

Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea

(REMPEC)



Fortieth Anniversary Celebrations

1976 – 2016





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Forewords



His Excellency Mr Kitack Lim
Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)

It is my great pleasure to offer the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea my sincere congratulations on its 40th Anniversary.

The Centre's contribution in assisting Mediterranean coastal States to build up their National Prevention, Preparedness and Response Capabilities to prevent and respond to major marine pollution incidents – and to facilitate cooperation between countries to combat marine pollution – deserves to be celebrated.

In 1976, when the Centre was established under the United Nations Inter-Agency Project between UNEP and IMO, the Centre's mandate was firmly focused on assisting the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention to prepare for and deal with oil spills caused by ships. Today, the Centre's remit extends beyond dealing with accidental oil spills to a much broader mandate to work collaboratively with the Mediterranean States to prevent, control and combat marine pollution in all forms.

Apart from the Centre's work on preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution from oil and hazardous substances today it also addresses issues on the prevention of pollution from ships such as: surveillance for possible illegal operational discharges; ballast water discharges; emissions from ships and anti-fouling systems. The Centre is also working with countries to ensure the provision of adequate port reception facilities in the main ports around the Mediterranean Sea, as well as coordinating assistance to countries to building the capacities of maritime administrations including through enhancing the legislative framework needed at a national level. Through this work REMPEC has become a role model for other regional centres, which have been inspired by the Centre's setup and programme. This should be a source of great pride, not only for REMPEC but all affiliated bodies, sponsors, governments and individuals.

For IMO's part, we are proud in the role our Organization played in helping to set up REMPEC as well as our continuing technical and administrative support. The link between IMO and REMPEC remains very strong, with IMO making extensive use of the Centre through activities under the Organization's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme.



Going forward, IMO is committed in its support for the Centre and I would like to extend my appreciation to UNEP for its long and outstanding cooperation, to all 22 Contracting Parties brought together through the framework that the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) offers, and to the Centre's host country – the Government of Malta.

I am sure that REMPEC will now look to the future and continue its excellent work to improve cooperation in the Mediterranean to prevent and combat marine pollution.

H.E. Mr Kitack Lim

Secretary-General

IMO





Mr Gaetano Leone
Coordinator
United Nations Environment Programme
Barcelona Convention Secretariat
Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan

It is with great appreciation and satisfaction that I extend my best wishes to REMPEC on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary.

Over 40 years, REMPEC had an instrumental role for the delivery of MAP's mandate, in a region characterized by inequality and often lack of dialogue. Being the oldest Regional Activity Centre in the system of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), the Centre has a long history of accomplishments and action in the field of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution in the Mediterranean.

MAP continues to deliver basin-wide instruments and collaborative work, with the involvement of all 22 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. During the Barcelona Convention Conference of the Parties (COP 19) in Athens in February 2016, a large number of legally-binding documents were decided upon, including the Regional Strategy for Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships 2016-2021 and of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Offshore Protocol. REMPEC had a leading role in the preparation of these two instruments that are coherent components of a package of strategic decisions built around the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 and adopted by COP 19. They constitute important elements of the MAP strategic framework, which is in turn very relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2030 Agenda acknowledges the importance for sustainable development of the regional and sub-regional dimensions and of regional economic integration and interconnectivity. It also defines the principles for the achievement and review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which need to build on existing platforms and processes, respond to national circumstances, capacities, needs and priorities, and require enhanced capacity-building.

The MAP system and its components have been a relevant and effective regional instrument, facilitating the effective translation of sustainable development agendas, strategies and policies into concrete action at the national level, sharpening the focus on specific regional and sub-regional priorities, supporting cooperation and coordinated action, and enhancing streamlined reporting. REMPEC's work represents a strong basis for MAP's contribution to the achievement of SDG 14 in particular, on the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, requiring the mobilization of all actors at all levels.

Within the MAP system, much energy is being devoted to integration and coordination, or, in other words, higher efficiency and amplified impacts. REMPEC has been developing a number of activities in collaboration with other Components of the MAP system. Through this work, and in the wider context of the MAP system, the trajectory from global aspirations and goals on sustainable development to national and local action and achievements in an integrated fashion is thus very visible at the Mediterranean level.

Mr Gaetano Leone

Coordinator

UNEP

Barcelona Convention Secretariat

Coordinating Unit for MAP





The Honourable Dr George W. Vella
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Malta

‘Serving the Seas as the Common Heritage of Mankind’

The 40th Anniversary of the establishment of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) on our island is indeed an occasion that warrants special commemoration. As host country, I am immensely pleased of REMPEC’s commitment towards the achievement of the goals set by the international maritime community. This Commemorative book is being launched as a memento to REMPEC, which has made a name for itself as a world-class regional centre specialised in combating oil pollution.

Our country’s commitment towards a world of nations governed by mutual cooperation and understanding, and underpinned by the rule of law, has been prominently manifested throughout our history. Malta’s initiatives within the United Nations on issues relating to the environment are well known. One such contribution is exemplified by the concepts relating to the seas and seabed as part of the Common Heritage of Mankind, pioneered by Dr Arvid Pardo, Malta’s former UN Ambassador, whose proposal on 1 November 1967 spearheaded a treaty to prevent an arms race under the sea, dealing with the dangers of a potential ‘competitive scramble’ for oil, minerals and other underwater riches.

A Law of the Sea would eventually materialise in 1982. Under the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), states have the general obligation to “protect and preserve the marine environment, and shall take measures to prevent, reduce and control all type of pollution of the marine environment.” Indeed, REMPEC is fitting to the process as a manifestation of this general obligation. Established in 1976 as the Regional Oil Combating Centre (ROCC), REMPEC has supported Mediterranean states in combating oil pollution ever since. Celebrating 40 years means celebrating 40 years of achievement. The Centre’s original mandate to strengthen the capacities of coastal states in the Mediterranean and to assist in combatting marine pollution by oil, has been broadened over the years in order to address also emerging relevant issues that constantly threaten the Mediterranean. By developing national capacities to combat oil pollution and establishing a regional information centre/system to deal with marine pollution emergencies, REMPEC has made a name for itself in the field.

This year also marks the 40th anniversary of the Barcelona Convention, which, together with the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), represents one of the most advanced legal regimes for regional cooperation, and the framework under which REMPEC operates. Within the MAP system, the first-ever regional agreement under the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP), REMPEC has constantly reiterated its call in preventing and responding to marine pollution from ships.

Taking this opportunity, Malta would like to express its appreciation for the work conducted by REMPEC, operating under UNEP/MAP and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), in its mandate to protect the Marine Environment. In this regard, the Government of Malta will continue steadfastly in supporting REMPEC's regional mission in the years to come.

For an island-state like Malta, the Sea has been our vocation. The Mediterranean and our maritime activities have ultimately shaped and steered our relations with our neighbours and Mediterranean friends. All of this comes at a key moment for the Mediterranean and Europe. As we celebrate this 40th anniversary, let us recall the importance of regional cooperation to ensure a sustainable and healthy Mediterranean that future generations will be able to enjoy.

The Hon. Dr George W. Vella

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Malta





The Honourable Mr Joe Mizzi
Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Malta

This year, we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the setting up of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), originally known as the Regional Oil Combating Centre (ROCC).

Anniversary celebrations are like the Roman god Janus who looks both at the past and to the future. Today we look back over the past forty years to remember how the REMPEC vision was conceived, matured and realised but, since we must not rest on our laurels, this is also the time when we also look to the future to consolidate these achievements and to set objectives based on new visions attuned to current and future needs.

Malta is proud of its close association with the vision that was REMPEC and with the realization of that vision. The Maltese Government has been there from the very early days and not only has its support not faltered but it has increased over the years. I take this opportunity, as Minister responsible for shipping in Malta, to reaffirm Malta's firm commitment towards the work and objective of REMPEC.

We are all dependent on the sea surrounding us; for our economy to continue flourishing, we need safe, clean, secure and sustainable seas. Thus it is important that we ensure that the Mediterranean Sea is protected from pollution from ships. I am confident that REMPEC will not shy away from its pivotal role in this respect and will incessantly continue to work towards strengthening the capacities of the littoral States in the region with the view to abating, combating and, to the fullest extent, eliminating pollution of the marine environment from shipping activities.

I am also confident that REMPEC will continue to promote and further consolidate the cooperation between littoral States of the Mediterranean in the field of the prevention of pollution and facilitating cooperation among States in order to respond to pollution incidents which can have a detrimental effect on one of most populated coast of the world. It is in our interest and that of future generations to ensure that REMPEC is further strengthened and consolidated.

The maritime industry and in particular the littoral States of the Mediterranean noble objectives would be the losers if the REMPEC dream had to be curtailed. The vision of the founding fathers, the work of successive Directors and staff would not have been in vain if the Centre had to falter because what has been achieved shall always be there. But these same vision and work were aimed towards a horizon more distant than the forty years which is the milestone where we are now. A lot has been done but a great deal more must be achieved, especially with the ever evolving maritime activity in the Mediterranean Sea.

This publication pays tribute to the many men and women behind the success story of REMPEC. Their dedication reflects their conviction that the prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution in the Mediterranean are of paramount importance for the survival of many people living around this important enclosed Sea. I thank them for their hard work and look forward to many more fruitful years of the Centre.

I look forward to continue working with REMPEC in the future.

The Hon. Mr Joe Mizzi

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Malta



**The Honourable Dr José A. Herrera
Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment
and Climate Change, Malta**

It gives me great honour to write this foreword on the auspicious occasion of the 40th Anniversary of REMPEC. Malta is very proud to have hosted this important United Nations institution for four decades, and we in the environment sector are especially very proud of REMPEC and its work to prevent and combat marine pollution from ships in the Mediterranean.

The Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean Sea, under which REMPEC falls, is an important convention for Malta, due to our maritime vocation and geographic location in the Mediterranean Sea. Indeed, Malta attaches high priority and relevance to all matters concerning the Mediterranean region, and believes that environmental cooperation represents a strategic tool to contribute to the overall stability of the Mediterranean region. In this respect, Malta believes that the UNEP/MAP “Barcelona system” is a unique and valuable cooperative system for the protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean region. Malta has always been actively supportive of the MAP system, particularly REMPEC, and the importance of this centre to the Mediterranean region.

Malta feels that the Mediterranean Action Plan continues to be an important and necessary tool for the protection of the economic, social, health and cultural value of the marine environment of the Mediterranean Sea area. Malta, along with partners, continues to be committed to the preservation of this common heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Malta stresses that one must not forget the threats posed by pollution to the marine environment, its ecological equilibrium, resources and legitimate uses. In its opinion, close cooperation among the States and international organizations concerned in a coordinated and comprehensive regional approach for the protection and enhancement of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea area continues to be vital.

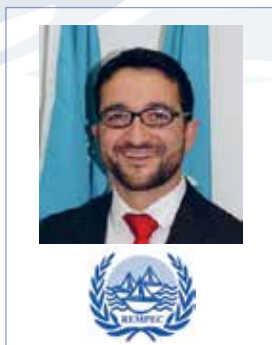
Over the years, REMPEC has shown its worth as a Regional Centre focussing on combatting massive marine pollution by oil through its work on strengthening the capacities of coastal states in the Mediterranean region and facilitating cooperation among them, by establishing a regional information system to deal with marine pollution emergencies, and in later years with a particular focus on preventive measures against pollution from ships.

Among REMPEC's achievements one must mention its assistance for the development of national preparedness systems, its assistance to group of countries to draft and adopt sub-regional agreements on preparedness and response to spills, assistance to countries in emergency situations, its training programmes involving over 3,500 government officials and volunteers, its work on supporting the development of port reception facilities, its assistance to Contracting Parties in strengthening their legislative framework in order to have dedicated laws for the enforcement of MARPOL in terms of illicit discharges from ships, development of guidance on ballast water management and pollution from private pleasure craft, as well as its more recent work on marine litter in the Mediterranean. In Malta's view, these achievements in the area of capacity-building and fostering cooperation between riparian states and the relevant organisations are of the utmost importance for the future.

In view of its important role in fostering the protection of the Mediterranean Sea from pollution in line with the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, I augur that REMPEC continues to render its excellent services to the region in the coming years ahead.

