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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.6  
Date: 30 April 2019

Malta, 11-13 June 2019

Original: English

Agenda Item 8

**INFORMATION DOCUMENT ON EUROPEAN UNION SYSTEM AND SERVICES FOR  
MONITORING AND REPORTING MARINE POLLUTION**

**Note by the European Union**

**SUMMARY**

**Executive Summary:** This document provides information regarding Union systems and services for monitoring and reporting marine pollution

**Action to be taken:** Paragraph 18

**Related documents:** REMPEC/WG.41/16, REMPEC/WG.41/9, REMPEC/WG.45/8

**Background**

1 Under European Union legislation several integrated systems and services are used for supporting EU Member State Authorities in exercising obligations incumbent on a Coastal State under International law, including in relation to the reporting and monitoring of marine pollution. This information document gives an overview of these systems and services and also some brief information on the conditions under which non-EU Member States could be given access, where at all allowed.

2 It has to be noted that as the information which is reported under some of these systems does not belong to the European Commission nor the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), any decision to give access, where at all possible, to non-EU Member States depends on their respective governing bodies/ committees and follows procedures.

**Access to EU services in case of an emergency**

3 Without any prior Agreement in place, third countries faced with an emergency situation may request the assistance of the EU, and its various services, by contacting the European Commission via the Emergency Response Coordination Centre.

**Emergency Communication and Information System for marine pollution incidents (CECIS Marine)**

4 The Common Emergency Communication and Information System for marine pollution incidents (CECIS Marine) was developed to enable communication and sharing of information between the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) in Brussels (which is the 24/7 operational hub of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism – 'UCPM'), contact points of the Participating States<sup>1</sup> of the UCPM and the EMSA. CECIS Marine can connect both maritime and civil protection

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<sup>1</sup> EU Member States, Iceland, Norway, Serbia, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Turkey.

authorities, allowing for a more complete overview of at-sea and shoreline operations and assistance. The system can be used during real incidents as well as exercises.

5 CECIS Marine is linked to EMSA's SafeSeaNet and automatically receives and stores information on reported pollution incidents. This information can be transformed into a request for assistance, directed to one or multiple Regional Agreements, EMSA and/or selected/all Participating States of the UCPM. A request for assistance can also be created directly in CECIS Marine, without a POLREP message into SafeSeaNet.

6 Main functionalities of the CECIS Marine include:

- Possibility to request and offer international assistance through a common platform;
- Overview and coordination of international requests and offers;
- Logbook for actions within the system and communication with international users;
- Database of countries' and EMSA's resources for oil and HNS response operations;
- Policy information per country on dispersants and HNS.

7 CECIS Marine is open to third countries sharing a regional sea basin with the Union<sup>2</sup> to enhance:

- **Coordination:** oil or chemical spills may spread very quickly across maritime borders, and it is more effective to have a single platform to exchange information among all countries in the region, REMPEC, ERCC and EMSA, and
- **Streamlining:** the aim is for EU Member States to have a single format for requests and offers of assistance at regional and European level and to simplify obligations to report maritime incidents and national resources.

8 Access to CECIS Marine can be granted upon a written expression of interest by a relevant national authority of a third country addressed to DG ECHO at the European Commission. No third country has requested access to CECIS Marine so far. Current users of the system are the Participating States of the UCPM, ERCC, EMSA and the REMPEC Secretariat.

9 Among the outputs relating to the Contracting Parties, the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) envisages in point 4.21.6 that "the use of CECIS Marine is considered in order to enhance coordination of requests and offers of international assistance".

10 The WestMOPoCo project (2019-2020) co-financed by the EU (DG ECHO), envisages CECIS Marine training for the project beneficiaries (Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia). If other countries in the region expressed an interest to participate in such training, possibilities for extension to wider audience could be explored.

### **The Union Maritime Information and Exchange System (SafeSeaNet)**

11 Established under EU Law (Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Information System Directive - 2002/59/EC) hosted in EMSA and developed together with the EU Member States (the system is centralised and de-centralised) in the formal governance body – the High level Steering Group on the Governance of the Digital Maritime System and Services (HLSG) and provided in support to EU Member States as Coastal States. The system is for relevant EU Authorities. Access for EU Member State relevant authorities is regulated through protected access rights controlled by the HLSG, in order to meet the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as well as security requirements.

12 There is currently no access for third Countries. However, the HLSG has agreed a procedure where one-way reporting access to SafeSeaNet (which is linked to CECIS) may be

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<sup>2</sup> Albania, Algeria, Bosnia Herzegovina, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Russian Federation, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

granted, upon request, to 3rd Countries for POLREP (pollution warning and information request and response).

13 Such access exists currently only for Montenegro as a third Country. REMPEC may consider promoting this set up to ensure effective enforcement of relevant international legal instruments by all Mediterranean coastal States. It is not foreseen to provide any access to secretariats of regional agreements.

14 It is not foreseen to provide any access to SafeSeaNet for the Secretariats of Regional Agreements.

#### **CleanSeaNet**

15 CleanSeaNet (CSN) is a satellite service provided by EMSA and delivering images to EU Member States according to a pre-agreed planning. This service can be also used in case of an emergency with additional images being ordered. CSN services may also be provided, under special conditions, to coastal candidate countries of the EU: Albania, Montenegro and Turkey.

16 Secretariats of the Regional Agreements can not be registered as users of the CleanSeaNet service, nor do they have access, as Secretariats, to the service. It should be noted that when coordinated aerial surveillance operations are taking place within the regional Agreements, additional CleanSeaNet services are usually requested to support these operations, but the requests are placed by/delivered to authorised individuals who are also registered as national CleanSeaNet users.

17 Moreover, in the framework of the SAFEMED IV Project, beneficiary countries may for as long as the project is running have access to the CleanSeaNet service and Satellite AIS data provided that they have signed the CleanSeaNet Service Conditions of Use (CoU). This is currently the case for Jordan, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia. For the purpose of information, in 2018: 125 CSN services delivered, 142 possible oil spills detected.

#### **Actions requested by the Meeting**

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