



IMO-OMI



UNEP-PNUE

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



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (PAM)

**Report
Communication Exercise
Activation of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit**

Introduction

The programme of activities of REMPEC for the biennium 2008-2009 adopted by the 8th Meeting of the Focal point of REMPEC, held in Malta from the 7th to the 11th of May 2007, included the organization of alert and communication exercises. The objective was to check and improve the response network's reaction capacity. One of these simulation exercises involves the activation of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU).

Proceeding of the Exercise

Israel participated in the communication exercise simulating a spill of hazardous and noxious substance (HNS) following a fictitious accident as reported in **Annex I**.

During the exercise the MAU has been mobilized through REMPEC, following the official request from Israel through the transmission of the Pollution report attached in **Annex II**.

The exercise was carried out on 14 December 2009 from 15.04 (Notification by Israel) and concluded at 17.53 (End of the exercise from REMPEC). The details of the proceeding are reported in **Annex III**.

Conclusion

- In **11 hours and 47 minutes an expert could have been deployed** in the location of the incident. The timing is based on the time of notification and the arrival time in Israel;
- The reaction time of Federchimica is of standard as in **1 hour and 32 minutes, the expert identified confirmed his availability to travel on site**;
- **The database of experts available should be reviewed periodically** to ensure that the experts are available 24h/365

ANNEX I
Scenario Communication Exercise
Activation of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit

- Date:** Proposed period for carrying out the exercise: from the 9th to the 21st of December. REMPEC should not be informed about the exact date to test the emergency line.
- Place of accident:** Coordinates: 32°52'46"N 34°59'16"E, Port of Haifa.
- Casualty:** Collision between oil tanker STAR OF THE SEAS (Comoros, 48521gt, 1993) and chemical tanker TIFANIE (Liberia, 1580 gt, 2005), cause of collision. TIFANIE's cargo consists in 2'500 tons of xylene. The crew is evacuated immediately by four coastguard units. TIFANIE sinks with its cargo.
- Spill:** Continuous release of the cargo is observed in the area where the vessel sank. The flow rate of the release is estimated to approximately 150 tons per hour.
- Assistance request:** Official assistance request from Israel (through the transmission of the corresponding POLREP part), asking for the mobilization of an expert to assist the country on the following points:
- Analysis, evaluation and prediction of drifting of the pollutant, and evolution of the pollutant characteristics
 - Response means against the chemical spill (including individual protection, aquatic toxicity, habitat rehabilitation)

**ANNEX II
POLREP**

STATE OF ISRAEL
 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
 Marine and Coastal Environment Division

מדינת ישראל
 המשרד להגנת הסביבה



Situation room
 אגף ים וחופים - חדר מצב

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Address:		From: ISR
Date Time Group		To: REMPEC
Identification		141540 December
Serial number		POLREP Barcelona conv/subreg cei
		TIFANI 1
		ISR
1	Date and time	1 141540LT December
2	Position	2 325246N 345916E
3	Incident	3 Collision oil tanker and chemical tanker
4	Outflow	4 2500 ton xylene
5	Acknowledge	5
40	Date and time	40
41	Position	41
42	Characteristics of pollution	42 Continues Xylene flow in to Haifa bay. Aprox 150 per h
43	Source and cause of pollution	43 Vessel Tiffani Liberia 1580gt
44	Wind direction and speed	44 Westerly 15 knots
45	Current pf tide	45
46	Sea state and visibility	46 Calm visibility excellent
47	Drift of pollution	47 An none
48	Forecast	48 Same condition
49	Identity of observer and ships on scene	49 2 cost guard Vessel
50	Action taken	50 Recovery of crew
51	Photographs of samples	51
52	Names of other States informed	52
53-59	Spare	53-59
60	Acknowledge	60
80	Date and time	80
81	Request for assistance	81 ISR Is requesting for mobilized an expert to assist situation room as regards analysis and evaluation of pollution risks and pollutant characteristic. evaluation response means for chemical spill
82	Cost	82 Travel/DSA + expenses
83	Pre-arrangements for the delivery	83 Notification
84	Assistance to where and how	84 Haifa RCC + field visits
85	Other States requested	85
86	Change of command	86
87	Exchange of information	87
88-98	Spare	88-98
99	Acknowledge	99 acknowledge

ANNEX III
Proceeding of the Communication Exercise
Activation of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit

1	14.57	Email from Israel received on emergency line requesting the Centre to call back Israel urgently
2	14.58	REMPEC called Israel – REMPEC was informed about the incident and confirmed its fax number
3	15.21	POLREP received requesting deployment of an expert on Xylene
4	16.05	REMPEC Called SET on Emergency number according to CEFIC ICE database – NO response
5	16.07	REMPEC called FDC Emergency – Responded – SET and FDC fax number confirmed
6	16.15	SET Called back – Fax number confirmed
7	16.	Fax sent to SET and FDC
8		Fax received
9	16.45	SET called to confirm reception of its fax by REMPEC – Fax not received
10	16.46	REMPEC called to inform that the fax was received with the name of an expert. The designated expert was no more available.
11		REMPEC informed SET about the issue and requested the contact details of another expert
12		SET immediately provided the name of another expert
13	17.10	REMPEC contacted the expert who confirmed his availability for a deployment to Israel
14	17.12	REMPEC requested its travel agency a flight from Rome to Israel
15	17.14	Travel agency provided a booking for the expert on a flight leaving at 22.00 arriving at 02.10(Day +1)
16	17.26	The itinerary was sent to the expert for confirmation
17	17.37	The expert confirmed the flight
18	17.49	REMPEC informed Israel, SET, FDS and the expert about the end of the exercise.
19	22.00	Expected departure time of the expert from Rome (Italy)
20	02.10 (Day+1)	Expected arrival in Tel-Aviv (Israel)

(20) – (1) = 11 H 47 – From the notification to the hypothetical arrival of the expert deployed on site 11 hours 47 would have been required in case of emergency.