The Hon. Dr José A. Herrera

Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change, Malta



Mr Gabino Gonzalez Deogracia
Head of Office of REMPEC

After the launch of the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1974, the Mediterranean became the first region to adopt an Action Plan, namely the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of 1975. The following year, on 11 December 1976, the Regional Oil Combating Centre (ROCC) was established and, since then, it has been a pioneer in the field of preparedness and response to marine pollution from ships, inspiring the drafting of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC).

The Centre, which saw its mandate extended over the years in conformity with the decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention of 1976 with a view to addressing relevant emerging issues and the respective global developments with a particular focus on preventive measures against pollution from ships, and which had its name eventually changed in 1989 to “Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), has been used as a model within the framework of the Regional Seas Programme for many years in different parts of the world from the Northwest Pacific to the Wider Caribbean and has remained a reference within the International Community in the context of the implementation of Conventions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Today, new concepts such as the Green and Blue Growth and the Ecosystem Approach are emerging in an evolving and highly sensitive Mediterranean region seeing expansion of its tourism, maritime traffic, offshore exploration and production, requiring coordination, integration and cooperation to enable all Mediterranean coastal States to meet their obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and the relevant IMO Conventions, with a view to ultimately contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, there is no doubt that the Centre has played a crucial role in facilitating such coordination, integration and cooperation, being at cross-roads between, on the one hand, the local, national and sub-regional community needs, and the other hand, the regional and international regimes. The integration concept is embraced within the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, which was prepared in close collaboration with all UNEP/MAP Components, incorporating, amongst others strategic instruments, including the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships 2016-2021, and the Mediterranean

Offshore Action Plan, both setting clear objectives for the coming years. Cooperation has been a core activity of the Centre, from the establishment of networks involving the public and the private sectors, as well as technical, legal, academic and research institutions, the development of capacity building and technical programmes, the exchange of data and information crucial for any decision-making process, to the definition of Mediterranean standards, procedures or guidance documents.

An efficient coordination at national, sub-regional, regional and international levels is indeed crucial to any success in the Mediterranean region. In this regard, the Centre will endeavour with the support of IMO, UNEP and its partners, to continue its efforts to provide a comprehensive, pragmatic, operational and sustainable system for the benefit of all Mediterranean coastal States and their relevant competent authorities with a view to preventing, reducing and controlling marine pollution from ships and to enhancing the level of preparedness to face marine pollution incidents in the Mediterranean region.

The Centre has also been a story of highly motivated and passionate people who, through their administrations, organisations or companies, have heavily contributed to the achievements of the Centre over the past four decades and I am happy to dedicate this commemorative book is dedicated to all of them.

Mr Gabino Gonzalez Deogracia

Head of Office

REMPEC

REMPEC in a nutshell

Centre administered by the IMO in cooperation with UNEP/MAP



1 of the 6 UNEP/MAP's Regional Activities Centres

Network of Focal Points as per Decision IG 17.3 adopted by COP15

Objective and mission statement:

The objective of REMPEC is to contribute to preventing and reducing pollution from ships and combating pollution in case of emergency. In this respect, the mission of REMPEC is to assist the Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under Articles 4(1), 6 and 9 of the Barcelona Convention; the 1976 Emergency Protocol; the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and implementing the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021), adopted by the Nineteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016) whose key objectives and targets are reflected in the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). The Centre will also assist the Contracting Parties which so request in mobilizing the regional and international assistance in case of an emergency under the Offshore Protocol.

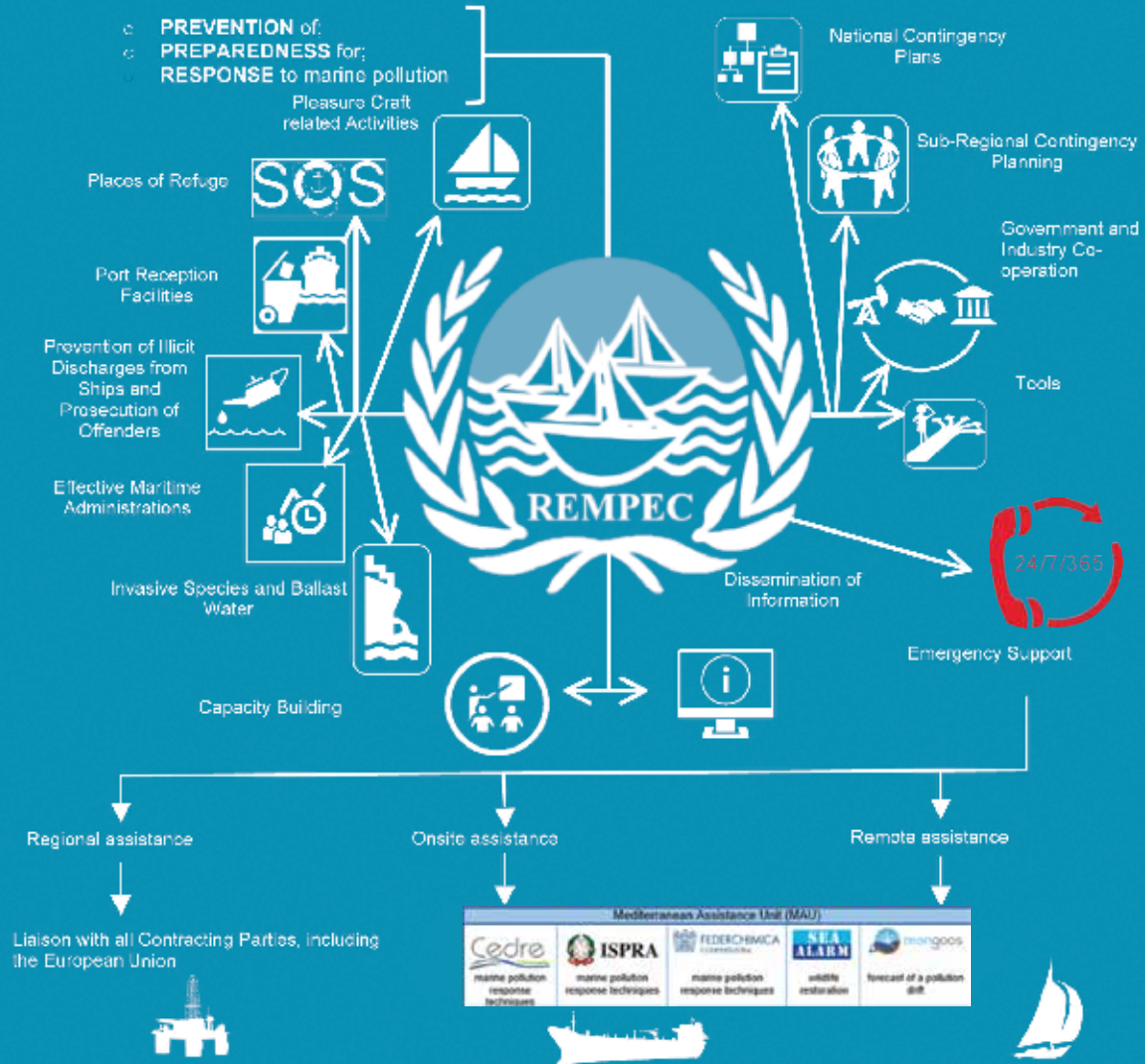
Scope of action and key issues:

The main actions of REMPEC in the fields of prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships and of preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution and cooperation in case of emergency include the following:

1. strengthening the capacities of the coastal States in the region with a view to preventing pollution of the marine environment from ships and ensuring the effective implementation in the region of the rules that are generally recognized at the international level relating to the prevention of pollution from ships, and with a view to abating, combating and, to the fullest possible extent, eliminating pollution of the marine environment from shipping activities, including pleasure crafts;
2. developing regional cooperation in the field of the prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships, and facilitating cooperation among Mediterranean coastal States in order to respond to pollution incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or other hazardous and noxious substances and which require emergency actions or other immediate response;
3. assisting coastal States of the Mediterranean region which so request in the development of their own national capabilities for response to pollution incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or other hazardous and noxious substances and facilitating the exchange of information, technological cooperation and training;
4. providing a framework for the exchange of information on operational, technical, scientific, legal and financial matters, and promoting dialogue aimed at conducting coordinated action at the national, regional and global levels for the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol; and
5. assisting coastal States of the region, which in cases of emergency so request, either directly or by obtaining assistance from other Parties, or when possibilities for assistance do not exist within the region, in obtaining international assistance from outside the region.



- To fulfil its mandate, the Centre carries out activities related to:



Legal Framework of REMPEC

The foundations for regional cooperation in the fields of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships in the Mediterranean are set out in the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol) to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention).

The 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, which entered into force on 17 March 2004, is the regional instrument that sets the main principles of cooperation in dealing with threats to the marine environment, the coasts and related interests of the Contracting Parties posed by accidental releases or by accumulations of small, operational discharges, of oil or other harmful substances.

In the context 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, which entered into force on 24 March 2011, Contracting Parties shall implement *mutatis mutandis* the provisions of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, for contingency planning, notification and mutual assistance in cases of emergency.

In this legal context, REMPEC is a bridge between the regional level, through its contribution to the



various themes dealt with within the context of the Barcelona Convention and its seven (7) Protocols, with the support of other UNEP/MAP Components; and the

international level by assisting 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, in particular those adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).



International Conventions addressing maritime safety and prevention of pollution from ships:

International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (LL 1966);

Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966;

International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS 1974);

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as amended by the Protocols of 1978 and 1997 relating thereto (MARPOL) and its Annexes;

International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for Seafarers, 1978

as amended in 1995 (STCW 1995);
Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (COLREG 1972), as amended;
International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969 (TONNAGE 1969);
International Convention on the Control of Harmful Antifouling Systems on Ships, 2001;
International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004;
Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009;
1996 London Protocol on Prevention of Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter; and
ILO Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 147), and the Protocol of 1996 relating thereto.

International Conventions addressing combating pollution:

International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC);
Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances 2000 (OPRC-HNS Protocol);

International Convention relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties, 1969 (INTERVENTION 1969) and its Protocol relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Pollution by Substances other than Oil, 1973 (INTERVENTION PROTOCOL 1973);
International Convention on Salvage, 1989 (SALVAGE 1989); and
Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007.

International Conventions addressing liability and compensation for pollution damage:

International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992 (CLC 1992);
International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992 (FUND 1992);
Protocol on the Establishment of a Supplementary Fund for Oil Pollution Damage, 2003;
Protocol of 1996 to amend the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976;
International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001; and
2010 Protocol to the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996.

Historical developments of the Mediterranean context and of REMPEC

1974-1975

After the creation of the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1974, the Mediterranean became the first region to adopt an Action Plan, namely the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of 1975.

1976

The Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States of the Mediterranean Region for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea, was convened in Barcelona, Spain, from 2 to 16 February 1976 and adopted the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (“the Barcelona Convention of 1976”), which aims at protecting the marine environment and coastal zones through prevention and reduction of pollution and, as far as possible, elimination of pollution, whether land- or sea-based. The Barcelona Convention was adopted together with the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Dumping Protocol) and the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency (“the 1976 Emergency Protocol”). The 1976 Emergency Protocol makes reference to the “Regional Centre”, the meaning of which is clarified in Resolution 7 of the said Diplomatic Conference, which relates to the establishment of a Regional Oil Combating Centre for the Mediterranean Sea in Malta.

On the basis of the mandate provided by the said Resolution, the Executive Director of UNEP and the Secretary-General of IMO, then known as the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), signed a Project Document related to the establishment and operation of the Centre on 2 September 1976. The Regional Oil Combating Centre (ROCC) was officially established on 11 December 1976, in accordance with the decision of the Contracting Parties, with the mandate to strengthen the capacities of coastal States in the Mediterranean region and to facilitate cooperation among them in order to combat massive marine pollution by oil, particularly by developing national capacities to combat oil pollution and by establishing a regional information system with a view to dealing with marine pollution emergencies. However, the mandate will be extended over the years in conformity with the decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention of 1976 with a

view to addressing relevant emerging issues and the respective global developments with a particular focus on preventive measures against pollution from ships.

1978

The Barcelona Convention of 1976, the Dumping Protocol and the 1976 Emergency Protocol entered into force on 12 February 1978.

1979

The Mediterranean Regional Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (MTF) was established and a budget created for ROCC, covering the Centre's operating costs and activities.

1987

In 1987, the Centre's mandate was extended to include "hazardous substances other than oil".

1989

In 1989, the name of the Centre was changed to the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).

