



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

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

REMPEC/WG. 51/13
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REPORT
OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINTS OF THE
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)

Online, 31 May – 2 June 2021

INTRODUCTION

1 The Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) was convened remotely from 31 May to 2 June 2021, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021 of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP, adopted by the Twenty-first Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean ("the Barcelona Convention") and its Protocols (COP 21) (Napoli, Italy, 2-5 December 2019).

2 The principal objectives of the Meeting were:

- .1 to examine the implementation of the Programme of Work of REMPEC since the Thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Floriana, Malta, 11-13 June 2019); and
- .2 to discuss and agree upon the proposed Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2022-2023, prior to its submission, for approval by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 14-17 September 2021), and for adoption by the Twenty-Second Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 22) (Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021).

3 The Meeting was attended by delegations from the following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention:

ALBANIA	LEBANON
ALGERIA	LIBYA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	MALTA
CROATIA	MONACO
CYPRUS	MONTENEGRO
EGYPT	MOROCCO
EUROPEAN UNION	SLOVENIA
FRANCE	SPAIN
GREECE	TUNISIA
ISRAEL	TURKEY
ITALY	

by representatives from the following organisations of the United Nations (UN):

- INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)
- UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME / MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP)

by representatives from the following inter-governmental organisations:

- BALTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMISSION (HELCOM)
- INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION COMPENSATION FUNDS (IOPC FUNDS)
- INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION-INTERPOL
- OSPAR COMMISSION/BONN AGREEMENT
- REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE RED SEA AND GULF OF ADEN (PERSGA)
- UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (UfM)

by representatives from the following Regional Activity Centres of UNEP/MAP:

- PLAN BLEU REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PB/RAC)
- REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION (INFO/RAC)
- REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS (SPA/RAC)

by representatives from other organisations:

- ADRIATIC TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (ATRAC)
- BIRDLIFE, MALTA
- CENTRE OF DOCUMENTATION, RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTATION ON ACCIDENTAL WATER POLLUTION (CEDRE)
- INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR COMPARATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (CIDCE)
- ENI S.p.A.
- ITALIAN FEDERATION OF THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY (FEDERCHIMICA)
- INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OIL & GAS PRODUCERS (IOGP)
- INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE (IOI)
- IPIECA
- ITOPI LTD.
- MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP (MOIG)
- SEA ALARM FOUNDATION
- WESTMED INITIATIVE

4 A complete list of participants is set out in **Annex I** to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

5 The Meeting was opened by Mr Gabino Gonzalez, Head of Office of REMPEC, on Monday, 31 May 2021 at 0900 hours (Malta local time or GMT+2). He welcomed the participants to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, including representatives from twenty-one (21) out of the twenty-two (22) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and from partner organisations. He thanked them for their commitment and contribution for the preparation of strategic and technical documents through a wide consultation process. He concluded by reiterating his appreciation to the support and guidance from the Secretariat of UNEP/MAP and IMO, the trust and active contribution from Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the Government of Malta for its continuous support as host of REMPEC, as well as REMPEC's partners for their valuable assistance and REMPEC staff for their dedication.

6 Mr Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat, welcomed the participants in the Meeting. Whilst referring to the impact of shipping activities on the environment, he flagged the cooperative approach proposed under the Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, providing a forum to progress jointly toward on the implementation of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (2022-2027) and other global goals, notably the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He praised the integrated work of the MAP Components to deliver strategic and technical documents, demonstrating the added value of the Barcelona Convention System. He congratulated the establishment of synergies with other UNEP Regional Seas Programme, overcoming boundaries to deliver together on common areas of interest, notably the Marine HNS Response Manual (Multi-regional Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC). He highlighted the effective implementation of the Road Map for a Proposal for the Possible Designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO_x ECA) Pursuant to Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), within the Framework of the Barcelona Convention, resulting from a wide consultation process led by REMPEC with the support of Plan Bleu, and welcomed the universal representation of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in this process, signalling their unflinching commitment to this ambitious proposal contributing to a green renaissance in the Mediterranean.

7 Ms Helen Buni, Technical Officer, on behalf of Ms Patricia Charlebois, Deputy Director, Subdivision for Implementation, Marine Environment Division (MED), International Maritime Organization (IMO), extended the greetings of the Secretary General of IMO, Mr Kitack Lim. Ms Buni recalled that, in cooperation with UNEP/MAP, the IMO has successfully administered and backstopped the work of REMPEC in the field of pollution prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships for 45 years. She underlined the ambitions of the Initial IMO Greenhouse Gas Strategy to halve emissions by 2050 and reduce carbon intensity by 40% by 2030 and recalled the introduction of the 'sulphur cap' requiring a reduction in sulphur content of bunker fuel to 0.5% - arguably one of the most significant regulatory changes impacting the industry in the past 30 years. She welcomed the progress made with regard to the possible designation of the Med SO_x ECA,

commending the contribution from the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. She underpinned the interest of IMO on the ongoing discussion on the drafting of the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, and the Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027). She congratulated partners of the important outcomes of the EU-funded Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil and HNS Pollution Cooperation (West MOPoCo) Project. She praised REMPEC's continuous support to response to oil pollution in the region, notably the recent activation of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit to advise Israel and assist Lebanon in February and March 2021. She acknowledged these achievements were made possible with the dedication and commitment of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the UNEP/MAP System, REMPEC Partners, and REMPEC Secretariat.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Rules of Procedure

