



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.41/3/2
Date: 10 May 2017

Malta, 23-25 May 2017

Original: English

Agenda Item 3

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DRAFT TIMETABLE

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides brief information on the action to be taken by the Meeting as well as a draft timetable for the Meeting. This timetable prepared by the Secretariat is of a tentative nature and may be modified by the Meeting, as appropriate.

Actions to be taken: As indicated under each agenda item.

Related documents: UNEP/IG.43/6, UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, REMPEC/WG.41/3/1/Rev.1, REMPEC/WG.41/4, REMPEC/WG.41/5, REMPEC/WG.41/6/1, REMPEC/WG.41/6/2, REMPEC/WG.41/7, REMPEC/WG.41/8, REMPEC/WG.41/9, REMPEC/WG.41/10, REMPEC/WG.41/11/1, REMPEC/WG.41/11/2, REMPEC/WG.41/12, REMPEC/WG.41/13, REMPEC/WG.41/14, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.3, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.4, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.5, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.6, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.7, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.8, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.9, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.10, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.11

Introduction

1 The Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) is being convened in St. Julian's, Malta from 23 to 25 May 2017, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-2017 of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), also referred to as UN Environment/MAP, adopted by 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.

2 The principal objectives of the Meeting are:

- .1 to examine the implementation of the Programme of Work of REMPEC since the Eleventh Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, which was convened in Attard, Malta from 15 to 17 June 2015; and

- .2 to discuss and agree upon the proposed Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2018-2019, prior to its submission, for approval by the next Meeting of the UN Environment/MAP Focal Points to be held in Athens, Greece, from 12 to 15 September 2017, and for adoption by the Twentieth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 20) to be convened in Tirana, Albania from 17 to 20 December 2017.

3 All REMPEC Governmental Focal Points were invited to nominate, jointly and in consultation with their respective REMPEC Prevention and OPRC Focal Points, their representatives in the Meeting. The participation of observers representing the oil, chemical, port and shipping industries in national delegations was strongly encouraged. The invitation to attend the Meeting was also extended to the specialised agencies of the United Nations, other governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as to the international professional organisations and associations, the activities of which are relevant to the work of the Centre.

4 In order to assist the Meeting in its work, the Secretariat prepared the following annotations to the proposed provisional agenda of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 **Opening of the Meeting**

5 The Meeting will open on Tuesday, 23 May 2017 at 0900 hours and is expected to close on Thursday, 25 May 2017 at 1600 hours.

Agenda Item 2 **Organisation of the Meeting**

2.1 **Rules of Procedure**

6 The Rules of procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the deliberations of this Meeting.

2.2 **Election of Officers**

The Meeting will be invited to elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur.

2.3 **Working Languages**

7 The working languages of the Meeting will be English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation will be provided during the Meeting. All working documents will be available in both official languages of the Centre, i.e. in English and in French. Information documents will be available in their original language unless a translation is provided in the second working language.

Agenda Item 3 **Adoption of the Agenda**

8 The agenda, as proposed in document REMPEC/WG.41/3/1/Rev.1 and annotated in the present document, will be proposed for adoption by the Meeting. The Meeting will also be invited to agree on a timetable to carry out its work. A draft timetable is proposed in the **Annex** to the present document.

Agenda Item 4 **Progress Report on REMPEC's activities since the Eleventh Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC**

9 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.41/4, which sets out an outline of the activities carried out by the Centre since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC.

10 In particular, the Secretariat will refer to relevant Specific Objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021), hereinafter referred to as the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), which is presented in the Annex to document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.3.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided as well as to comment, as appropriate.

Agenda Item 5 **Developments within UN Environment/MAP related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC**

11 Under this agenda item, the UN Environment/MAP representative will present document REMPEC/WG.41/5 providing information on the developments within UN Environment/MAP since the Eleventh Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC. She will refer to the main decisions adopted at COP 19, which are of relevance to the work of the Centre. She will also refer to the recent ratifications of the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea ("the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol") to the Barcelona Convention and will summarise the recent meetings of bodies of the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention system as well as activities under resource mobilisation, monitoring and assessment. Furthermore, reference will be made to the involvement of the UN Environment/MAP in the Fortieth Anniversary of REMPEC and the Seventieth session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), to the preparations for COP 20 as well as to future international and regional meetings and processes of UN Environment/MAP relevance.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided as well as to comment as deemed appropriate.