1993

The Centre's mandate was further extended with a view to addressing relevant emerging issues such as promotion of regional cooperation for the implementation and enforcement of IMO Conventions for the prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships.

The Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU), consisting of an expert advisory service available remotely or on-site upon request of a Contracting Party in case of an emergency situation, was established by the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Antalya, Turkey, October 1993).



1994

The Contracting Parties adopted 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 (“the Offshore Protocol”). Whilst the Offshore Protocol specifically requests Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to implement mutatis mutandis the provisions of the 1976 Emergency Protocol, in cases of emergency, it also details the role of REMPEC in this matter.

1995

The Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean (MAP Phase II) was adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. At the same time, the Barcelona Convention of 1976 was amended and renamed the “Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean” (“the Barcelona Convention”). The amendments pertain to, inter alia, sustainable development concept, precautionary principle, polluter pays principle, environmental impact assessment procedure and integrated coastal zone management. It addresses some cross-cutting issues, such as pollution monitoring of the Mediterranean Sea, scientific and technological cooperation, environmental legislation, public information and participation, and liability and compensation.

1997


The adoption of a Resolution on a “Regional Strategy on prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships” opened the way for amending the 1976 Emergency Protocol.

1998

Contracting Parties initiated a long and wide consultation process to review the 1976 Emergency Protocol in order to address the prevention of marine pollution but also to bring its text up to date.

1999

Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) was established in order to facilitate the



exchange of technical data and other scientific and technological information aimed at assessing the nature, exposure and risks from accidental marine pollution and promoting remedies for such pollution in the Mediterranean Sea area.

2001

Contracting Parties adopted the new objectives and functions of REMPEC, reaffirming its involvement in activities related to prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution and instead of amending the 1976 Emergency Protocol decided to adopt a new one.

2002

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”) was adopted. The said Protocol covers prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from sea-based sources, either caused by accidental releases or by accumulations of small, operational discharges, of oil or other harmful substances.

2004

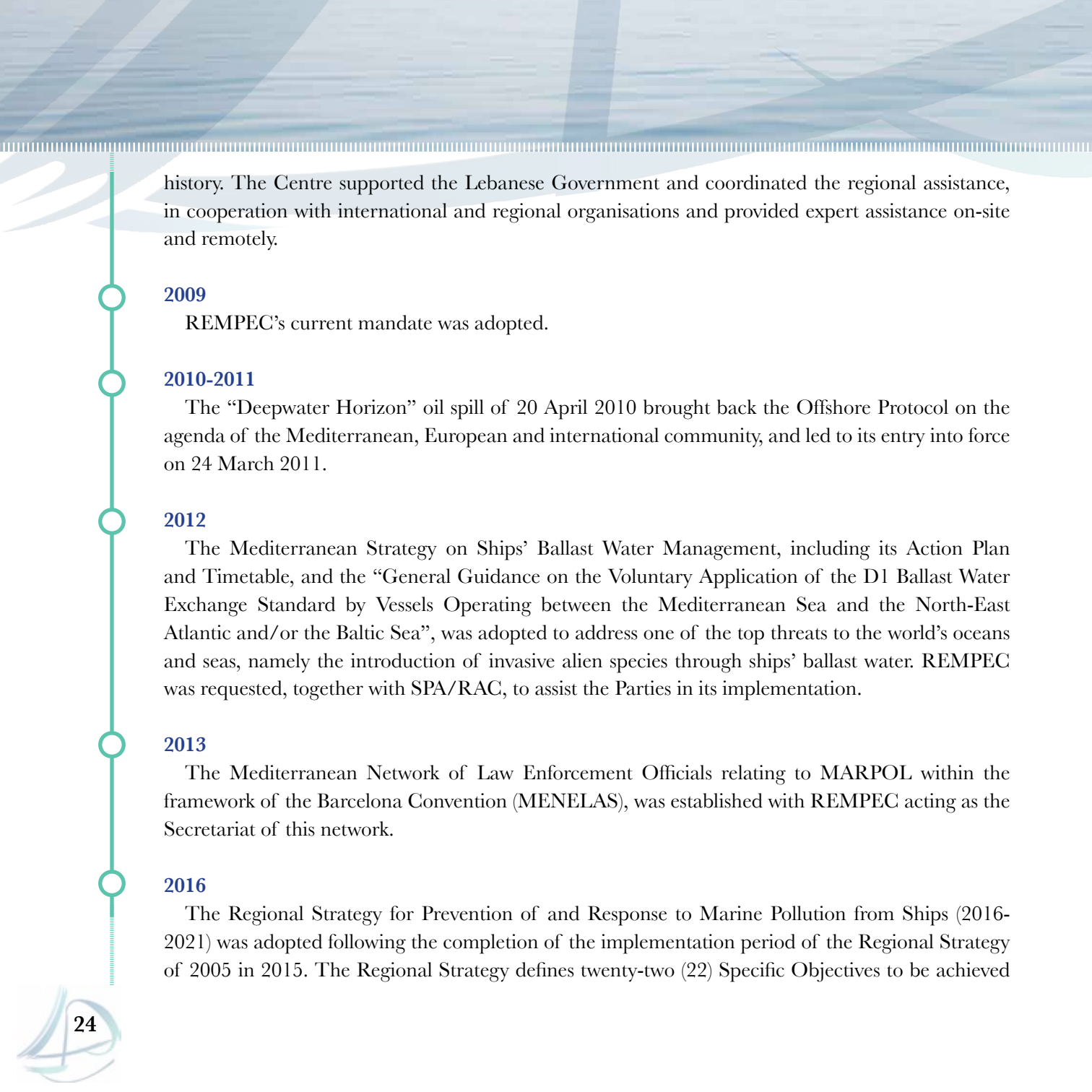
This year saw the entry into force of the Barcelona Convention and the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, which replaced the 1976 Emergency Protocol in the relations between the Parties to both instruments.

2005

The Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships was adopted, defining twenty-one (21) objectives to be achieved by 2015, as well as a set of implementation goals, a timetable for its implementation, and listing relevant international Conventions and European legislation.

2006

The Jiyeh Power Plant pollution incident, in Lebanon, marked a major milestone in REMPEC’s



history. The Centre supported the Lebanese Government and coordinated the regional assistance, in cooperation with international and regional organisations and provided expert assistance on-site and remotely.

2009

REMPEC's current mandate was adopted.

2010-2011

The “Deepwater Horizon” oil spill of 20 April 2010 brought back the Offshore Protocol on the agenda of the Mediterranean, European and international community, and led to its entry into force on 24 March 2011.

2012

The Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management, including its Action Plan and Timetable, and the “General Guidance on the Voluntary Application of the D1 Ballast Water Exchange Standard by Vessels Operating between the Mediterranean Sea and the North-East Atlantic and/or the Baltic Sea”, was adopted to address one of the top threats to the world's oceans and seas, namely the introduction of invasive alien species through ships' ballast water. REMPEC was requested, together with SPA/RAC, to assist the Parties in its implementation.

2013

The Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS), was established with REMPEC acting as the Secretariat of this network.

2016

The Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) was adopted following the completion of the implementation period of the Regional Strategy of 2005 in 2015. The Regional Strategy defines twenty-two (22) Specific Objectives to be achieved

by 2021 in relation to priority issues to be addressed when implementing the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

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, was prepared by UNEP/MAP Secretariat with substantial contribution of REMPEC.

As from August 2016, out of twenty-two (22) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, except one, are Parties to the 1976 Emergency Protocol. Sixteen (16) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention signed the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, and fifteen (15) are Parties thereto (Croatia, Cyprus, European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey). With regard to the Offshore Protocol, twelve (12) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention signed the said Protocol, and as of August 2016, seven (7) are Parties thereto (Albania, Cyprus, European Union, Libya, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia).



REMPEC Funding

REMPEC's activities are agreed upon on a biennial basis by the Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in the form of a Programme of Work, which is partly financed by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF), the financial pillar of the Barcelona Convention.

REMPEC is continuously exploring other sources of funding, including the IMO's Technical Cooperation Division funds, which has been financing on a regular basis numerous activities in the region. It has become common practice for REMPEC to submit project proposals to European funding mechanisms to provide funding for the Centre to implement its Programme of Work, as requested by the Contracting Parties. Some of the major funding programmes which are supporting REMPEC activities include LIFE programme, MEDA Programme, MED Programme, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (DG ECHO)'s Civil Protection Financial Instrument, the Programme on Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC), the Environment and Natural Resources Thematic Programme (ENRTP), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Since the early 90s, REMPEC has been coordinating or involved in the implementation of 17 externally funded projects.

The Centre has also benefited from in-kind support from numerous partners for the implementation of its activities or during emergencies and has also received financial contributions from various countries and institutions including the oil and gas industry.



Valletta, Malta © Martin Petterson

Main Achievements

REMPEC carries out numerous activities, from technical activities such as workshops, training courses, experts' assessments, studies and proposals, to helping the development of regional instruments and guidelines as well as assisting the Mediterranean coastal States in implementing in a coherent way the relevant international maritime rules and regulations, amongst others.

Most of the current activities derive from the provisions of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, and are aimed at supporting the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of the Marine Pollution from ships (2016-2021), which constitutes a 5-year roadmap for the implementation of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

PREVENTION

By introducing the Prevention of Marine Pollution from ships in its mandate, in 1993, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention endorsed the extended role of the Centre to address pollution from chemicals, other harmful substances, garbage, sewage, air pollution and emissions from ships as laid down in the MARPOL Convention. Since then, the Centre also assists the Mediterranean coastal States in ratifying, transposing, implementing and enforcing other international maritime conventions addressing inter alia anti-fouling systems used on ships, the transfer of alien species by ships' ballast water and the environmentally sound recycling of ships, etc.

An overview of achievements in the field of prevention of marine pollution from ships is provided with a particular focus on the reinforcement of maritime administrations, prevention of illicit discharges from ships and prosecution of offenders, promotion of port reception facilities, control of pleasure craft activities, designation of places of refuge, prevention of introduction of Invasive Species and Ballast Water Management.

Effective Maritime Administrations



REMPEC largely contributed to strengthening maritime administrations in the Mediterranean region, by coordinating the EU-funded MEDA Regional Projects “Euromed Co-operation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships” – SAFEMED I between 2006 and 2009 and SAFEMED II between 2010 and 2013.



REMPEC also organises various training activities on the matter, and notably several MARPOL-related training courses.



MARPOL related training course

Prevention of Illicit Discharges from Ships and Prosecution of Offenders



Under the coordination of REMPEC, the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS) was established.



REMPEC developed, in cooperation with Plan Bleu, the MENELAS Information System - www.menelas.org, which was launched in 2015.

MENELAS

Three (3) coordinated aerial surveillance operations were organised under the initiative of REMPEC or on the margins of REMPEC organized events in 2009, 2013 and 2015.



© French Customs

Port Reception Facilities



REMPEC carried out an EU/MEDA funded project entitled “Port Reception Facilities for collecting ship-generated garbage, bilge waters and oily wastes”, the implementation of which was completed in 2004.

REMPEC compiled an inventory of port reception facilities in Mediterranean coastal States that are not Member States of the European Union and provided recommendations for the implementation of technical solutions.

Subsequently, the Special Area status of the Mediterranean Sea under MARPOL Annex V, which entered into force on 1st May 2009, is the result of a joint proposal led by Cyprus, with the assistance of REMPEC, which was submitted to the 57th Session of the IMO’s Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC).

REMPEC will continue supporting actions in this regard within the framework of the Marine Litter-MED Project and other initiatives.



Grand Harbour, Malta

Pleasure Craft related Activities



The increasing development of pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean and their impact on the marine environment have been addressed within the framework of the Barcelona Convention. As required by the specific objective 8 of the 2005 Regional Strategy, REMPEC prepared Guidelines concerning Pleasure Craft Activities and the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean, which were adopted by the Fifteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in January 2008. The purpose of the Guidelines is to provide assistance to the Mediterranean coastal States in ensuring an effective environmental management of pleasure craft activities by, as far as possible, applying in a harmonised way the provisions of the relevant instruments adopted regionally or internationally.

The Guidelines are also intended for users of pleasure craft and managers of marinas to encourage them to apply proper environmental practices and to comply with the relevant requirements. These Guidelines should also serve to assist in planning and developing the environmental performance of marinas.

REMPEC will continue supporting actions in this regard within the framework of the Marine Litter-MED Project and other initiatives.



