices to discuss areas of cooperation, including those detailed below.

23 EMSA and REMPEC were also invited by DG ECHO to present the services/operational capacities that they can provide in case of marine pollution incidents, at the Thirty-eighth meeting of the Directors-General for Civil Protection of the European Union, of the European Economic Area and of the candidate countries, which was held in St. Julian's, Malta from 26 to 27 April 2017.

24 Other opportunities to discuss cooperation included the Twelfth and Thirteenth Inter-Secretariat Meetings between Regional Agreements Secretariats, DG ECHO and EMSA, hosted respectively by the Secretariat of the Agreement for cooperation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil and other harmful substances, 1983 (Bonn Agreement) on 17 February 2016 in London, United Kingdom and by EMSA in Lisbon, Portugal on 16 February 2017, which covered the following issues:

- .1 the inter-connection of inventories of equipment/pollution response resources in the EU, which was considered as a topic of common interest for the relevant Regional Agreements, in an effort to optimise the single input of data to update such inventories at national, regional and European levels, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.41/9;
- .2 the risk assessment being an issue of mutual interest for which important work is still being undertaken at regional level, it was proposed to organise during the Interspill 2018 exhibition and conference to be convened in London, United Kingdom from 13 to 15 March 2018, a joint workshop on Risk Assessment and Response Planning, involving EMSA, DG ECHO and the relevant Regional Agreements;
- .3 the update of the respective response manual for HNS spill of the Regional Agreements not having progressed as expected due to lack of resources, REMPEC supported by HELCOM and the Bonn Agreement agreed to explore, with their respective technical working group, the possibility of joining efforts and resources as detailed in document REMPEC/WG.41/13; and
- .4 the relevance of the data available through EMSA's Integrated Maritime Services (IMS) and other services offered, including CleanSeaNet, SafeSeaNet and the MARine Chemical Information Sheets (MAR-CIS), to the work and the projects implemented by the Regional Agreements, raise the question of the access to these services by the Secretariats of the Regional Agreements and by non-EU countries.

25 In this context, the Secretariat proposes to:

- .1 support and contribute to the organisation of the Workshop on Risk Assessment and Response Planning, during the Interspill 2018 exhibition and conference and the mobilisation of resource to enable the participation of Mediterranean coastal States to this event;
- .2 liaise with EMSA to clarify the access by the Secretariats of the Regional Agreements and by non-EU countries to EMSA's Integrated Maritime Services (IMS) and other services including CleanSeaNet and SafeSeaNet and report the outcome at the next Meeting of Focal Points of REMPEC; and
- .3 continue to explore possible synergies on future joint activities or projects in order to benefit from a stronger cooperation on topics of common interest, and to propose possible synergies to the various technical groups of the regional agreements and the CTG MPPR, within the framework of the Inter-Secretariat Meetings.

Cooperation in the context of projects relevant to the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021)

26 With a view to supporting the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, Decision IG.22/4), hereinafter referred to as the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), which is presented in the Annex to document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.3, and to complementing the resources required to meet its twenty-two (22) Specific Objectives, the Centre cooperates with a wide partnership network for the implementation of various projects and for the preparation of project proposals, as detailed in the non-exhaustive list below:

Partnership within the framework of projects completed in the current biennium:

- .1 The GloBallast Partnerships Programme (2014-2017) (<http://globallast.imo.org/>) financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), along with co-financing from countries and other international partners, implemented by the UNDP and executed by the IMO through the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) within the IMO's Marine Environment Division (MED), with the support of Regional Coordinating Organisations (RCOs), namely REMPEC for the Mediterranean region in cooperation with SPA/RAC, and with the active participation of the Lead Partnering Countries for the Mediterranean region, namely Croatia and Turkey. The programme has also supported the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management, including its Action Plan, as well as the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), particularly its Specific Objective 1.
- .2 The two-year (2015-2016) project for Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions POSOW II (<http://www.posow.org/>) co-financed under the Civil Protection Financial Instrument developed in cooperation with REMPEC, ISPRA (Italy), the Instituto Portuario de Estudios y Cooperacion de la Comunidad Valenciana (FEPORTS, Spain), the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT Egypt) and the General Directorate of Maritime and Inland Waters (DG-MARINWA, Turkey), and coordinated by Cedre (France), which aimed at establishing a regional cooperation synergy through the enhancement of knowledge and capacities of three hundred and ninety (390) operators (professionals and volunteers) in the field of marine pollution, in European coastal countries of the Mediterranean Sea (POSOW I (2012-2013)), namely Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia and Spain, as well as in Southern Mediterranean European Neighbourhood Policy Countries and Enlargement Countries (POSOW II (2015-2016)), namely Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. These projects contributed to the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) and, in particular, its Specific Objectives 7 and 20.