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

2.2 Election of Officers

9 Following informal consultations with the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the Head of Office of REMPEC proposed Albania as Chair, Bosnia and Herzegovina as Vice-Chair and Egypt as Rapporteur. The Meeting unanimously agreed to elect the following officers of the Meeting:

Ms Klodiana Marika (Albania)	Chairperson
Mr Tarik Kupusović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)	Vice-Chairperson
Ms Yosra Abdelaziz (Egypt)	Rapporteur

2.3 Working Languages

10 The working languages of the Meeting were English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation was provided during the Meeting. All working documents were available in both official languages of the Centre. However, information documents were available in their original language only, unless a translation was provided in the second working language.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

11 The Chairperson thanked the Meeting for supporting her election and proposed that the Provisional Agenda, as set out in document [REMPEC/WG.51/3/1](#) and annotated in document [REMPEC/WG.51/3/2](#), be adopted.

12 The Meeting adopted the Agenda reproduced in **Annex II** to the present report. The list of documents is set out in **Annex III** thereto.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PROGRESS REPORT ON REMPEC'S ACTIVITIES SINCE THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINTS OF REMPEC

13 At the invitation of the Chairperson, the Secretariat introduced document [REMPEC/WG.51/4](#) setting out an outline of the activities carried out by the Centre since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, in June 2019.

14 One delegation thanked the Secretariat for the implementation of the activities referred in the document under review, notably through the implementation of the West MOPoCo Project, and noted the valuable knowledge acquired through the extended invitation to Mediterranean coastal States to attend the series of online Webinars organised by the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF).

15 The representative from Cyprus announced the ratification by the Republic of Cyprus of "The Implementation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the State of Israel on the sub-regional marine oil

pollution contingency plan” and extended its gratitude to the Secretariat for its valuable support for the preparation of the Agreement and its Contingency Plan.

16 The Meeting **took note** of the information provided in document [REMPEC/WG.51/4](#).

17 The Meeting also **took note** of the information provided by the representative from Israel following a presentation it delivered on the pollution incident that affected the coastline of Israel on 17 February 2021 praising the support provided by REMPEC and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) through its CleanSeaNet services, and the subsequent interventions from Lebanon informing about the impact of this pollution on the Lebanese shoreline, and from REMPEC recalling the onsite assistance provided to Lebanon through the deployment of Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) experts.

AGENDA ITEM 5: MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR PREVENTION OF, AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (2022-2031) AND ITS ACTION PLAN

18 The Secretariat presented document [REMPEC/WG.51/5](#) on the Draft Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, hereinafter referred to as the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), which was prepared by the Secretariat, in consultation with Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and key Partners in the region, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations reproduced in Annex IV to the Report of the Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) (online, 10 March 2021), as laid down in document [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.6](#).

19 In its presentation, the Secretariat also mentioned document [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.11](#), which compiled a set of projects sheets relevant to the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

20 The representative from the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) welcomed the ongoing cooperation, for the preparation and upcoming implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), established within the framework of the existing Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP/MAP and UfM and referred to the 2030 GreenerMed Agenda and the relevant UfM Ministerial declarations, notably the 2021 Ministerial declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy, as well as the 2014 Ministerial declaration on Environment and Climate Change.

21 The representatives of the Sea Alarm Foundation and the West Med Initiative briefly introduced their respective project mentioned in document [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.11](#).

22 Further to the deliberation under this agenda item, the Meeting:

- .1 **took note** of the information provided in document [REMPEC/WG.51/5](#);
- .2 **considered and concurred** with the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) (Online, 10 March 2021) laid down in Annex IV of document [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.6](#);
- .3 **agreed upon** the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, as laid down in the Annex to document [REMPEC/WG.51/5](#);
- .4 **requested** the Secretariat to submit it for approval by the next Meeting of the Focal Points of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP); and
- .5 **welcomed** the compilation of the set of projects sheets relevant to the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), presented in document [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.11](#), and **encouraged** Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and Partners to continue sharing relevant information on projects to ensure a coordinated and concerted approach.

AGENDA ITEM 6: BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (2022-2027)

23 At the invitation of the Chairperson, the Secretariat introduced document [REMPEC/WG.51/6](#) presenting the Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027), hereinafter referred to as the “Mediterranean BWM Strategy (2022-2027)”, as prepared by REMPEC, in cooperation with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC).