© Joe Nguyen



Places of Refuge



With a view to assisting Mediterranean coastal States in designating places of refuge in line with the IMO recommendations and EU legislation, REMPEC prepared a set of procedures and guidelines that could be followed by the Mediterranean coastal States during the decision making process concerning the designation of places of refuge for ships in need of assistance. Subsequently, the Guidelines on the Decision Making Process for Granting Access to a Place of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance prepared by REMPEC were approved by the Fifteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in January 2008. The purpose of the Guidelines is to assist the Mediterranean coastal States in establishing places of refuge to minimize the risks of widespread pollution.

The Guidelines recognise that a distinction has to be made between emergency situations where maritime safety is concerned as opposed to emergency situations where the national security is concerned. The Guidelines have been designed to protect and prevent harm to the marine environment, to protect citizens, coastlines and maritime industries, including commercial ports.



Abeille Bourbon © Michel Floch

Invasive Species and Ballast Water



Since 2007, REMPEC, through the implementation of the GloBallast Partnerships Programme in the Mediterranean region, has spearheaded a capacity building programme on the management of ships' ballast water management in the region. REMPEC was identified by the IMO as the Regional Coordinating Organization (RCO) to lead the implementation of the project in the region, in consideration of the direct relevance of the Partnership's objectives to the mandate of the Centre. REMPEC coordinated the implementation of the project in collaboration with the UNEP/MAP's Regional Activity Centre for Specially



Mnemiopsis leidyi © Lance Rogers

Protected Areas (SPA/RAC).

REMPEC substantially supported the development of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management, including its Action Plan and Timetable as well as the "General Guidance on the Voluntary Application of the D1 Ballast Water Exchange Standard by Vessels Operating between the Mediterranean Sea and the North-East Atlantic and/or the Baltic Sea", which was adopted by the Seventeenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Paris, France, 8-10 February 2012), with a view to addressing this threat and to minimising the risk of introducing new species. The Mediterranean Strategy includes interim arrangements for ships sailing in the Mediterranean to exchange their ballast water in accordance with the requirements of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention). These arrangements are of a voluntary interim nature as they became applicable on a voluntary basis as from 1st January 2012 until the BWM Convention enters into force. As this is a matter of concern not only within the Mediterranean Sea but also in the neighbouring seas, REMPEC, for the Barcelona Convention, and the Commission of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Commission) and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission or HELCOM) developed the General Guidance, which entered into force on 1 October 2012, to be applied by shipmasters on a voluntary basis, until the BWM Convention enters into force.



© Jan Berghuis, Captain Kolga Heerema Marine Contractors Netherlands

PREPAREDNESS

The existence of reliable national systems for preparedness and response, including administrative organisation, trained personnel, basic equipment and in particular contingency plans for combating marine pollution incidents, is considered to be the single most important factor which determines the effectiveness and the success of response to marine pollution incidents.

Since REMPEC's objectives and functions include assisting the Mediterranean coastal States in each of the phases of the development of their national systems, one of the most important activities of REMPEC, since its establishment in December 1976, has been providing this type of assistance to the individual coastal States which so request.

Developing and consolidating an effective national system for preparedness for and response to marine pollution incidents is a complex and continuous process. It comprises setting up the organizational framework for dealing with marine pollution incidents, based on a political decision to do so, preparation of a national contingency plan and related local contingency plans, training personnel designated to respond to pollution incidents, and acquisition of basic pollution response equipment and products.

Some achievements in this area are provided below to illustrate REMPEC role in this field.

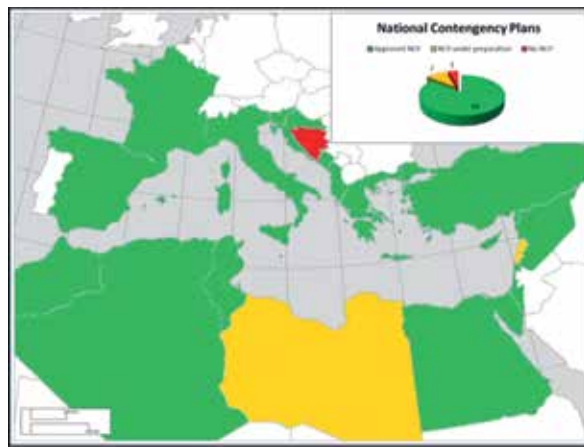
National Contingency Plans



Since its establishment, REMPEC has provided its assistance for the preparation of national systems for preparedness for and response to marine pollution, to the competent national authorities of fifteen (15) Mediterranean coastal States (Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey).

Morocco, Slovenia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey).

From two (2) National Contingency Plans in place in 1976, in 2016, eighteen (18) Mediterranean coastal States have existing national preparedness and response systems, including operational National Contingency Plans (Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey). Besides, discussions are going on with the remaining countries whose National Contingency Plans are still to be finalised.



National Contingency Plans

Sub-Regional Contingency Planning



REMPEC has been involved, since 1992, in the development of sub-regional systems for preparedness and response to major marine pollution incidents. The Centre specifically assisted in the mid-90s in the preparation of a sub-regional contingency plan and in the conclusion of a sub-regional agreement on its implementation between Cyprus, Israel and Egypt, in the mid-2000s in a similar one between Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, which entered into force in May 2011 as well as one between Croatia, Italy and Slovenia, which has not yet entered into force. Today, the Centre is coordinating the preparation of a Sub-Regional Contingency Plan and the related Agreement between Cyprus, Greece and Israel. The Centre is also exploring closer collaboration with the Secretariat of the first sub-regional agreement established in the

Mediterranean region between France, Italy and Monaco, the RAMOGE Agreement, which is also celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2016.



40th Anniversary RAMOGE © Charly Gallo Centre de Presse

Government and Industry Cooperation



Article 11 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol and Resolution 5 of the Conference on International Co-operation on Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response and Co-operation of 1990 call governments to cooperate with the oil and shipping industries.

At the regional level, the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG) comprised of oil companies and associates, was institutionalized in 2004 with the purpose of strengthening the cooperation between the governments and the industry in the Mediterranean Sea. At the international level, the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) was established in 1974 following the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

In 2008, in close cooperation with the oil industry, REMPEC conducted an assessment exercise with a view to obtaining a national and regional overview of the situation in the Mediterranean, with regard to preparedness for and response to oil pollution from a government and an industry perspective. Based on this assessment, the Mediterranean Government Industry Action Plan (MGICAP), short, medium and long term joint programmes of work were prepared to support the planning and implementation of activities regularly organised jointly by REMPEC and the industry sector.

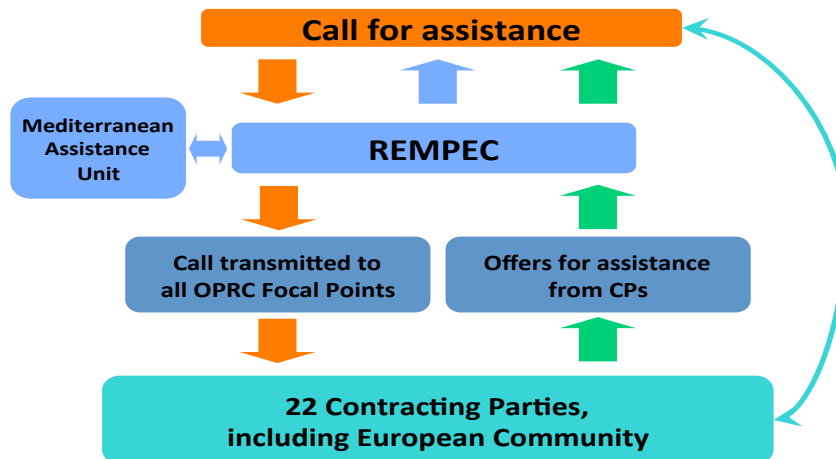


Excercise in Zarzis, Tunisia

RESPONSE

One of the main tasks of the Centre, deriving from its mandate, has been defined as “assistance to the coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which in cases of emergency so request, in obtaining assistance of the other Parties to the Prevention and Emergency Protocol or, when the possibilities for assistance do not exist within the region, in obtaining assistance from outside the region”.

The assistance of the Centre can take the form of remote assistance, on-site assistance and regional assistance. In this regard, the Centre put into place a 24/7 system to be reachable at any time. The Centre also established a team of experts pooled under the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU), which can be mobilized on request by any Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention in case of an emergency. The MAU is currently composed of the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre), the Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA), the Federazione Nazionale dell’Industria Chimica (FEDERCHIMICA), the Sea Alarm Foundation, and the Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Ocean Observing System (MONGOOS).



Mediterranean Assistance Unit

Emergency Support



REMPEC supported the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention in various incidents, for instance during:

- the breached pipeline pollution event in Eilat, Israel, in December 2014, the Centre provided remote technical assistance through the activation of the MAU, and disseminated information to relevant key players.
- the DEEPWATER HORIZON oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, the Centre acted as the regional entity to gather information on available response means that could be used in the response operation.
- the oil spill of the Jiyeh Power Plant in Lebanon in 2006, the Centre played a major role providing inter alia technical advice to the Lebanese Authorities, coordinated at regional level the requests and offers of assistance in collaboration with the European and international organization, activated the MAU and led the expert group in charge of preparing an action plan.
- the M/T GEROI CHERNOMORYA spill in 1992 and the NASSIA/SHIPBROKER incident in 1994.
- the M/T HAVEN Accident, off Genoa on 11 April 1991, the Centre provided data on equipment available in each Mediterranean countries to the Italian authorities, and participated in an inter-agency task force which offered on-site assistance to the Italian authorities responsible for directing spill response operations.
- on several other occasions, during training and exercises, REMPEC participated in coordination of response and/or collection of information through the MAU and/or dissemination of information.



Jiyeh Power Station, Lebanon

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

Tools



In order to assist the Mediterranean coastal States which so request in case of emergency or in developing their preparedness and response systems the Centre develops and keeps up-to-date various decision support systems and tools. These include:

- the Maritime Integrated Decision Support Information System (MIDSIS-TROCS) is a decision support system designed as a reference for use in the field (downloadable offline application) or office (online version) and developed to assist decision-makers to select plausible measures to be taken in case of release of hazardous material marine spill;
- the Waste Management Decision Support Tool is based on the Mediterranean Oil Spill Waste Management Guidelines and aims at facilitating the drafting of a national oily waste management strategy and plan;
- the Mediterranean Integrated Geographical Information System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment and Response (MEDGIS-MAR), is a unique portal providing access to a multi-model integrated oil spill forecasting system, a database on alert and accident records gathered since 1977, socio-economic and environmental layers, maritime traffic data, as well as geolocalised inventories on response equipment, offshore installations, and oil handling facilities;
- the MENELAS information system is an internet-based tool comprising two main parts: a public interface where general information is made available to the public in order to raise awareness of the problem of illicit discharges from ships at sea, and a “forum/hotline”, which is a restricted area aimed at facilitating the exchange of information between participating members;
- REMPEC also promotes educational tools on its website in an effort to educate the youth on key issues, in an effort to ensure their commitment in becoming tomorrow’s environment conservation ambassadors.



MEDGIS-MAR



Dissemination of Information



In view of assisting the Contracting Parties to the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol to implement its Article 7 on dissemination and exchange of information, REMPEC launched a new website in December 2009 to facilitate the exchange of information and to transfer a part of the Regional Information System (RIS), which was mainly based on paper documentation, to a digital documentation system.

The REMPEC's website is divided into the following nine (9) main sections: About REMPEC; News & Events; Prevention; Response; Country Profiles; RIS; Emergency; Tools; and Information Resources.

On request of the Mediterranean coastal States, REMPEC has developed a number of technical guidelines in the framework of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG), which in some cases became an international reference for the relevant IMO technical groups.

With a view to helping Mediterranean coastal States to fulfil their obligations, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention assigned to REMPEC the function to collect and disseminate information concerning “experts, equipment and installations in each coastal State for response to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, and which might be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of the State which so requests in case of emergency”.

Consequently, the Centre developed various tools in order to meet this task and constantly endeavours to align procedures with regard to national, regional and international reporting obligations.



Directive Lines

Capacity Building



REMPEC initiated its first training programme in the early 1980s. Since then, at different levels, over 3,500 government officials and volunteers have participated in such activities. In addition to the delivery of the IMO Model Courses, specialised training in the specific fields of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships, have been organised by REMPEC, with the support of international experts, at national, sub-regional and regional levels.

