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

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

REMPEC/WG.45/INF.15  
Date: 10 June 2019

Malta, 11-13 June 2019

Original: English only

Agenda Item 11

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON RATIFICATION AND EFFECTIVE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF MARPOL ANNEX VI**

**(VALLETTA, MALTA, 11-13 DECEMBER 2018)**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**SUMMARY**

**Executive Summary:** This document presents the Report of the Regional Workshop on Ratification and Effective Implementation of MARPOL Annex VI (Valletta, Malta, 11-13 December 2018).

**Action to be taken:** Paragraph 3

**Related documents:** UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.23/23, REMPEC/WG.44/10, REMPEC/WG.45/11

**Background**

1 As indicated in document REMPEC/WG.45/11, the Regional Workshop on Ratification and Effective Implementation of Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), hereinafter referred to as “the Regional Workshop on MARPOL Annex VI”, was held in Valletta, Malta, from 11 to 13 December 2018, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2018-2019<sup>1</sup> of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which was adopted by the Twentieth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017).

2 The Report of the Regional Workshop on MARPOL Annex VI is presented in the **Annex** to the present document.

**Action requested by the Meeting**

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

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.23/23, Decision IG.23/14.



**ANNEX**

**Report of the Regional Workshop on Ratification and Effective Implementation of MARPOL  
Annex VI**

**(Valletta, Malta, 11-13 December 2018)**

(REMPEC/WG.44/10)





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

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Regional Workshop on Ratification and Effective Implementation  
of MARPOL Annex VI

REMPEC/WG.44/10  
Date: 10 June 2019

Valletta, Malta, 11-13 December 2018

Original: English

Agenda Item 12

**REPORT**

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON RATIFICATION AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
MARPOL ANNEX VI**

**Valletta, Malta, 11-13 December 2018**



## **APPENDIX II**

### **AGENDA**

- Opening of the Meeting
1. Adoption of the Agenda
  2. The international regulatory framework for preventing pollution from ships
  3. Overview of MARPOL Annex VI – Regulations for the prevention of air pollution from ships
  4. MARPOL Annex VI, Chapter 3 – Requirements for control of emissions from ships
    - a. Overview
    - b. Alternative fuels and scrubbers
  5. MARPOL Annex VI, Chapter 4 – Regulations on energy efficiency for ships
    - a. Overview
    - b. The greenhouse gas issue and the role of international shipping
    - c. IMO Strategies on further reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships
    - d. Energy efficient ship design and operation
    - e. On-shore power supply and green port initiatives
  6. Port State Control for MARPOL Annex VI
    - a. Overview
    - b. Port State Control for sulphur content compliance
    - c. Port State Control for ship energy efficiency regulations
  7. Challenges and opportunities for Mediterranean coastal States to ratify and implement MARPOL Annex VI
  8. Examining the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea, or parts thereof, as SO<sub>x</sub> ECA(s) under MARPOL Annex VI
    - a. Draft technical and feasibility study to examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea, or parts thereof, as SO<sub>x</sub> ECA(s) under MARPOL Annex VI
    - b. European Commission's study: assessment of the potential for cost-effective air emission reductions from shipping (SO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>) through designation of further ECAs in European Union waters with focus on Mediterranean Sea
    - c. French study on the evaluation of the interest of setting up a SO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> ECA in the Mediterranean
  9. Other business
  10. Conclusions and recommendations
- Closure of the Meeting



### **APPENDIX III**

#### **LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

##### **WORKING DOCUMENTS**

REMPEC/WG.44/1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda
REMPEC/WG.44/1/1	Annotated provisional agenda and draft timetable
REMPEC/WG.44/8/Rev.1	Draft technical and feasibility study to examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea, or parts thereof, as SOx ECA(s) under MARPOL Annex VI
REMPEC/WG.44/WP.1	Draft conclusions and recommendations
REMPEC/WG.44/10	Report of the Meeting

##### **INFORMATION DOCUMENTS**

REMPEC/WG.44/INF.1/Rev.1	List of documents
REMPEC/WG.44/J/1	Provisional list of participants
REMPEC/WG.44/INF.2	List of participants
REMPEC/WG.44/INF.3/Rev.1	Terms of reference for the provision of consultancy services for the preparation of a technical and feasibility study to examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea, or parts thereof, as SOx ECA(s) under MARPOL Annex VI
REMPEC/WG.44/INF.4/Rev.1	Compilation of comments on the draft technical and feasibility study to examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea, or parts thereof, as SOx ECA(s) under MARPOL Annex VI
REMPEC/WG.44/INF.5	EuroMed Cooperation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships (SAFEMED IV Project) (submitted by the European Maritime Safety Agency) (English only)
REMPEC/WG.44/INF.6	Ship and Port Emissions Toolkits (English only)
REMPEC/WG.44/INF.7	GEF-UNDP-IMO GloMEEP Project and IMarEST, 2018: Ship Emissions Toolkit, Guide No.1, Rapid assessment of ship emissions in the national context (English only)
REMPEC/WG.44/INF.8	GEF-UNDP-IMO GloMEEP Project and IMarEST, 2018: Ship Emissions Toolkit, Guide No.2, Incorporation of MARPOL Annex VI into national law (English only)
REMPEC/WG.44/INF.9	GEF-UNDP-IMO GloMEEP Project and IMarEST, 2018: Ship Emissions Toolkit, Guide No.3, Development of a national ship emissions reduction strategy (English only)
REMPEC/WG.44/INF.10	GEF-UNDP-IMO GloMEEP Project and IAPH, 2018: Port Emissions Toolkit, Guide No.1, Assessment of port emissions (English only)
REMPEC/WG.44/INF.11	GEF-UNDP-IMO GloMEEP Project and IAPH, 2018: Port Emissions Toolkit, Guide No.2, Development of port emissions reduction strategies (English only)