24 One delegation highlighted the need to carry out an assessment of the estimated costs for the implementation of the draft Mediterranean BWM Strategy (2022-2027) to be preferably prepared by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points whilst stressing the voluntary nature of the Mediterranean BWM Strategy (2022-2027) and that its adoption would not make it legally-binding.

25 The Secretariat agreed with the preparation of the requested assessment of the estimated costs for the implementation of the draft Mediterranean BWM Strategy (2022-2027) and clarified that the eventual adoption of the said strategy would demonstrate the commitments of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to address this issue, confirming that the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention) was the legally-binding instrument for Parties to the BWM Convention.

26 Another delegation noted that there were many vectors and pathways for the introduction of Non-Indigenous Species (NIS) in the Mediterranean region and requested the Secretariat to clarify the work carried out in that respect whilst inviting the MAP Components to include NIS-related activities focusing on all introduction pathways in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work for 2022-2023.

27 The representative from UNEP/MAP recalled that NIS were addressed in a holistic manner covering all pathways through a set of measures and instruments by the Barcelona Convention System and its Components, and invited the representative from SPA/RAC to provide further information.

28 The representative from SPA/RAC provided complementary information, referring notably to the revision of the Guidance Fact Sheets for the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme and related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) Common Indicator 6 related to NIS to be considered by the Meeting under Agenda item 9, the elaboration of the Monitoring and Assessment Scales, Assessment Criteria and Thresholds Values for the IMAP Common Indicator 6 as well as the ongoing development of the Baseline Values for the said indicator. He also informed the Meeting that information on pathways of introduction was included, if known, in the MARine Mediterranean Invasive Alien Species Database (MAMIAS), which provides a good base line and comprehensive analysis on pathways contributions. He further recalled the adoption by COP 19 of the Updated Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea, which was considered in the context of the preparation of the draft Mediterranean BWM Strategy (2022-2027) and confirmed that a set of NIS-related activities were included in the proposed Programme of Work of SPA/RAC for 2022-2023.

29 A delegation congratulated the Secretariat for the preparation of the comprehensive Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution, maritime traffic, and offshore activities in the Mediterranean, as presented in document [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.3](#), which provided relevant analysis on NIS pathways in the Mediterranean region.

30 Several delegations emphasised the growing demands in the coming years for granting exemptions in terms of regulation A-4 of the BWM Convention and requested the Secretariat to clarify the role of the countries in the preparation of the proposed comprehensive Regional Procedure for the Granting of Exemptions under the BWM Convention and the related assessments.

31 The Secretariat recalled that the D-1 standard (ballast water exchange) would be phased out by 2024, and that, in practice, it would mean, amongst others, that most vessels would likely choose to install BWM equipment to meet the D-2 standard (which requires ballast water to meet specific biological criteria prior to discharge) – unless they were granted exemptions. The Secretariat took note of the priority for the development of a comprehensive Regional Procedure for the Granting of Exemptions under the BWM Convention and underlined that this would be led by the Secretariat whilst related assessments would require the contribution from the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to provide national data.

32 Following the discussion under this agenda item, the Meeting:

- .1 **took note** of the information provided in document [REMPEC/WG.51/6](#);
- .2 **requested** the Secretariat to:
 - .1 update relevant data in the draft Mediterranean BWM Strategy (2022-2027), as set out in Appendix II to document [REMPEC/WG.51/6](#), with the latest information laid down in the Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution, maritime traffic, and offshore activities in the Mediterranean, as presented in document [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.3](#);
 - .2 carry out final editing and any editorial corrections, which might be identified, as appropriate, in the draft Mediterranean BWM Strategy (2022-2027), as set out in Appendix II to document [REMPEC/WG.51/6](#);
 - .3 liaise with the Secretariat of the OSPAR Commission¹ as well as the Secretariat of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission or HELCOM)² to explore the need and possibility to update or revise 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* adopted by the Seventeenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Paris, France, 8-10 February 2012) as well as the Contracting Parties to the OSPAR Convention at the 2010 Meeting of the OSPAR Commission (Bergen, Norway, 20-24 September 2010), and by the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention at the 32nd Meeting of the HELCOM Commission (Helsinki, Finland, 9-10 March 2011), especially considering that the D-1 standard (ballast water exchange) is in the process of being phased out and that all ships will be required to meet the D-2 standard (which requires ballast water to meet specific biological criteria prior to discharge) by 8 September 2024 unless they have been granted an exemption in terms of regulation A-4 of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004; and
 - .4 provide an assessment of the estimated costs for the implementation of the draft Mediterranean BWM Strategy (2022-2027), as set out in Appendix II to document [REMPEC/WG.51/6](#), preferably by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points.
- .3 **invited** relevant UNEP/MAP Components to include non-indigenous species (NIS)-related activities focusing on all introduction pathways, in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work for 2022-2023, for their consideration by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points;
- .4 **examined and agreed upon** the draft Mediterranean BWM Strategy (2022-2027), as set out in Appendix II to document [REMPEC/WG.51/6](#); and
- .5 **requested** the Secretariat to submit it for approval by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points.