REMPEC develops training material, including through the EU-funded Project for Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions (POSOW) – www.posow.org – implemented by REMPEC and co-financed by EU under the European Commission (EC) Civil

Protection Financial Instrument between 2012 and 2013, and which is being followed up by the POSOW II Project. Over 300 people already received training based on the POSOW material, and further training sessions are already being planned.

As regards exercises, and since its inception, the Centre organised or took part in over seventy (70) National and Sub-Regional exercises, either during their preparation or during the exercises themselves, both on site or from its premises.



© Cedre

Way Forward

Without doubt, many challenges will arise in the coming years, especially whilst implementing the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), the main driving force of the 5-year plan the Centre has been entrusted with. But REMPEC is not a Centre to rest on its laurels, and this way forward matches its ambition.

The Regional Strategy (2016-2021), adopted by the Nineteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Athens, Greece; 9-12 February 2016), presents Specific Objectives in line with the Mediterranean Basin's current context as well as its challenges. The Centre will be looking at carrying activities to meet the precise commitments and respect the timetable for the implementation of the twenty-two objectives to be achieved by 2021 found in the said strategic document, which is seen as an implementation tool of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

In parallel to this, the provisions of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, also adopted by COP19, shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to REMPEC. The said Action Plan presents measures which, if applied at regional level and by each Contracting Party within their jurisdiction, will ensure the safety of offshore activities and reduce their potential impact on the marine environment and its ecosystem. The Mediterranean coastal States have committed themselves to fulfilling such measures by 31 December 2024. The measures are three-fold, relating to governance framework, regional offshore standards and guidelines as well as

reporting. One of the outcomes will be the development of regional offshore monitoring procedures and programmes as per Specific Objective 9, in which REMPEC will be particularly involved, and which is in line with EcAp II.

On a broader perspective, both the Offshore Action Plan as well as the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), which are in line with the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP) Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) (2016-2021), also adopted by COP19, set up a strategic framework which ensures coherence, continuity, increased efficiency, effectiveness and relevance of the MAP/Barcelona Convention system for the protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and contribute to sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region for the period 2016-2021.

In any cases, and to fulfil their respective mandates, the Centre and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention will need to cooperate, relying on active participation as their key driver. Both the outputs of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) and the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan call for strengthening cooperation, may it be through increased commonality by defining and adopting, *inter alia*, common standards and criteria, harmonized and complimentary rules, procedures and capacities.

This notwithstanding, thinking that the protection of the Mediterranean Sea is the prerogative of the twenty two (22) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and REMPEC alone would be too narrowminded a vision. Hence, other sources of cooperation are constantly being sought after. REMPEC already initiated discussions to strengthen possible synergies with the European Commission as well as EMSA, and namely its Consultative Technical Group for Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response (CTG MPPR) together with the MTWG, with the Industry and notably through the MOIG for the implementation of the Mediterranean Government Industry Cooperation Action Plan (MGICAP), and other United Nations organisations such as the IMO, UNEP together with representatives

from UNEP/MAP, and OCHA, to name a few. Discussions and programmes of work pertaining to cooperation arrangements and synergies in the near future should be to the image of the Mediterranean Basin: constructive, dynamic and ambitious. Marine pollution knows no boundaries, and so shall the nature of our collaboration if we are to surpass our differences in a common effort to protect our common home that is the Mediterranean Sea.

**Individually we are one drop.
Together we are an ocean.**

*Ryunosuke Satoro
(Japanese Poet)*



Testimonials



Dr Darius Campbell
Executive Secretary to OSPAR
Secretary to Bonn Agreement

The OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic congratulates REMPEC on its 40th anniversary.

OSPAR's Offshore Industry Committee has built up a long history since the 1970's of regulating the environmental impacts of the number of distinct phases of oil and gas operations; from initial seismic exploration to drilling to operational discharges from production and to decommissioning of platforms. More recently it has intensified efforts to evaluate the impact of offshore installations in regards to lighting and noise,

as well as dealing with emerging issues for offshore installations on the use and discharge of plastic materials contained in offshore chemicals.

OSPAR is assiduously seeking opportunities to continuing the cooperation with REMPEC in order to coordinate initiatives on the impacts of offshore installations with a regional and international approach.

Planning ahead, OSPAR is continuing the cooperation with all relevant organisations, e.g. the Abidjan Convention and PAME (Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment) under the Arctic Council to achieve a broader regional and international approach for environmental standards for offshore installations.

The Bonn Agreement (under the same Secretariat as OSPAR) shares many of the challenges and aims as REMPEC, focusing on preparedness, response and prevention to pollution from oil and harmful substances. For the last few years the Agreement has undertaken its first regional risk assessment (BE-AWARE) on oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS), from both shipping and the offshore industry. Regional agreements face on-going challenges related to the continual development of the maritime industries. For example, the increase in containerisation, larger vessels, increases in operational discharges and spills of HNS, and challenges relating to new uses of the marine environment, such as marine renewables. The implementation of the BE-AWARE plan can guide the future work and identify synergies between the two organisations and complement activities in the two regions.

Dr Darius Campbell
Executive Secretary to OSPAR
Secretary to Bonn Agreement



Ms Monika Stankiewicz
Executive Secretary of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM)

The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) congratulates REMPEC for the 40th Anniversary and welcomes REMPEC's continued efforts and commitment to fight pollution of the Mediterranean Sea.

For 40 years REMPEC has been successful in developing best practices, exchanging knowledge and developing and applying operational and technical solutions in the prevention, preparedness and response to accidental and illegal pollution of the marine environment of the Mediterranean Sea.

As HELCOM shares the same long history and similar mandate in the Baltic Sea as REMPEC has in the Mediterranean Sea, we can fully appreciate the challenging and most useful work the Centre does for the benefit of its Contracting Parties, shipping industry and marine environment.

HELCOM, REMPEC and OSPAR in the North-East Atlantic already have a record of successful cooperation on the early implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention. Common guidelines on voluntary ballast water exchange on certain European routes, adopted by our three organizations, have been applied since October 2012. The Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) clearly indicates the high level of ambition the Contracting Parties in the Mediterranean Sea have set for themselves. The Strategy can inspire and motivate us in the Baltic Sea for further efforts in many areas. We can also identify issues of common interest for a possible new joint activity.

For instance, recently HELCOM has cooperated with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in designating the Baltic Sea as a special area for sewage discharges from passenger ships and as a NOx Emission Control Area under MARPOL Annex IV and VI, respectively. HELCOM's priorities also include enhancing Port Reception Facilities and improving preparedness and response on the shore, for oiled wildlife and to accidents involving spills of hazardous substances. HELCOM also plans to further develop regional preparedness and response related systems and services and risk assessment tools.

We wish REMPEC many more decades of successful work and look forward to new cooperation opportunities.

Ms Monika Stankiewicz
Executive Secretary
HELCOM



Ms Anne Vissio
Executive Secretary of the RAMOGE Agreement

Countries set up this agreement of cooperation with the consciousness that marine environment is an ecosystem with no borders and which must be apprehended at its own scale.

The three countries involved in RAMOGE maintain a cooperating and proximity relationship in the aim to preserve a common heritage, Mediterranean Sea. This Agreement which concerns a homogeneous and confined area is managed by a small permanent structure. It confers flexibility and reactivity.

Members of this Agreement define together, every two years, a work programme with specific common preoccupations of these three regions. Activities managed by the Agreement deal with a shared unanimously necessities.

The operational part for the response to marine pollution is corresponding to a real collaboration which is regularly executed with the objective of a better reactivity and efficiency in case of pollution.

Integrated monitoring part concerning the coastal area highlights RAMOGE Area specificities and enables to deliberate adapted recommendations about marine environment conservation.

Meetings' frequency allows creating and maintaining closed links which contribute to the success of this cooperation.

RAMOGE Agreement is an exportable example which might be developed in other Mediterranean areas where countries are aware of the interest to cooperate for the marine environment conservation. The concept of this Agreement might be duplicated for each sub-regional cooperation. Members of this Agreement might bring their expertise to other country to assist them adapting this Agreement in their own areas.

Otherwise, cooperative response to marine pollution involving different countries might be inspired by the action plan set up by French, Italian and Monegasque for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution; RAMOGEPOL set this action organisation. Thus, new emergency plan of intervention might formalise new sub-regional cooperation for the Mediterranean Sea conservation. It is in this spirit that the work group of RAMOGE might introduce and trade with the effective operation intervention plan for interested countries.

Ms Anne Vissio
Executive Secretary
RAMOGE Agreement



Professor David J. Attard
Director of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI)

IMLI and REMPEC had enjoyed a fruitful cooperation for a number of years. This inter-institutional cooperation was mainly carried out through funding provided by the European Union through the SafeMed Project, under which a number of lawyers from Mediterranean States had an opportunity to undergo studies within the Institute's Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Maritime Law programme. REMPEC also made a valuable contribution to the Institute's research by writing a chapter entitled "Conventions Relating to Pollution Incident Preparedness, Response, and Cooperation" which appears in Volume III of The IMLI Manual on International Maritime Law published by Oxford University Press.

Bearing in mind REMPEC's role to strengthen the capacities of coastal States and promote cooperation in the Mediterranean region in order to fight pollution and IMLI's role in capacity building in international maritime law, which has been recognized by the United Nations General Assembly for eight consecutive years, it may be appropriate to strengthen the bonds of cooperation between the two Institutions.

This new phase of cooperation may enable officers from the States Parties to the Barcelona Convention to undertake studies in the Institute's different programmes and courses, thus contributing to the countries' marine environmental legal infrastructure. Should funding be available, this would provide an opportunity for Government officials to undergo studies in the Institute's LL.M. programme and other programmes such as the Advanced Diploma programme or the Master of Humanities (M.Hum.) programme in International Maritime Law. Such studies would not only benefit the participant and the respective authority for which they work but the country as a whole, as it could be required that the scholarship be granted subject to the condition that the participant would prepare the relevant dissertation or maritime legislation drafting project in a topic that is relevant for the purposes of REMPEC and that the participant continues rendering services for the respective Government for a number of years after the completion of IMLI studies.

The human element also plays an important part in the proposed cooperation and it would be ideal if officers from REMPEC continue to deliver lectures at the Institute in matters within the scope of the Centre's work.

Professor David J. Attard

Director

IMLI



Mr Stéphane Doll
Director of the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation
on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre)

Cedre was created in 1979, as part of the measures taken in the aftermath of the AMOCO CADIZ oil spill, to improve preparedness against accidental water pollution and to strengthen the response organization.

Cedre's vocation is to provide services and expertise to French or foreign authorities as well as to private organisations. Its mission covers both marine and inland waters, and involves all types of pollutants (oil, HNS, etc.).

Cedre is constantly building on its knowledge and developing tools to fulfil its various duties, collecting and sharing information, studying the behaviour of potential pollutants, assessing the efficiency of response techniques and products. Such activities enable Cedre's technical advisers and engineers to make operational recommendations within the drafting of contingency plans or training and exercises. More than 1000 people are trained every year during tailor-made sessions worldwide and on Cedre's facilities, which offer man-made beach and deep water basins to allow full scale simulation of real pollution.

Cedre remains available 24/365 to offer, authorities and the industry, technical and scientific assistance either remotely, within crisis command centres or in the field. Through its network, Cedre is able to contact many information centres all over the world to gather information on specific incidents, products and facilities involved and provides the requester with data related to pollutants, risks, sensitivity, response techniques, methods and resources to be used.

At national level, Cedre has close relationships with the French administration, due to the fact that an important part of its Board of Directors is made up of departments and government organizations. For spills occurring at sea, Cedre assists the maritime Prefect acting on behalf of the Secretariat General for the Sea (SGMER), REMPEC Focal Point. For spills reaching the shore or occurring on inland waters, Cedre assists mayors or Prefects on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior.

The longstanding cooperation between Cedre and REMPEC, was particularly illustrated inter alia during the 2006 Oil Spill in Lebanon, when Cedre provided its expertise, within the framework of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit, dedicating 5 advisers for 3 months to assist the Lebanese Ministry of Environment through REMPEC.

Mr Stéphane Doll

Director
Cedre





Mr Brian Sullivan
Executive Director of the Global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues (IPIECA)

On behalf of IPIECA and its members it gives me great pleasure, during this 40th Anniversary celebration, to congratulate UNEP, IMO and REMPEC on their extraordinary success. Through the IMO/IPIECA Global Initiative (G.I.) program, we are proud that our partnership with IMO and REMPEC has similarly endured.