Agenda Item 6 **Developments within IMO related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC**

12 The IMO representative will introduce document REMPEC/WG.41/6/1, which provides a summary of the latest developments within IMO in the fields of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships. In particular, she will address the recent activities of IMO related to operational pollution, ballast water management, reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from ships and measures for enhancing energy efficiency of shipping as well as technical cooperation. Special reference will be made to the activities of the MEPC and the IMO's Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR).

13 The representative of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) will present document REMPEC/WG.41/6/2 providing information on the latest developments in the field of compensation for ship-source pollution damage and the work of the IOPC Funds since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC. She will highlight to the Mediterranean coastal States, the implications of those recent developments and of the decisions of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies as well as resulting output of the Organisation during that period.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided as well as to comment as deemed appropriate.

Agenda Item 7 **Assessment of the level of implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management**

14 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.41/7 providing information on the outcome of the assessment of the level of implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management ("the Assessment"), pursuant to the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-2017.

15 In particular, the Secretariat will refer to the Synthetic Report on the Assessment, which is presented in the Appendix to the above-mentioned document.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided, comment upon the Synthetic Report on the Assessment, especially the specific recommendations under each Strategic Priority of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management and each measure identified in the Action Plan as well as the general conclusions, and consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in the above-mentioned document.

Agenda Item 8 **Draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in responding to Marine Pollution Incidents**

16 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.41/8, which outlines the process leading, from the review of the Mediterranean “*Principles and Guidelines on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance*”, to the preparation of the draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in responding to Marine Pollution Incidents, hereinafter referred to as the draft Mediterranean Guide, pursuant to the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-2017.

17 In particular, the Secretariat will present the draft Mediterranean Guide, which is set out in the Appendix to the above-mentioned document, and refer to the amendments proposed on the basis of the Report of the Regional Workshop on Cooperation Arrangements in the Field of Preparedness for and Response to Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Spills (MEDEXPOL 2016) (St. Julian's, Malta; 14-15 December 2016), as laid down in document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.6.

18 The Secretariat will also introduce the review of the Mediterranean “*Principles and Guidelines on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance*”, as reproduced in Annex 1.4 of the draft Mediterranean Guide.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided, to examine and agree upon the draft Mediterranean Guide, including the Mediterranean “Principles and Guidelines on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance”, prior to its submission for approval by the next Meeting of the UN Environment/MAP Focal Points.

Agenda Item 9 **Data sharing, monitoring and reporting**

19 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.41/9 setting out an outline of progress made on data sharing, monitoring and reporting since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, to streamline and rationalise the reporting obligations of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, especially in the context of the Mediterranean Integrated Geographical Information System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment and Response (MEDGIS-MAR), the Regional Information System (RIS), the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS), and to assess possible synergies to interconnect RIS with the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS).

20 In particular, the Secretariat will refer to the draft revised reporting format for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, which is presented in document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.11.

21 The Secretariat will also address the issue of visualisation rights on national data and provide information on the development of a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection, in accordance with Article 5 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, as well as the development of the 2017 Quality Status Report (QSR2017) for the Mediterranean.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in the above-mentioned document.

Agenda Item 10 **Draft Guidance Document for the preparation of National Action Plans for the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021)**

22 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.41/10, which outlines the process leading to the development of the draft Guidance Document for the preparation of National Action Plans for the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021), hereinafter referred to as the draft Guidance Document, pursuant to the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-2017.

23 In particular, the Secretariat will present the draft Guidance Document, which is set out in Appendix I to the above-mentioned document, and refer to minor revisions proposed on the basis of the Report of the Regional Expert Meeting on National Action Plans for the Implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) (Barcelona, Spain; 8-9 November 2016), as laid down in document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.5.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided, to agree upon the draft Guidance Document taking into account the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in the above-mentioned document, prior to its submission for approval by the next Meeting of the UN Environment/MAP Focal Points.

Agenda Item 11 **Enhancing cooperation in the field of illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean**

24 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.41/11/1 providing information on possible ways and means to enhance cooperation in the field of illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean, taking into account the Report of the Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS) (Toulon, France; 29 September – 1 October 2015), as laid down in document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.4.