AGENDA ITEM 7: POSSIBLE DESIGNATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA, AS A WHOLE, AS AN EMISSION CONTROL AREA FOR SULPHUR OXIDES (MED SO_x ECA) PURSUANT TO MARPOL ANNEX VI

33 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat introduced document [REMPEC/WG.51/7](#), which provided information on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO_x ECA) pursuant to Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), in accordance with Decision IG.24/8 adopted by

¹ established by the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (the "OSPAR Convention").

² the governing body of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (the "Helsinki Convention").

the Twenty-first Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019).

34 In particular, the Secretariat referred to the submission by REMPEC to the 76th session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 76) and the continued assistance it provided for the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI. It also presented the outcome of the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts and referred to the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO_x ECA) pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI (online, 27-28 April 2021), hereinafter referred to as the Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Med SO_x ECA, as laid down in document [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.9](#). Finally, the Secretariat presented the draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO_x ECA to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document [REMPEC/WG.51/7](#).

35 The representative from Israel informed the Meeting that progress was being made on the national legal instrument enabling the ratification of MARPOL Annex VI by the end of the year, subject to its approval by Parliament. He raised the question whether a Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention that is not yet a Party to MARPOL Annex VI could be included in the list of co-sponsors for the possible submission of a joint and coordinated proposal for the designation of the proposed Med SO_x ECA to the IMO, or not.

36 The representative from Greece thanked the Secretariat for conducting the process as well as the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for their input through the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts. She acknowledged that the text of the draft joint and coordinated proposal for the designation of the proposed Med SO_x ECA to the IMO was satisfactory. Whilst emphasising the support of her government to this initiative, she noted that the impacts of the proposed Med SO_x ECA on islands, insular and remote areas, were still a matter of concern for her government, highlighting that, in their opinion, the studies were not addressing this issue. She also informed the Meeting that her government was reflecting on the means to mitigate such socio-economic impacts. She concluded that her government agreed with the submission to the seventy-eighth (78th) session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 78), with an entry into force of the proposed Med SO_x ECA at the earliest on 1 January 2025 or later to ensure that all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention take part in the submission as co-sponsors. She also stressed that the proposed Med SO_x ECA should cover the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, hence the importance of the ratification of MARPOL Annex VI by all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

37 The representative from Egypt informed the Meeting that her government was also progressing on the ratification of MARPOL Annex VI. Whilst thanking the Secretariat for the organisation of the National Workshop (virtual) on Ratification and Effective Implementation of MARPOL Annex VI for Egypt (online, 25 November 2020), she asked further support from the Secretariat to facilitate the ratification process, including the organisation of a training for port authorities.

38 The representative from France supported the work carried out by the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts composed of representatives from all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, and concurred with the submission to MEPC 78, with an entry into force of the proposed Med SO_x ECA as early as possible, preferably in 2024, and not later than 1 January 2025, providing two years to Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to ratify MARPOL Annex VI from the time the submission of a joint and coordinated proposal for the designation of the proposed Med SO_x ECA would be made to the IMO.

39 The representative from Italy praised the further work of the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts and agreed with the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in the document under review.

40 The representative from Cyprus confirmed that his government was ready for the possible submission of a joint and coordinated proposal for the designation of the proposed Med SO_x ECA to the IMO and was flexible on the entry into force of the proposed Med SO_x ECA.

41 The representative from Monaco concurred with the comments made by France and Italy on their appreciation to the Secretariat and the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts on the further work accomplished and expressed the interest of his government for the entry into force of the proposed Med SO_x ECA as soon as possible.

42 The representative from the European Union (EU) joined other delegations in thanking the Secretariat, the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the Barcelona Convention Secretariat - Coordinating Unit for UNEP/MAP, Plan Bleu, and MED POL for their valuable contributions. In response to the question raised by the representative from Israel, the delegate from EU highlighted that non-Parties to MARPOL Annex VI could potentially be part of the list of co-sponsors for the possible submission of a joint and coordinated proposal for the designation of the proposed Med SO_x ECA to the IMO, since, in her view, the application of the requirements of Appendix 3 to MARPOL Annex VI may be subject to a broader interpretation by IMO Member States as it was the case in the past. In this context, reference was made to a precedent under which the United States of America and Canada submitted a joint and coordinated proposal for the designation of the North American Emission Control Area (ECA) to the IMO, whilst Canada had not yet ratified MARPOL Annex VI at the time of the submission. However, it was emphasised that the ratification of MARPOL Annex VI by all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention by the time of the entry into force of the proposed Med SO_x ECA was of paramount importance. Having noted the request of assistance from Egypt and the delegate from the EU agreed to raise the matter with EMSA to continue providing technical assistance and organising trainings through the SAFEMED IV Project. The meeting was informed that, in 2020, the EU adopted the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy and was on the point to adopt the Zero Pollution Action Plan both stressing the need to designate ECAs to control both SO_x and NO_x in all EU waters including in the Mediterranean region. She expressed the EU's firm supports for an entry into force of the proposed Med SO_x ECA as soon as possible, recalling the need to be inclusive and keep momentum. The delegate from the EU concluded by recalling that funding opportunities might arise from the commitments of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at COP 22.