We promote oil spill risk reduction primarily through prevention efforts. However, we also recognise the necessity of developing and maintaining effective preparedness and to face the related challenges within the framework of the OPRC Convention. The Convention, which calls for cooperation between all stakeholders, explicitly invites the oil, shipping and port industries to address their risks. However, we sometimes overlook the fact that the OPRC Convention covers all marine risks, including those from offshore units and pipelines.

The Mediterranean Offshore Protocol recognizes and strengthens the need for holistic oil spill planning and it is critical that UNEP, IMO, REMPEC and the private sector continue their legacy of cooperation and coordination of capacity building to cover all risks, regardless of source.

High profile upstream incidents led to significant reviews of oil spill response thinking from 2010 onwards. Many established oil spill response approaches were verified and new ideas have led to improvements and major investments which will also benefit the shipping sector. Published international guidance has been substantially overhauled and expanded.

Looking forward in the spirit of regional cooperation, I am pleased to announce that IPIECA will provide support to REMPEC in respect of the preparation and implementation of the forthcoming Mediterranean oil pollution response exercise. Such combined efforts between industry and intergovernmental organizations are essential to building sustainable preparedness and it is right that the industry help support REMPEC in this initiative. My thanks to all those who have worked to build the relationship between IPIECA, IMO and REMPEC over the years.

Mr Brian Sullivan

Executive Director

IPIECA



Dr Franck Laruelle

Technical Team Manager at the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF)

Having been with ITOPF over the last decade, I can certainly remember a number of occasions when ITOPF and REMPEC worked together to assist member states during pollution emergencies as well as to improve preparedness and response during peace time in the last ten years. The cooperation between REMPEC and ITOPF however started way before my time and REMPEC has always been one of the key partners of ITOPF. Indeed, the first exchange between ITOPF and REMPEC dates back to 3 May 1977, when discussion were held between ROCC and ITOPF on the accident database and the development of a “Route diagramme for the Mediterranean”. The

cooperation continued thereafter: in 1979, the European Economic Community contracted ITOPF to carry out a study on the need for measures to enhance the cooperation on effectiveness of oil pollution response capacity in Member States and liaise with REMPEC to obtain information on Mediterranean countries and in 1981, ITOPF offered its Technical information papers to ROCC for dissemination in the region and continued doing so including in the MEDIPOL 83 event organised by the Centre.

In the last couple of decades, ITOPF has participated to 41 events organised by REMPEC, the majority of which were related to providing support for training courses on preparedness and response to spills of oil and HNS. ITOPF also regularly attends the focal points meetings to re-iterate our commitment to assist REMPEC and its member states in the implementation of its projects. ITOPF has also regularly remotely assisted REMPEC in reviewing National Contingency Plans of its members, in the development of the Sub-Regional Contingency plan between Cyprus, Egypt and Israel in the mid-nineties, as well as for specific projects such as the development of the Maritime Integrated Decision Support Information System (MIDSIS-TROCS), or the operational guides and technical documents. More recently, ITOPF has partnered with REMPEC to bid for the Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation Project (West MOPoCo Project).

From a more operational point of view, ITOPF and REMPEC cooperated during a number of oil spill incidents in the Mediterranean Sea. On 11 April 1991, REMPEC informed ITOPF about the notification received from the Italian Authorities on the MT HAVEN Accident, off Genoa, for which REMPEC provided data on equipment available in each Mediterranean countries. ITOPF also served as liaison with the P&I Clubs to

reimburse REMPEC for the cost incurred in assisting the Italian Government during the incident, including a visit of the Director and its technical expert to advise the Italian government. Other incidents brought together ITOPF and REMPEC, including the M/T GEROI CHERNOMORYA spill in 1992, and the NASSIA/SHIPBROKER 1994 incident. For the Eastern Mediterranean Incident (Jieh, Lebanon, July 2006), ITOPF joined the group of experts set up by REMPEC to provide immediate advice and technical assistance on response strategy and techniques, to assess resources requirement and to elaborate the Euro 50 million anti-pollution action plan adopted at the international meeting convened and attended by the UNEP's Executive Director and the Secretary-General of IMO.

Overall, strong links and significant collaboration have prevailed over the years given in particular the importance of the Mediterranean Sea for the shipping of oil and other goods. ITOPF can only praise the sterling work carried out by REMPEC on behalf of its member states over the last forty years in enhancing regional cooperation, promoting prevention of and preparedness to pollution incidents in the Mediterranean Sea and assisting its member states during actual emergencies.

Dr Franck Laruelle

Technical Team Manager

ITOPF





Mr Renato Frigerio
Chairperson of Transport Emergency Service Committee (S.E.T.)
Federazione Nazionale dell' Industria Chimica (Federchimica)

Federchimica and REMPEC have been cooperating in the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) since 2004. The cooperation was born naturally due to the fact that since 1998, Federchimica is the focal point for Italy of the European Intervention in Chemical Transport Emergencies Network (ICE). This network is promoted by the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic).

The Focal Point for Italy, named S.E.T., has the purpose of supporting Public Authorities in Chemical Emergencies during transport of chemicals, by providing 3 Levels of intervention: transmitting products information (Level 1), furnishing technical assistance by phone or on field (Level 2), and sending emergency team on the accident site (Level 3).

For the Mediterranean Assistance Unit, S.E.T. provides an available support with ten experts able to intervene on over 120 UN numbers which is almost covering all of the Hazard Classes of Dangerous Goods.

This is a commitment of Responsible Care Program: chemical companies have to continuously improve environment, health, safety and security knowledges, plus they have to upgrade their technologies, processes and products in the aim of avoiding harm to People and Environment.

Luckily, in recent years, accidents involving chemicals in the Mediterranean Sea have been very few however they had a high potential impact.

Chemical Industry works in the field of prevention in order to improve the organization and quickness of the response in case of emergency and so containing the high potential damage.

In this context, and as foreseen by OPRC-HNS Protocol, it would be important to organize, under the supervision of the Competent Authorities, joint practical exercises which could reassure the Mediterranean coastal States concerning effectiveness of interventions.

Every subject involved in an emergency must be supported by the best available expertise with the common aim of safety and environmental protection.

The new Memorandum of Understanding in the framework of the MAU, currently being finalised by Federchimica, will contribute to better prevent and monitor any possible accidents of chemicals shipped in the Mediterranean Sea.

Mr Renato Frigerio
Chairperson of Committee S.E.T.
Federchimica



Dr Giovanni Coppini

Co-chair of Mediterranean Oceanography Network for the Global Ocean Observing System (MONGOOS)

Director of the Ocean Predictions and Applications (OPA) Division at the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change (CMCC)

The collaboration of the operational oceanography community represented by MONGOOS with REMPEC led to several important successes:

- 1) the development of the MEDESS multi-model oil spill forecasting systems which represents today the state of the art of the technological, scientific based, support system in case of oil spill accidents in the Mediterranean Sea. MEDESS is also important because it coordinates the national and European (Copernicus CMEMS) efforts of meteo-ocean forecasting systems together with several oil spill models within the international framework of MONGOOS and REMPEC for a common effort for the safety and protection of the Mediterranean Sea;
- 2) the strengthening of the international cooperation for training and oil spill emergency exercises in the Mediterranean area;
- 3) the establishment and operational testing of the Emergency Response Office organized by MONGOOS in support of REMPEC and Mediterranean coastal States in case of real case emergencies and exercises.

The collaboration of MONGOOS and REMPEC has consolidated and expanded the scientific research capabilities in the field of oil spill modelling, observing and risk mapping always with the final aim to ensure that all scientific results would lead to practical and operational applications into the REMPEC framework for the benefit of Mediterranean environment and coastal states.

The future steps of this collaboration should consolidate the MEDESS oil spill multi-model forecasting system with a stronger emphasis on the risk mapping, coastal capabilities and oil spill modelling uncertainties and estimation. It would also be important that the MEDESS system would consolidate the service components so that the uptake by the users and REMPEC would be simpler and user-friendly. Finally, the future efforts should consolidate the support to all the Mediterranean coastal states with an emphasis to training and national and trans-national exercises that would be supported by MONGOOS and its Emergency Response Office.

Dr Giovanni Coppini

Co-chair of MONGOOS

Director of OPA Division, CMCC



Mr Hugo Nijkamp
General Manager of the Sea Alarm Foundation

Sea Alarm and REMPEC signed their first Memorandum of Understanding in 2011, and their close cooperation has been effective ever since. Sea Alarm has always appreciated REMPEC's ability to combine vision with efficient pragmatism, achieving an incredible amount with only limited resources. Considering the enormous value of a pristine Mediterranean Sea as a natural resource and the considerable challenges to conserve this resource in a politically sensitive environment, organisations such as REMPEC make an invaluable contribution.

When it comes to the protection of seabirds, sea turtles and marine mammals, an effective solution for pollution emergencies is paramount. The risk of marine accidents and oil pollution has been increasing significantly in the course of decades. Subsequently, so did the risk that such an accident may affect unique populations of animals that represent both the beauty and natural diversity of the marine environment. Sea Alarm and REMPEC, via their cooperation and MoU structure have put a response system in place that allows for a fast mobilisation of expertise to try minimise the effects of pollution on these resources. Their MoU allows Sea Alarm to become part of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU), and send advisors to the country in question to assist the leading authorities with managing the wildlife aspects of a response. Sea Alarm can facilitate the mobilisation of other experts that can deal with the challenges of mitigating the impact on animals. Cooperative projects initiated and led by REMPEC, such as POSOW, help to ensure that the effectiveness of these responses is ever increasing.

As such, we would like to extend our congratulations to REMPEC on 40 years of tremendous service to the Mediterranean and its marine environment. We look forward to continued collaboration to further advance wildlife response preparedness in the years to come.

Mr Hugo Nijkamp
General Manager
Sea Alarm Foundation





Mr Vincent Attard
President of Nature Trust (Malta)

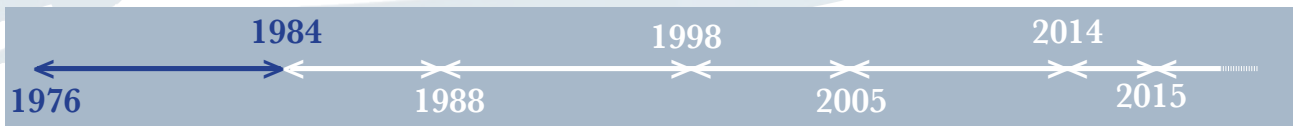
Nature Trust (Malta) is today one of the oldest and largest environmental NGOs in Malta dealing with natural environment of the Maltese Islands. Over the years it has worked and lobbied hard to get legal protection for various plants and animals in the Maltese Islands, helping to save from extinction some of the local endemic species.

Today Nature Trust is very active in environmental education through various means, as it strongly believes that education is the best tool to create awareness on nature conservation.

The organisation is also carrying out many environmental projects in Malta such as afforestation, habitat conservation and the creation of marine protected areas. Through our partnership with REMPEC we have been able to get excellent training by French experts on how to deal with an oil spill and manage volunteers to assist the authorities in their work. Furthermore the training has also given us an exposure on how to deal with oiled wildlife since we work with wildlife rescue in the Maltese Islands. This has even led us to improve our Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre plans so it may be ready if such a disaster were to happen. Moreover the training has brought us in contact with the relevant Maltese authorities responsible to combat an oil pollution incident in Malta thus helping us become part of the collaboration in case we all face an oil spill challenge.

Mr Vincent Attard
President
Nature Trust (Malta)

Former Directors / Head of Office of REMPEC



Mr Philippe Le Lourd
Former Director of REMPEC

The idea of establishing a Regional Centre to respond to marine pollution in the Mediterranean Sea in the Mid-70s stemmed from various sources, may it be the Protocol on Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, adopted in 1976, from the lack of regional contingency plans for co-ordinated action for the prevention, control and combating of oil spills, especially in cases of emergencies, or from the need to assist the development and strengthening of the Mediterranean coastal States as well as and to facilitate cooperation among them in order to deal effectively with cases of massive pollution.

As a result, thinking that the Mediterranean Basin as free from pollution and oil spill-risks would be short-sighted; the needs for preparedness and response to oil spills among the Mediterranean coastal States has always been a necessity. Consequently, the said Regional Oil-Combating Centre for the Mediterranean was established through the adoption of Resolution 7 in order to assist the Contracting Parties on the abovementioned aspects.