Partnership within the framework of on-going projects:

- .1 The three-year (2016-2019) Marine Litter-MED Project funded by the EU and coordinated by UN Environment/MAP in collaboration with its Components, namely MEDPOL, REMPEC through IMO, the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) as well as SPA/RAC, aims at supporting UN Environment/MAP and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to prevent and manage marine litter through the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan adopted by the Eighteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 18), which was held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 6 December 2013, in synergy with the relevant work under the Global Partnership for Marine Litter (GPML) within the framework of the UN Environment Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), the implementation of MARPOL Annex V, the implementation of Specific Objectives 1, 5 and 6 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) H2020 initiative for a cleaner Mediterranean, the EU SwitchMed Programme and in coordination with the other European Regional Seas.

- .2 The two-year (2017-2018) OPENRISK Project (<https://openrisk-ppr.org>) co-financed under the Civil Protection Financial Instrument, coordinated by the HELCOM Secretariat in partnership with the World Maritime University (WMU), an IMO affiliated university, Marin, a non-profit maritime research institution and the Finnish Environmental Institute/SYKE, the competent national oil spill response authority in Finland. This project, which is supported by the Bonn Agreement, the Agreement between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden about Cooperation concerning Pollution Control of the Sea after Contamination by Oil or other Harmful Substances (Copenhagen Agreement), REMPEC, as well as the Norwegian Coastal Administration, aims at improving regional and European wide maritime incident preparedness by creating tools for dynamic risk assessments. This project will support the regional effort in the implementation of Specific Objectives 18 and 19 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021).

Partnership in the preparation of project proposals under consideration:

- .1 The two-year Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation (West MOPoCo) Project proposal under preparation for a submission to the 2017 DG ECHO Call for Proposals for prevention and preparedness projects in the field of civil protection and marine pollution, by a consortium potentially composed of the Competent Authorities from Algeria, France, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia, as well as Cedre (France), ISPRA (Italy), IPIECA, ITOFF, SAF, and REMPEC, aims at enhancing cross border civil protection and marine pollution cooperation between Western Mediterranean countries, including regional cooperation with regard to interoperability and preparedness for, direct response to and reduction of impacts of oil and HNS spills into the marine environment. If approved, the project will contribute to strengthening the regional cooperation framework and will assist the beneficiary Countries in implementing the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), in particular its Specific Objectives 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22.
- .2 The PHAROS4MPAs Project proposal for the Blue Economy and Marine Conservation: Safeguarding Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in order to achieve Good Environmental Status submitted to the Interreg MED Programme by World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF, France), in partnership with the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), the Regional Development Funds for North Aegean Region (RDF NA), the Regional Agency of the Administration of Protected Areas in Albania (AKZM), the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (ZRSVN), the Italian National Research Council (CNR), WWF Mediterranean, the University of Girona (UdG) and other associated partners including *inter alia* REMPEC and SPA/RAC, will deliver, if approved, an integrated framework for recommendations on the necessary practical collaboration between Mediterranean MPAs and the maritime sectors to be adapted to ensure ownership by the targeted project's beneficiaries. OPENRISK and Mediterranean decision support system for marine safety (MEDESS-4MS²)'s recommendations and tools will be considered in the context of the PHAROS4MPAs Project to provide recommendation on the best way to assess risk from maritime traffic on MPAs. This project is expected to contribute to Specific Objectives 18 and 19 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021).

² as described in documents REMPEC/WG.37/10.

- .3 The Project proposal Adriatic Ionian system for Marine Pollution Prevention Monitoring Control and REduction (ADMIRE), submitted by the Hellenic Centre for Marine research (HCMR) to the Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A Greece-Italy 2014-2020, in partnership with four (4) Project Beneficiaries, namely the Athena Research and Innovation Center in Information Communication & Knowledge Technologies, the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC) Foundation, the Aerospace Technology District (DTA), and the Department of Mobility, Urban Quality, Public Works, Ecology and Landscape (Apulia Region), and with REMPEC, as Associated Beneficiary. The overall objective of the project is to enable a transition from a current limited cross-border marine pollution accident response capacity to a user-centred, sustainable, efficient, and fit-for-purpose, advanced operational response system. The project will capitalise on previous EU projects including MEDESS-4MS. REMPEC will provide access to the Mediterranean Integrated Geographical Information System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment and Response (MEDGIS-MAR) subject to authorisation from the data source and will raise awareness on ADMIRE Services through its network and in its meetings and establish links with other on-going initiatives. This project will contribute to Specific Objectives 18 and 19 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021).