43 In response to the comments from the representative from Greece, the representative from Plan Bleu, whilst appreciating the efforts of all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in the further work accomplished so far, recalled that the Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Med SO_x ECA was satisfied that the necessary studies were prepared in line with the road map and in accordance with the Terms of Reference developed by the Secretariat and agreed by the SO_x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, by notably addressing additional economic impact evaluation, *inter alia*, analyses of the impacts on short-sea shipping activity as well on the social and economic impact on Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention including on development for islands, insular and remote areas. This was further confirmed by the REMPEC and Plan Bleu Consultants who carried out the further study, providing further technical input on how the said study addressed this matter. In particular, it was stressed that the further work indicated that price effects might occur, but that the magnitude of the effects would be small, with limited effect on demand for goods in islands and remote areas.

44 Whilst thanking delegations for their active participation and fruitful deliberations as well as for the encouraging information shared during the Meeting on the progress made on the ratification of MARPOL Annex VI, the Secretariat confirmed that the proposed Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2022-2023 included technical support and capacity building to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI. In this context, the Secretariat informed the Meeting that progress was made in the mobilisation of resources, notably by: proposing related activities under the IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) for 2022-2023 to be considered and approved by the 71st session of the IMO's Technical Cooperation Committee (TCC) to be tentatively held between 20 and 24 September 2021; engaging a dialogue with Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to provide voluntary contribution; and through the submission of a project proposal aimed at promoting and supporting the development and implementation of innovative global solutions to mitigate and respond to climate change, which will support Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in achieving Common Specific Objective (CSO) 2 of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) as well as indirectly contribute to the actions defined in its CSO 3 (Reduce and monitor air emissions from ships to a level that is not harmful to the marine environment, or the health of the coastal population of the Mediterranean).

45 The Secretariat further confirmed that, as requested by the Meeting, it would further address the question on the possible submission of a joint and coordinated proposal for the designation of the proposed Med SO_x ECA to the IMO, by Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention that were not yet Parties to MARPOL Annex VI, with the IMO Secretariat, by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points.

46 Following the discussion under this agenda item, the Meeting:

- .1 **took note** of the information provided in document [REMPEC/WG.51/7](#);
- .2 **concurred** with the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Med SO_x ECA, as laid down in document [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.9](#), in particular the initial discussion held on the effective date of entry into force of the proposed Med SO_x ECA as well as the information shared on the progress made by Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention that had not yet ratified MARPOL Annex VI;
- .3 **reiterated** the importance for the Secretariat to continue providing assistance for the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which so request;
- .4 **underlined** the need to encourage and support preparation efforts and mitigate potential impacts as relevant, in line, with outcomes of further knowledge gathering through relevant frontrunner activities and financial, and capacity building mechanisms;
- .5 **agreed to** take the draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO_x ECA, as set out in the Appendix to document [REMPEC/WG.51/7](#), as a basis for the possible submission of a joint and coordinated proposal for the designation of the proposed Med SO_x ECA to the IMO, in line with the road map and further concurred with the adjustments made by the Secretariat, as outlined in paragraph 20 of document [REMPEC/WG.51/7](#), and;
- .6 **requested the Secretariat** to carry out final editing and any editorial corrections, which might be identified, as appropriate, in the draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO_x ECA, as set out in the Appendix to document [REMPEC/WG.51/7](#);
- .7 also **requested the Secretariat** to address the issues highlighted in yellow in the draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO_x ECA, as set out in the Appendix to document [REMPEC/WG.51/7](#), with a view to facilitating the further process, by:
 - .1 liaising with the IMO Secretariat to complete the information necessary to complete the cover page thereof (Agenda Item number and title; Strategic direction, if applicable; and Output) and inserting the said information therein;
 - .2 considering which related documents could be submitted concurrently to MEPC 78 (e.g. comprehensive bibliography of all the information considered in preparing this proposal) and inserting appropriate references in brackets in the summary thereof;
 - .3 inserting the list of co-sponsors in brackets on the front page thereof, the number of countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea – listing all Mediterranean coastal States in brackets in paragraph 1 of the cover page thereof as well as in the first and second paragraphs of Annex 1 thereof, following the necessary bilateral consultations to be carried out with each Mediterranean coastal State, through the Barcelona Convention Secretariat - Coordinating Unit for UNEP/MAP, in cooperation with REMPEC;
 - .4 replacing the placeholder in the third paragraph of Annex 1 thereof by information in brackets on the further actions towards ratification taken by those Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention that were not yet Parties to MARPOL Annex VI, including procedural steps and expected timeline for their completion, following the necessary bilateral consultations to be carried out with the relevant Mediterranean coastal States, through the Barcelona Convention Secretariat - Coordinating Unit for UNEP/MAP, in cooperation with REMPEC; and
 - .5 liaising with the IMO Secretariat to prepare Annex 4 thereof setting out the draft amendments to regulation 14.3 of MARPOL Annex VI designating the Med SO_x ECA as a new Emission Control Area, and inserting the said annex therein.