At its inception, several actions were undertaken by the Centre. I undertook several official visits in my capacity as Director to the concerned authorities in charge of oil spill response, of all but one coastal State to introduce ROCC. Moreover, on the basis of the information that was gathered through the visits and questionnaires, the Centre established a network through contact points and liaison means, collected data pertaining to the response equipment and products used for oil spill response as well as on available experts in the Mediterranean basin from the Contracting Parties, and response equipment manufacturers were also contacted. Furthermore, the Centre gathered technical knowledge and was quickly in a position to reply to technical questions issued by coastal States. Besides that, National Contingency Planning was one of the main focuses for ROCC during its early years, and information in this regard was gathered and disseminated to the Contracting Parties, and trainings and seminars quickly followed. The initiation phase saw the definition of official procedures and tools,

such as the information systems. In any case, the relevance of the work and support of ROCC became obvious to the Mediterranean region as the pollution event of the AMOCO CADIZ occurred in 1978, and served as a wake-up call on the importance of such a Centre.

ROCC was first dependent on the coastal States' will for cooperation, and on whether their trust would be imparted to the Centre. The Centre then faced technical and financial limitations during its first years. I am glad today to see that in 1976 there were only two countries with fully developed National Contingency Plans, and that today this number reached eighteen out of twenty-one, with ongoing developments to further progress in this field.

Furthermore, it is good to recall that in the pre-internet era, communications means were more limited. During its first 3 years of existence, 10 spills have been notified to the Centre, albeit some were only communicated to the Centre after considerable delays.

Whilst rewarding, the initiation phase proved difficult: the Centre was at the exploratory stage in terms of its objectives and functions for many years following inception. However, in view of the Centre's journey, which is still going strong four decades later, the Mediterranean region should be proud of such an initiative.

Mr Philippe Le Lourd

Former Director

REMPEC



R. Admiral Michel Voirin
Former Director of REMPEC

Regional cooperation in case of pollution events is not a new notion by any means. The Mediterranean region has shown a long-standing and tangible will for cooperation. Indeed, it was the third region in the world, after the North and Baltic Seas, where a regional agreement for cooperation in combating pollution in case of emergency was adopted, and the first one within the framework of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s Regional Seas Programme created in 1974. The foundations for international cooperation in the Mediterranean Sea area in the field of prevention, preparedness for and response to marine pollution are laid down in the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols, and in particular its Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency (the 1976 Emergency Protocol).

The 1976 Emergency Protocol is indeed the legal instrument that sets the main principles of cooperation in dealing with threats to the marine environment, the coasts and related interests of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention posed by accidental releases or by accumulations of small discharges of oil or other harmful substances, and later included cooperation in the field of prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by ships after its revision in January 2002. The said revision process intended on aligning the 1976 Emergency Protocol with texts of other relevant international legal instruments developed since the adoption of the 1976 Protocol, including the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC 1990). It also took into account the contribution of the then European Community to the implementation of international standards related to maritime safety and prevention of pollution from ships, and it is with confidence that I can say that the work of the "Regional Oil Combating Centre" (ROCC), established in 1976, without a doubt inspired the drafting of the OPRC 90 Convention show-casing the Mediterranean pioneering experience in this field.

Co-operation takes on its full meaning in an environment such as the Mediterranean basin. Its semi-enclosed nature due to its physical and chemical conditions together with the delicate balance between its natural and man-made environments makes it vulnerable to pollution events. It was even more true at the beginning of the 80s, when equipment and knowledge were scarcer, and when a mere seven coastal countries were implementing National Contingency Plans in the whole Mediterranean. To top it off, the socio-economical discrepancies between the Contracting Parties themselves reinforced the delicacy of the situation. The regional cooperation thus had to be factored in, and appeared more than ever indispensable to surpass challenges faced by each individual coastal State in protecting their common interest, the Mediterranean Sea.

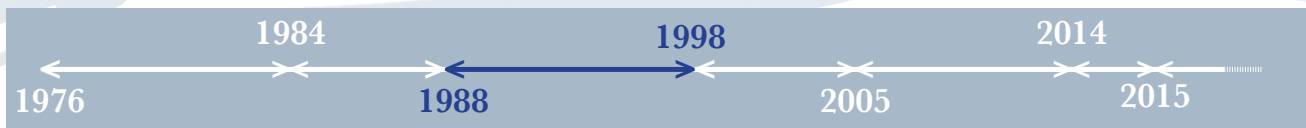
In light of the above, not only was REMPEC, then known as ROCC, endeavouring to establish connections with international organizations of the Mediterranean basin, it was also liaising with sea professionals, response equipment manufacturers, the scientific community as well as with stakeholders from other regions to strengthen cooperation. Besides, the Contracting Parties, aware of their commitments under the 1976 Emergency Protocol as well as the then-draft Offshore Protocol, agreed that there was a need for Guidelines to facilitate the implementation of the Protocols and in particular mutual cooperation in the Mediterranean. Similar Guidelines had already proved their efficiency in past experiences, hence the decision to embark on such a process. The Contracting Parties consequently heavily relied and benefited from the input of REMPEC to draft the said document.

The adoption of the resulting Guidelines for co-operation in combating marine oil pollution in the Mediterranean by the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols proved to be a great advance towards a fast and actual cooperation in case of an emergency.

R. Admiral Michel Voirin

Former Director

REMPEC



Mr Jean Claude Sainlos
Former Director of REMPEC

Following the inception of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme in 1974, the Mediterranean was the first region in the world to adopt an Action Plan in 1975. The Diplomatic Conference of 1976 adopted the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution together with two Protocols, including the Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency (Emergency Protocol), thus establishing a framework for regional cooperation. Furthermore, the said Diplomatic Conference also adopted a Resolution on the establishment of a Regional Oil-Combating Centre and entrusted the IMO with its responsibility and duties: the ROCC was born, and was the precursor of REMPEC.

The Emergency Protocol and the relevant IMO Conventions mentioned in its preamble, supplemented by guidelines and manuals, constitute the legal basis for developing national legislation and implementing national and regional arrangements (including sub-regional ones) concerning preparedness for and response to accidental pollution incidents.

The evolution of the Mediterranean historical context and the legal framework described above, have shaped the evolution of the Centre.

ROCC's initial phase proved to be a difficult period for many reasons, including its innovative nature in the Mediterranean as well as the heterogeneity in the level of preparedness of States. Furthermore, the designation of competent national authorities of the Parties was not always optimal.

My mandate was carried out during the second phase of the Centre, during which ROCC was renamed as REMPEC, and which featured facts and changes that enabled the Centre to overcome some of the previous phase's difficulties, and to better achieve the objectives and functions it had been assigned by the Diplomatic Conference of 1976, including:

- the extension, upon decision of the Contracting Parties, of the Centre's scope to the fields of preparedness for and response to marine pollution incidents by hazardous substances;
- the development of the regional information system, databases and decision support systems;
- the development of several guidelines for cooperation in case of emergency as well as the establishment of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit together with a special Fund to cover certain expenses in case of an emergency;
- the development and implementation of projects for the preparation of sub-regional agreements through the support of the European Community's LIFE financial mechanism.

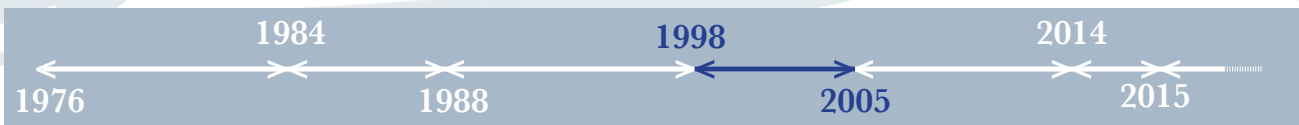
The third phase represented a turning point because of the revision of the Protocol and its extension to prevention. The objectives and functions of the Centre have thus been modified in order to take into account prevention aspects and mainly pertain to strengthening both the capacity of Parties and the regional cooperation to implement international Conventions in an effective manner.

Mr Jean Claude Sainlos

Former Director

REMPEC





Admiral Roberto Patrino
Former Director of REMPEC

The late 90s marked a significant step forward, a kind of turnabout, as regards REMPEC’s mandate and responsibilities.

In 1992, the Earth Summit - UN Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro- adopted the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development as well as the Agenda 21 which specifically urged the Countries to an effective enforcement of the principles of a Sustainable Development. In particular, Chapter 17, devoted to the protection of Oceans and Seas, including enclosed seas and coastal areas, stated that “The marine environment forms an integrated whole that is an essential component of the global life-support system and a positive asset that presents opportunities for sustainable development. International law, as reflected in the provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, sets for rights and obligations of States and provides the international basis upon which to pursue the protection and sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment and its resources. This requires new approaches to marine and coastal area management and development, at the national, subregional, regional and global levels”.

In 1995, the Contracting Parties to Barcelona Convention amended the Convention adopted in 1976, renamed “Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Region of the Mediterranean”, and accordingly adopted the new Mediterranean Action Plan 1995-2005 (MAP Phase II) to replace the MAP 1975 –the first plan adopted as a Regional Seas Programme under UNEP’s umbrella. In both the documents the Mediterranean Countries took into account the provisions of Rio Declaration and Agenda 21. In particular, the Contracting Parties agreed to privilege a “prevention attitude” while promoting sustainable development in the Mediterranean region with the aim to better protect the marine-coastal environment.

Due to all those reasons, more and more the Mediterranean Maritime Community and the Contracting Parties were aware that a regional legal instrument focusing only on preparedness and response to accidental marine

pollution (as the Emergency Protocol 1976) could not be considered anymore appropriate nor enough to face the new challenges and risks represented by the significant grow of the maritime traffic in such a highly confined sea, which was already receiving 30% of the maritime worldwide traffic and the 27% of oil, being the second most congested maritime area in the world after Malacca and Singapore Straits.

In 1997 the Contracting Parties adopted a Resolution on the Regional strategy on prevention of the marine environment by ships which opened the revision process of the Emergency Protocol 1976 and took REMPEC to propose to its National Focal Points in 1998 an amended version of the Emergency Protocol aimed at updating the legal instrument by the inclusion of some prevention issues and provisions. It was a first attempt based on which the Countries decided to go further with a whole revision of the Protocol. That took the Mediterranean Region to have a totally new one eventually adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2002: the so-called “Prevention Emergency Protocol 2002”.

Those decisions proved to be a significant boost for the Regional System and for the Contracting Parties themselves and resulted in a terrific sequence of initiatives and activities carried out in the forthcoming years in close collaboration with the Countries, the MAP Coordinating Unit, IMO, the EU, Civil Society, Universities, Research Institutions, Oil and Chemical Mediterranean Industry, NGOs and Local Communities.

Admiral Roberto Patruno

Former Director

REMPEC



Mr Frédéric Hébert
Former Director of REMPEC

When Jiyeh incident broke out in July 2006 it presented several particularities. Firstly, it was not an at sea incident, but, on the contrary, the spill, composed of heavy fuel oil and debris, was spreading from the shoreline, being taken forward by the coastal currents heading north towards the Syrian Arab Republic shoreline which, at some point, was also contaminated. Such a characteristic hampered the use of many response means: specialized oil recovery vessels which had a too important draught, the characteristics of the oil and the spill

location prohibited any use of dispersant products, and the skimmers were not all fit for heavy oil and certainly not for debris.

Secondly, it rouses such an international mobilization that multiple communication channels were activated at the same time, creating numerous redundancies and adding to the heavy workload the Lebanese authorities already had in dealing with the various aspects of the situation, as the oil spill was only a part of the general emergency.

Finally, until the cease fire of the 15 August, it was impossible to assess the exact extent of the damage and design an appropriate response plan.

In this situation of emergency, with the support of IMO, UNEP and UNEP/ OCHA and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, REMPEC has been able to fulfil its mandate by advising the Lebanese authorities on site and remotely, mobilizing the Mediterranean Assistance Unit and activating the Regional Information System to circulate requests and offers of assistance. Addressing specifically the oil spill emergency, REMPEC has kept all interested parties up to date of the on-going situation. For a small organization as REMPEC, this has only been possible thanks to the temporary support received from Canada, United Kingdom and EMSA on behalf of the European Community.