Partnership within the framework of upcoming opportunities

27 Whilst recalling that the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) was fully integrated in the UN Environment/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021 adopted by COP 19 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, Decision IG.22/1), it should be noted that, according to Decision IG.22/1, the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat was requested to maximise efforts for the implementation of the MTS in an integrated manner and for the mobilisation of adequate resources through the updated Resource Mobilisation Strategy for 2016-2017 (Annex II of the Decision), in cooperation with Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and partner organisations.

28 In this context, the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat initiated the update of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy in consultation with the UN Environment/MAP Components and will present the proposed revised Strategy to the Meeting of the UN Environment/MAP Focal Points to be convened in Athens, Greece from 12 to 15 September 2017. In the meantime, efforts have been made to mobilise the required resources for the implementation of the MTS in an integrated manner and in close cooperation with all UN Environment/MAP Components.

29 As detailed in document REMPEC/WG.41/5, a framework Agreement was signed in September 2016 between the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea and the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat, in support for the implementation of the mandate of the Barcelona Convention and the work of UN Environment/MAP. REMPEC will be involved in the implementation of the Agreement and especially in the development and strengthening of an effective Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) management and for the enhancement of Marine Litter Management; which are related respectively to Specific Objectives 10, 11, 12 and 14 and to Specific Objectives 5, 6 and 9 of the Regional Strategy 2016-2021. The contribution of REMPEC within this Agreement is being discussed within the UN Environment/MAP and its Components.

30 SPA/RAC, in consultation with REMPEC, is preparing a project proposal to be submitted to the Total Corporate Foundation aimed at assisting the Mediterranean countries to prevent, control and monitor marine biological invasions and their impacts on biodiversity, human health and ecosystem services (MedNIS), in line with Specific Objective 1 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) and the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management, including its Action Plan. The project proposal will take into account the outcome of the assessment of the level of implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management, which was also carried out in cooperation with SPA/RAC, as described in document REMPEC/WG.41/7.

31 As far as the long standing financial support of the IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) is concerned, which has assisted the Mediterranean coastal States in ratifying, transposing, implementing and enforcing international maritime conventions related to the prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships, as illustrated in document REMPEC/WG.41/4, the Centre and the IMO's MED continue to work in close cooperation to consider activities proposed in the programme of work of REMPEC, in line with MED's Thematic Priorities, in the proposed ITCP programme of activities for the 2018-2019 biennium, to be reviewed and approved by the Seventy-seventh Session of the IMO's Technical Cooperation Committee (TCC) to be held in London, United Kingdom, from 17 to 19 July 2017, which a number of Mediterranean coastal States will be attending.

32 In light of the above, to ensure the capitalisation of past and on-going efforts and to increase the effectiveness of the resources made available for the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), on the one hand, by the UN Environment/MAP and its Components, IMO, as well as other partners through the mobilisation of resources in a coordinated and integrated manner and, on the other hand, by all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention through bilateral, multilateral or regional activities or projects, the Secretariat proposes that Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention consider to:

- .1 submit a fiche for each bilateral, multilateral or regional project or activity relevant to the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), based on the template reproduced in the **Annex** to the present document, to the Secretariat, preferably at the beginning of the said project or activity; and
- .2 report the main developments or outcome at the Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC following the submission of the fiche, possibly by means of information documents, with a view to increasing visibility on these projects/activities.

Actions requested by the Meeting

33 **The Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 **take note** of the information provided in the present document; and
- .2 **consider** the proposals put forward by the Secretariat, as laid down in paragraphs 10, 19, 25, and 32 of the present document.

Annex

Draft Fiche for project/activity
relevant to the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021)

Country:

Date:

GENERAL INFO ON OVERALL PROJECT/ACTIVITY

Title:

Description and main objective(s):

Main project/activity output(s):

Geographical scope and countries involved:

Total budget (EUR):

Main source(s) of funding:

Lead organisation (manager):

Other partners:

Start/end dates:

INFO ON COUNTRY'S PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT/ACTIVITY

Description of project/activity output(s) for which the Country is responsible:

Project budget for Country's activities (EUR):

Other Mediterranean Countries/Partners involved:

Relevant Specific Objective(s) of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021):

Comments/Explanations on added value of the project/activity for the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021):