- .8 **examined and endorsed** the draft joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Med SO_x ECA to the IMO, as set out in the Appendix to document [REMPEC/WG.51/7](#); and
- .9 **requested the Secretariat** to submit it for examination and approval by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points.

AGENDA ITEM 8: GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND DESIGNATION OF PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SEA AREAS IN RELATION TO SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS OF MEDITERRANEAN IMPORTANCE

47 At the invitation of the Chairperson, the Secretariat introduced document [REMPEC/WG.51/8](#) presenting the Guidance Document for the identification and designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) in relation to Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance, hereinafter referred to as the PSSA Guidance Document, as prepared by REMPEC, in cooperation with SPA/RAC.

48 The representative from SPA/RAC recalled the regional activities implemented in the context of the preparation of the PSSA Guidance Document, including the consultation process carried out with REMPEC Prevention Focal Points and the Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD), which will contribute to the protection of sea areas, in the Mediterranean region.

49 Subsequently, the Meeting:

- .10 **took note** of the information provided in document [REMPEC/WG.51/8](#);
- .11 **examined and agreed** upon the PSSA Guidance Document, as set out in the Appendix to document [REMPEC/WG.51/8](#);
- .12 **requested** the Secretariat to submit it for examination and agreement by the Fifteenth Meeting of the SPA/BD Focal Points; and
- .13 **encouraged** Mediterranean coastal States to implement it and liaise with the Secretariat, as appropriate, to assist them to ascertain if there are maritime areas within their jurisdiction that need the protection afforded by their designation as PSSAs.

AGENDA ITEM 9 DATA SHARING, MONITORING AND REPORTING

50 The Chairperson informed the Meeting that, in order to facilitate the discussion under this agenda item, which addresses several documents, the Meeting would be invited to discuss the parts presented by the Secretariat in sequence.

51 The Secretariat introduced the first part of document [REMPEC/WG.51/9](#), which outlines the progress made on data sharing, monitoring, and reporting since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Malta, 11-13 June 2019). The Secretariat also referred to the Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution, maritime traffic, and offshore activities in the Mediterranean reproduced in document [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.3](#), which was prepared to support Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in taking well informed decisions, in the context of the drafting of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

52 One delegation referred to upcoming publication by the European Commission of the European Maritime Transport Environmental Report, prepared by EMSA and the European Environment Agency (EEA) to be published in September 2021.

53 **The meeting took** note of the information provided on the progress made on data sharing, monitoring, and reporting since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Malta, 11-13 June 2019), as laid down in document [REMPEC/WG.51/9](#).

REMPEC platforms developments

54 With regard to REMPEC platforms developments, the Meeting:

- .1 **encouraged** the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to:

- .1 regularly update their Country Profiles, the Mediterranean Integrated Geographical Information System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment and Response (MEDGIS-MAR), and the Information System of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS); and
 - .2 use the Waste Management Decision Support Tool to establish or review their national waste management strategy for oily waste resulting from accidental marine pollution.
- .2 **requested** the Secretariat to undertake the necessary editorial review and publish the Study on Trends and Outlook on Marine Pollution, Maritime Traffic and Offshore Activities in the Mediterranean, reproduced in document [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.3](#).

Draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report and reporting of illicit ship pollution discharges

55 The Secretariat then provided information on the further development and practical use of a draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report within the framework of the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS), and referred to the Report of the Third Meeting of MENELAS (Valletta, Malta, 15-16 October 2019) as well as the Report of the Fourth Meeting of MENELAS (online, 21-22 April 2021), as presented respectively in documents [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.7](#) and [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.8](#).

56 Following the introduction, the Meeting

- .1 **agreed** to invite Mediterranean coastal States to participate in the forthcoming coordinated aerial surveillance operation for illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean (OSCAR-MED), as appropriate; and
- .2 **requested** the Secretariat to submit the finalised draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation **report** to the Fifteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC to be held tentatively in 2023 for endorsement.

Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean

57 The Secretariat presented the proposed way forward for the establishment of the Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean, as laid down in document [REMPEC/WG.51/9/2](#); and referred to the Report of the Regional Workshop to Enhance Regional Cooperation in Responding to Marine Oil and HNS Pollution in the Mediterranean (MEDEXPOL 2020) (online, 27-28 October 2020), reproduced in document [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.5](#).

58 Several delegations welcomed the proposal put forward by the Secretariat and stressed the importance of the establishment of a Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean to facilitate the exchange of information and to coordinate the regional assistance through a unique platform.

59 Further to the discussion on the Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean, the Meeting:

- .1 **took note** of the information provided in document [REMPEC/WG.51/9/2](#);
- .2 **agreed upon** the use of the Common Emergency Communication and Information System for Marine Pollution (CECIS MP) by all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, as a Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean, for the request of assistance;
- .3 **encouraged**, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, upon receipt of REMPEC annual "Circular No.2 - Directory of Competent National Authorities in charge of Accidental Marine Pollution, Preparedness and Response and Mutual Assistance

and other Relevant Information”, to update the list of REMPEC Focal Points and CECIS MP simultaneously;

- .4 **concurred** with the proposal to facilitate access to CECIS MP by REMPEC Focal Points by:
 - .1 creating on REMPEC’s emergency page, a link to CECIS MP authentication screen; and
 - .2 exploring the possibility to enable access to both systems, i.e. REMPEC’s Regional Information System databases and CECIS MP, with the same credentials.
- .5 **agreed** to establish a common notification procedure by:
 - .1 first encouraging third countries to exchange through CECIS MP the whole POLREP from the alert phase to the request for assistance; and
 - .2 secondly, further exploring the harmonisation of the notification procedures via SafeSeaNet for all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, notably by:
 - .1 exploring through the High-level Steering Group, the authorisation of REMPEC’s access to SafeSeaNet to allow compliance with Article 9 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol; and
 - .2 identifying necessary adaptation of the existing reporting procedures established within the Barcelona Convention and its 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol.
- .6 **further agreed** with the proposed adaptation of CECIS MP, with a view to facilitating the use of the Standard forms for the Request of Assistance by:
 - .1 creating a direct link or providing access to the approved Standard Form for request of experts from the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) and the Standard Forms for request of equipment, products, and specialised personnel, to be completed by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and attached to the POLFAC for dissemination to Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and REMPEC, as applicable; and
 - .2 granting the necessary user access to allow REMPEC to process request of assistance on behalf of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in accordance with Article 12.1 and 12.2 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol.
- .7 **concurred** with the proposed creation of a link on CECIS MP enabling access to the REMPEC’s Country Profile;
- .8 **agreed upon** the proposed interconnection between the equipment database of the CECIS MP and MEDGIS-MAR; and
- .9 **requested** the Secretariat to liaise with the European Commission European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) to implement the above agreed adaptations and to continue exploring, in **consultation** with Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, communication streamlining processes.

Manual on national mechanisms for the mobilisation of response equipment and experts in case of emergency

60 The Secretariat introduced the template of the Manual on national mechanisms for the mobilisation of response equipment and experts in case of emergency, as set out in document [REMPEC/WG.51/9/3](#) and also referred to the Study on synergy between the three sub-regional

agreements and contingency plans in the West Mediterranean presented in document [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.4](#), both developed in the context of the West MOPoCo Project.

61 Several delegations which benefited from the West MOPoCo Project shared their experience on the use of the template of the Manual and acknowledged that it facilitated the collection of information and its regular update, and that the resulting Manual allowed immediate access to relevant information on available equipment at national level and on mechanisms for support through other channels in case of emergency.

62 Following these interventions, the Meeting:

- .1 **took note** of the information provided in document [REMPEC/WG.51/9/3](#);
- .2 **agreed upon** the use of the Template for the development of the Manuals on national mechanisms for the mobilisation of response equipment and experts, in case of emergency, hereinafter referred to as the "Template", as laid down in the Appendix to document [REMPEC/WG.51/9/3](#);
- .3 **requested the Secretariat** to make the necessary amendments to the Template notably by:
 - .1 summarising the introductory paragraphs of the tables of Parts 1 and 2 of the Template;
 - .2 adapting the format of the tables to match the MEDGIS-MAR and Country profile databases, considering the outcomes of the discussion on the Common Emergency Communication System in the Mediterranean, referred above;
 - .3 updating the insertion of the links to these databases in the Template; and
 - .4 replacing the indicative table of the response equipment annexed to the Template, with a list of the response equipment and field of expertise.
- .4 **also requested the Secretariat** to submit, every two years, to all Mediterranean coastal States, a pre-filled Template, and other relevant forms, to support Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in their reporting obligations; and
- .5 **encouraged** all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to update such information directly on MEDGIS-MAR and REMPEC's Country profile websites, or by updating the pre-filled forms.