In the context of an international response to an emergency lead by UNEP/OCHA, REMPEC, as the competent Regional Activity Centre of the Barcelona Convention, has demonstrated the added value of relying on the Regional Sea Programmes to benefit of their well-established network of Focal points and partners organizations. REMPEC has neither the mandate nor the means to intervene in the response operations. It has been set up as the emergency regional Focal Point and a technical adviser, able to relay and trigger the regional and international assistance, in accordance with the scaling up principle of the Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response Convention. The lessons from this incident have been numerous, they have resulted in several technical guides and trainings as well as, inter alia, developing a Mediterranean partnership to establish a 24/7 operational oceanographic forecasting service under the leadership of the Mediterranean Operational Oceanography Network.

It has also pointed out the necessity to adapt our communications links with the various stakeholders involved and, in particular, the need to have a common communication tool, in order to avoid parallel requests and duplication of efforts. In this regard, it has been welcome news when the European Commission has proposed in 2014 to open to all Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention and the Secretariat of the Regional Agreements the use of the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) as the use of this tool will definitely improve the response time and exchange of information.

But beyond the technicalities of dealing with an emergency, the main role of REMPEC will remain to assist the Contracting Parties in strengthening their level of preparedness which is the bottom line of an effective response.

Mr Frédéric Hébert

Former Director

REMPEC



Mr Jonathan Pace
Former Head of Office of REMPEC

During the second half of REMPEC’s existence, the development, implementation and coordination of externally funded technical assistance projects has undoubtedly been a very important and innovative tool in the Centre’s mission to assist Mediterranean coastal States in building their capacities for the prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution. Moreover, these projects have certainly been an important source of funding for the Centre and for the States in the region particularly at the time when the

core funding of REMPEC deteriorated.

The European Union (EU) played a crucial role in the Centre’s success story of projects as the large majority of the projects implemented by REMPEC were funded by the EU. Indeed, the Centre’s first experience in this regard was the development, implementation and coordination of four EU-funded LIFE projects between 1993 and 2003 related to a Sub-Regional Contingency Plan for the South-Eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea, spill response capabilities of Cyprus, Egypt and Israel (the three countries involved in the first project), a national system for preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution in Syria, and a risk assessment of the ports of Mersin and Iskenderun in Turkey and associated capacity building for state of readiness and for response to marine pollution.

With the extension of REMPEC’s mandate to the field of prevention of pollution from ships and the adoption of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, 2002, the Centre made extensive use of specific projects to enhance the capacities of the Protocol’s Contracting Parties in this field. An EU/MEDA funded project on port reception facilities (2002 – 2004) aimed at facilitating the implementation of the MARPOL Convention Annexes I (Oil) and V (Garbage) in the Mediterranean region with respect to port reception facilities was the pioneer project in the field of prevention of pollution from ships. The successful implementation of this project led the European Commission (EC) to directly assign to REMPEC the development, implementation and coordination of the EU-funded MEDA regional project “Euromed Cooperation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution

from Ships” more commonly known as SafeMed (2006 – 2008) and subsequently the SafeMed II Project (2009 – 2012). The SafeMed Projects were aimed at mitigating the existing imbalance in the application of international maritime standards in the region between the EU and non-EU Mediterranean partners, through promoting a coherent, effective and uniform implementation of the relevant international conventions aimed at better protecting the marine environment in the Mediterranean region by preventing pollution from ships.

The successful implementation of these pioneer projects by REMPEC led to externally funded projects becoming an important feature of the Centre’s programme of work. Since then, the Centre acted as a regional implementing partner for other global or regional projects implemented by the IMO, the MAP of the UNEP and other partners such as the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Project, the EcAp-MED Project, the POSOW I and POSOW II Projects, and the MEDESS-4MS Project.

The implementation of specific projects by REMPEC has undoubtedly had a big impact on the region’s capacities to protect the marine environment. Substantial training of personnel, the development of strategies and guidelines, the preparation of sensitivity maps for coastal areas, the development of oil spill modelling, the Geographical Information System on Maritime Traffic Flows in the Mediterranean, and the entry into force of the special status of the Mediterranean Sea under Annex V of the MARPOL Convention are only a few concrete examples of the major achievements of projects implemented by REMPEC. The implementation of projects has indeed become an integral part of REMPEC’s vital work in protecting the Mare Nostrum from marine pollution.

Mr Jonathan Pace

Former Head of Office

REMPEC

The Secretariat



Mr Gabino Gonzalez Deogracia

Head of Office
since February 2015
and Programme Officer (OPRC)
between June 2006 and January 2015



Mr Franck Lauwers

Programme Officer (Prevention)
since March 2015



Mr Malek Smaoui

Programme Officer (OPRC)
since October 2015



Mr Christopher Sacco

Administrative/Financial Assistant
since April 2000



Ms Michelle Mangion

Assistant to the Head of Office
since December 2005



Mr Guillaume Poirier

Junior Programme Officer (VIS)
since August 2016



Ms Karen Tanti

Temporary Clerk/Secretary
since February 2016

List of Ex-ROCC/REMPEC Personnel

NAME	TITLLE	APPOINTED ON	TERMINATED ON
Philippe Le Lourd	Director	Dec 1976	Jun 1984
Michel Voirin	Director	Jun 1984	Oct 1988
Jean Claude Sainlos	Director	Nov 1988	May 1998
Roberto Patruno	Director	Oct 1998	Dec 2005
Frédéric Hébert	Director	Jan 2006	Jun 2014
Jonathan Pace	Programme Officer (Prevention)	Sep 2002	Mar 2007
	Senior Programme Officer	Apr 2007	Jun 2014
	Head of Office	Jul 2014	Jan 2015
Joe Camilleri	Deputy Director (Administration)	Oct 1976	Dec 1988
Nazeeh Swaid	Deputy Director (Technical)	Nov 1977	Oct 1978
Darko Domovic	Technical Expert	Apr 1982	Dec 2001
	Senior Programme Officer (OPRC)	Jan 2002	Jul 2006
Stefan Micallef	Chemical Expert	Jul 1990	Oct 2001
Elias Sampatakakis	Programme Officer (HNS)	Jan 2002	Mar 2005
Lilia Khodjet El Khil	Temporary Technical Officer	Feb 2002	Jul 2005
	Programme Officer (Marine Environment Protection)	Aug 2005	Oct 2010
Albert Bergonzo	SafeMed Project Officer (Maritime Administration)	Apr 2006	Dec 2012
Joseph Zerafa	SafeMed Project Officer (Maritime Safety)	May 2006	Dec 2012
Souhaïel Ben Mosbah	SafeMed Project Officer (Accounting and Administration)	Sep 2006	Oct 2008
Victor Saliba	Technical Assistant	Mar 1978	Aug 1979
Anna Gambina	Information Officer	Oct 1977	May 1978
Mariella Parisi	Information Officer	Jul 1978	Mar 1979
Renee Laiviera	Information Officer	Feb 1977	Nov 1989
Marie Benoit	Information Assistant	Feb 1990	Aug 1994
Michelle Cassar	Information Assistant	Jan 1995	Dec 1995
Doreen Stellini	Clerk/Secretary	Oct 1977	Dec 1996
	Documentalist/Information Assistant	Jan 1997	Apr 2012
Christopher J. Kuzhikattu	Temporary Administrator	May 1999	Mar 2000

NAME	TITLE	APPOINTED ON	TERMINATED ON
Josephine Bonavia	Temporary Secretary to Director / Administrative Assistant	Jun 1990 / Aug 1990	Jul 1990 / May 1999
Helena Mallia	Secretary to Director / Administrative Assistant	May 1999	Dec 2000
Josephine Aquilina	Secretary to Director / Administrative Assistant	Feb 2001	May 2001
Michaela Tabone	Secretary to Director / Administrative Assistant	Jun 2001	Sep 2004
Mathilde Muscat	Temporary Admin. Assistant	Jun 2002	Aug 2002
Jacqueline England	Secretary to Director / Administrative Assistant	Dec 2004	Feb 2005
André Sammut	Administrative Assistant	Oct 2005	Jun 2010
Amanda Bonavia	Secretary/Administrative Assistant	Jan 1997	Feb 2016
Moulham Hajjar	Temporary Assistant LIFE Syria Project	Jun 2001	Mar 2002
Wael Jdied	Temporary Assistant LIFE Syria Project	Apr 2003	May 2003
Firas Asfour	Temporary Assistant LIFE Syria Project	Sep 2003	Dec 2003
Anna Micallef Trigona	Bilingual Secretary	Apr 1977	Dec 1989
Lucia Burgess	Bilingual Secretary	Feb 1990	May 1990
Ruth Mizzi	Bilingual Secretary	Sep 2003	Jul 2005
Brigid Galea	Clerk/Secretary MEDA PRF Project	May 2003	Jun 2004
Maria Woodward	Clerk/Secretary MEDA PRF Project	Aug 2004	Dec 2004
Maria Bakos	Clerk/Secretary	Feb 1996	Feb 1997
Catherine Galea	Clerk/Secretary	Feb 1997	Apr 2001
Francesca Borg	Clerk/Secretary	Jan 2001	Jun 2014
Joseph Ciappara	Caretaker	Mar 1977	Dec 1977
Charles Abela	Caretaker	Jan 1978	Mar 1979
Anthony Zerafa	Caretaker/Documents Reproducer	Apr 1979	May 2005
Mario Bonello	Technical Assistant (Logistics)	May 2005	Jun 2014

List of Ex-ROCC/REMPEC Personnel (seconded by France and Italy)

In August 1995, the French Government stopped the secondment of the Volontaire Service National Actif (VSNA), later on referred to as Coopérant du Service National (CSN), and then Volontaire Civile International (VCI) or Volontariat à l'International en Entreprises (VIE)

Since October 1997 secondments were made by the French Industry group TOTAL.

NAME	TITLE	APPOINTED ON	TERMINATED ON
Michel Vuillot	Junior Programme Officer (VSNA)	Oct 1979	Dec 1980
Michel Autin	Junior Programme Officer (VSNA)	Dec 1980	Feb 1982
Thibault Brac de la Perrière	Junior Programme Officer (VSNA)	Apr 1982	Dec 1983
Jean-Luc Pigeon	Junior Programme Officer (VSNA)	Oct 1983	Feb 1985
Frédéric Lambert	Junior Programme Officer (VSNA)	Dec 1985	Apr 1987
Jean-Marc Boffa	Junior Programme Officer (VSNA)	Apr 1987	Aug 1988
Pascal Moreuil	Junior Programme Officer (CSN)	Oct 1988	Feb 1990
Philippe Meynard	Junior Programme Officer (CSN)	Feb 1990	May 1991
Laurent Daverio	Junior Programme Officer (CSN)	Jul 1991	Oct 1992
Jean-Nicolas Hutin	Junior Programme Officer (CSN)	Nov 1992	Feb 1994
David Waligora	Junior Programme Officer (CSN)	Mar 1994	Jul 1995
Guillaume Salessy	Junior Programme Officer (VIE) Société TOTAL	Oct 1997	Dec 1998
Yves Charles	Junior Programme Officer (VIE) Société TOTAL	Dec 1998	Mar 2000
Alexandre Nicolau	Junior Programme Officer (VIE) Société TOTAL FINA	Feb 2000	May 2001
Emilie Dorgeville	Junior Programme Officer (VIE) Société TOTAL FINA ELF	Dec 2001	Mar 2003
François Léotoing	Junior Programme Officer (VIE) Société TOTAL	Oct 2003	Mar 2005
Pascale Bouveret	Junior Programme Officer (VIE) Société TOTAL	Feb 2006	Jul 2007
Magalie Tralan	Junior Programme Officer (VIE) Société TOTAL	Oct 2007	Sep 2009

NAME	TITLLE	APPOINTED ON	TERMINATED ON
Sophie Martin	Junior Programme Officer (VIE) Société TOTAL	Oct 2009	Oct 2011
Souade Nasser	Junior Programme Officer (VIE) Société TOTAL	Nov 2011	Nov 2013
Clément Chazot	Junior Programme Officer (VIE) Société TOTAL	Jun 2014	May 2016

**Between February 2002 and February 2004, secondment was made by the Italian Industry
Unione Petrolifera Italiana (UPI)**

Francesco Strangis	Secondment - UPI (Unione Petrolifera Italiana)	Feb 2002	Feb 2004
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**Between 1 March 2007 and 31 December 2009, secondment was made by the Ministry of
Environment, Italy**

Cristina Farchi	Secondment - Ministry of Environment (Italy)	Mar 2007	Dec 2009
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