## **APPENDIX IV**

### **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Regional Workshop on Ratification and Effective Implementation of Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), hereinafter referred to as the Meeting, which was held in Valletta, Malta from 11 to 13 December 2018:

1 **expressed appreciation** for the financial support provided by the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) as well as the voluntary contributions from the Government of France and the Government of Italy;

2 **thanked** the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), as Secretariat, as well as the Consultants specifically contracted by REMPEC, for their respective contributions to the preparation, organisation and conduction of the Meeting;

3 **recalled** that 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 was 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) held in Athens, Greece from 9 to 12 February 2016, addressed the issue of the prevention of air pollution from ships in Specific Objectives 1 and 15;

4 **encouraged** the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI, if they had not yet done so, as soon as possible;

5 **considered** that the presentations and interactive sessions were highly informative and, **was grateful** to the various speakers and facilitators who helped in raising awareness on MARPOL Annex VI as well as in providing for a greater understanding and appreciation of the requirements for implementation and enforcement of the requirements established by IMO to prevent pollution from ships, which undoubtedly contributed to Governments' efforts towards ratification and more effective implementation, compliance and enforcement of MARPOL Annex VI, both as a flag State and as a port State;

6 **also recalled** that international shipping must be regulated at the global level for any control regime to be effective (e.g. to prevent pollution from ships) and to maintain a level playing field for all ships;

7 **identified** the main challenges addressed by Mediterranean coastal States for the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI including, but not limited to:

- .1 political, legal and technical issues related to ratification procedures;
- .2 the need to ensure fair competition and avoid market distortions; and
- .3 monitoring and surveillance of ship emissions.

8 **explored** the opportunities that MARPOL Annex VI created for regional, sub-regional and bilateral cooperation with a view, *inter alia*:

- .1 to establishing a regional common understanding of the regulations as well as to ensuring their uniform application and effective enforcement;
- .2 to significantly reducing air emissions and, in turn, to benefiting the health, environment and tourism in the Mediterranean region;
- .3 to developing more energy efficient and cleaner technologies for ships;

9 **acknowledged** the need to ensure synergy in supporting capacity-building and technical assistance activities carried out by IMO, REMPEC, the European Commission and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) in the Mediterranean region;

10 **further recalled** that, since 2005, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention had been examining the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea, or parts thereof, as sulphur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>) Emission Control Area(s) (ECA(s)) under MARPOL Annex VI and that, in recent years, efforts had been intensified to contribute to Specific Objective 15 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021);

11 **noted, with appreciation**, that twenty (20) out of the twenty-two (22) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention nominated their representatives serving on the SO<sub>x</sub> ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts established pursuant to the above-mentioned specific objective, which demonstrated the high level of political interest on the matter, and **urged** those Mediterranean coastal States that had not yet nominated their representatives, to do so as soon as possible;

12 **discussed** the draft technical and feasibility study to examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea, or parts thereof, as SO<sub>x</sub> ECA(s) under MARPOL Annex VI commissioned by REMPEC, hereinafter referred to as the draft Technical and Feasibility Study, which was submitted to the SO<sub>x</sub> ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts on 1 October 2018;

13 **welcomed** the fact that two other independent studies commissioned, respectively, by the European Commission<sup>1</sup> and France<sup>2</sup>, were also presented during the Meeting, though not disseminated beforehand, and would contribute to the on-going work of the SO<sub>x</sub> ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts; **invited**, in this regard, both the European Commission and France to submit, when available, their respective studies to the said committee, for its consideration;

14 **noted** the methodology and preliminary results of the three studies, and **discussed** that:

- .1 all three studies suggested comparable scenarios for adopting 0.1% SO<sub>x</sub> ECA in the Mediterranean, hereinafter referred to as the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA;
- .2 costs to operate vessels under the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA requirements were similar among the three studies;
- .3 the health benefits of the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA among the three studies were consistent with the in-study design and inputs; and
- .4 the choices of health modelling and benefits valuation were consistent in finding that benefits provided by the Med SO<sub>x</sub> ECA were greater than the costs to meet the related requirements.

15 **recognised** the benefits of designating the whole of the Mediterranean Sea as a SO<sub>x</sub> ECA and **acknowledged** that designating only parts of the Mediterranean Sea would compromise the achievement of the projected health and environment benefits as well as would have potential implications, *inter alia* on competitiveness;

16 **asked** the Secretariat to revise the draft Technical and Feasibility Study, taking into consideration the comments made by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, through the SO<sub>x</sub> ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts as well as during the Meeting;

17 **took note** of the Ship and Port Emissions Toolkits, developed within the framework of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and IMO Global Maritime Energy Efficiency Partnerships (GloMEEP) Project; and

18 **requested** the Secretariat to report to the Thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC on the outcome of the Meeting as well as any intersessional work that would be carried out by the SO<sub>x</sub> ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts in relation to examining the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea, or parts thereof, as SO<sub>x</sub> ECA(s) under MARPOL Annex VI.

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<sup>1</sup> which included the analysis of the feasibility of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) ECA(s) in all European Union (EU) seawaters *inter alia* the Mediterranean Sea.

<sup>2</sup> which included the analysis of the feasibility of NO<sub>x</sub> ECA(s) in the Mediterranean Sea.