25 The representative of France will introduce document REMPEC/WG.41/11/2 submitted by his Government, which lays down its proposal to develop a regional jurisdiction together with a regional report. In particular, he will explain that, in order to strengthen cooperation between States Parties in the area of repression of acts of pollution, France proposes to develop a regional jurisdiction in the Western Mediterranean along with a joint report that would enable the courts of the States Parties to prosecute all individuals suspected of having committed pollution, irrespective of the place of pollution, except territorial seas. Finally, he will give details on the suggestion from France to accompany this judicial cooperation with the downstream establishment of a “Blue Fund” to which a part of the pecuniary sanctions would be transferred.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat and France in the above-mentioned documents.

Agenda Item 12 **Cooperation in the Mediterranean to prevent and combat marine pollution from ships**

26 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.41/12, which 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.

27 In particular, the Secretariat will refer to the launch of the celebrations of the Fortieth 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 (2016-2021).

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in the above-mentioned document.

Agenda Item 13 **Mediterranean Technical Working Group**

28 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document REMPEC/WG.41/13 providing an update on the progress made by the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) since the Eleventh Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC and proposing future activities to be integrated to the programme of work of the MTWG for the biennium 2018-2019.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in the above-mentioned document.

Agenda Item 14 **Proposed Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2018-2019**

29 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.41/14, which presents, in its Annex, the proposed programme of work to be implemented by the Centre during the biennium 2018-2019, and explains the rationale used to prepare it.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided as well as to consider, discuss, and agree upon the proposed programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2018-2019, prior to its submission for approval by the next Meeting of the UN Environment/MAP Focal Points and for adoption by COP 20.

Agenda Item 15 **Other business**

30 **The Meeting will be invited** to consider any other matters that may be raised under this agenda item.

31 In particular, the Secretariat will introduce the following documents, which are disseminated to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention pursuant to the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-2017:

- .1 the 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species (Biofouling Guidelines), as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.7;
- .2 the Guidance for minimizing the transfer of invasive aquatic species as biofouling (hull fouling) for recreational craft, as laid down in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.8; and
- .3 the Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.9.

32 The representative of Sea Alarm (a member of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit) will present document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.10 providing information on recent developments in international oiled wildlife preparedness and response.

33 Under this agenda item, organisations wishing to provide brief information on some of their activities that may be of interest to the Meeting will also be given the opportunity to do so.

Agenda Item 16 **Adoption of the report of the Meeting**

34 A draft report of the Meeting will be submitted to the participants for consideration and adoption.

Agenda Item 17 **Closure of the Meeting**

35 The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairperson on Thursday, 25 May 2017 at 1600 hours.

Annex – Draft timetable

Day 1 – Tuesday, 23 May 2017		
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Registration of the participants</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Agenda Item 1	Opening of the Meeting
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break	
10:30 – 11:00	Agenda Item 2	Organisation of the Meeting
	Agenda Item 3	Adoption of the Agenda
11:00 – 11:30	Agenda Item 4	Progress Report on REMPEC's activities since the Eleventh Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC
11:30 – 12:00	Agenda Item 5	Developments within UN Environment/MAP related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC
12:00 – 12:30	Agenda Item 6	Developments within IMO related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:45	Agenda Item 7	Assessment of the level of implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management
14:45 – 15:30	Agenda Item 8	Draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in responding to Marine Pollution Incidents
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00 – 16:45	Agenda Item 8 (cont.)	Draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in responding to Marine Pollution Incidents
16:45 – 17:30	Agenda Item 9	Data sharing, monitoring and reporting

Day 2 – Wednesday, 24 May 2017		
09:00 – 09:45	Agenda Item 10	Draft Guidance Document for the preparation of National Action Plans for the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021)
09:45 – 10:30	Agenda Item 11	Enhancing cooperation in the field of illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 11:45	Agenda Item 11 (cont.)	Enhancing cooperation in the field of illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean
11:45 – 12:30	Agenda Item 12	Cooperation in the Mediterranean to prevent and combat marine pollution from ships
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:30	Agenda Item 13	Mediterranean Technical Working Group
14:30 – 15:30	Agenda Item 14	Proposed Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2018-2019
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00 – 17:00	Agenda Item 14 (cont.)	Proposed Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2018-2019
17:00 – 17:30	Agenda Item 15	Other business

Day 3 – Thursday, 25 May 2017		
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 – 15:30	Agenda Item 16	Adoption of the report of the Meeting
15:30 – 16:00	Agenda Item 17	Closure of the Meeting