IMAP revised Guidance Fact Sheets for the Common Indicator 6 and 19

63 The Secretariat provided an overview of the revised IMAP Guidance Fact Sheets: Common Indicator 6 and 19, as presented in document [REMPEC/WG.51/9/1](#) and also referred to the Comparative review of existing reporting procedures and formats, as laid down in document [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.10](#).

64 One delegation thanked the Secretariat for the work carried on the IMAP Guidance Fact Sheets: Common Indicator 6 and 19 and welcomed the Comparative review of existing reporting procedures and formats.

65 Following the discussion on the IMAP revised Guidance Fact Sheets for the Common Indicator 6 and 19, the Meeting:

- .1 **took note** of the information provided in document [REMPEC/WG.51/9/1](#); and
- .2 **requested** the Secretariat to coordinate the finalisation of the revised Guidance Fact Sheets of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) for the Common Indicator 6 and 19.

AGENDA ITEM 10: MEDITERRANEAN TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (MTWG) AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

66 At the invitation of the Chairperson, the Secretariat introduced document [REMPEC/WG.51/10](#) providing an update on the progress made by the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) since the Thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC and proposing future activities to be integrated to the programme of work of the MTWG for the biennium 2022-2023.

67 One delegation recognised the importance of the MTWG stressing the relevance of the work undertaken on the Study on Condensate spills and the need for further contribution and engagement by all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to contribute to the work carried out under the MTWG to support the Secretariat in the implementation of the tasks assigned to the MTWG by the Meetings of the Focal Points of REMPEC.

68 In this context, the Meeting:

- .1 **took note** of the information provided in document [REMPEC/WG.51/10](#);
- .2 **encouraged** the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which had not yet done so, to nominate their national entities and/or officials as contact points for the OPRC-HNS Correspondence Group of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG); and
- .3 **tasked** the MTWG, through the OPRC HNS Correspondence Group, to continue supporting the process for the establishment of the Common Emergency Communication System, during the biennium 2022-2023.

Study on Condensate spills

69 The Secretariat then presented document [REMPEC/WG.51/10/1](#), which describes the developments related to the preparation of the Study on Condensate spills and the related proposals notably to continue examining the proposed “Condensates – Chemical Intervention Guide”.

70 One delegation noted that the proposed “Condensates – Chemical Intervention Guide” presents a set of response techniques including in-situ burning and proposed a precautionary approach while such techniques will be considered and assessed during the further work required for the completion of the said Guide.

71 Several delegations emphasised the importance of the work on condensate and urged all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to contribute to the further work on the “Condensates – Chemical Intervention Guide”, noting that the tasks assigned to the MTWG should be implemented first of foremost, by the members of the MTWG composed of experts from Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, with the assistance of the Secretariat.

72 In light of the discussion held on Condensate spills, the Meeting:

- .1 **took note** of the information provided in document [REMPEC/WG.51/10/1](#);
- .2 **extended** the consultation with Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, to collect further input, and to further examine the proposed Condensates – Chemical Intervention Guide prepared by Cedre;
- .3 **extended** the period of the mandate of the MTWG to allow for further progress and finalisation of the task related to the Study on condensate spills, preferably by end December 2021;
- .4 **requested** the Secretariat to review the Condensates – Chemical Intervention Guide as laid down in Annex I to document [REMPEC/WG.51/10/1](#), taking into account the Mediterranean coastal States’ contributions; and
- .5 **requested** the Secretariat to submit it for examination and approval by the Fifteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC.

Marine HNS Response Manual – Multi-regional Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC

73 The Secretariat introduced document [REMPEC/WG.51/10/2](#), which presents the final version of the Marine HNS response manual – Multi-regional Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC.

74 The representative from HELCOM, thanked both the Bonn Agreement and REMPEC, as well as partners of the West MOPoCo Project for the successful cooperation and informed the Meeting about the adoption of the said Manual by the 42nd Meeting of the Helsinki Commission (Online, 17-18 March 2021).

75 One delegation involved in the preparation of the said Manual welcomed the inter-regional cooperation established between Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, and REMPEC and concurred with the proposal put forward by the Secretariat.

76 Following these interventions, the Meeting:

- .1 **took note** of the information provided in document [REMPEC/WG.51/10/2](#);
- .2 **examined and adopted** the Marine HNS Response Manual – Multi-regional Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC, as set out in the Appendix to document [REMPEC/WG.51/10/2](#); and
- .3 **requested the Secretariat** to submit the Manual to the 9th session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR), in consultation with the Secretariats of the Bonn Agreement and HELCOM and to coordinate the input and contribution from members of the MTWG, for the “Development of an operational guide on the response to spills of Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS)”, in the framework of the PPR.

AGENDA ITEM 11: PROPOSED PROGRAMME OR WORK OF REMPEC FOR THE BIENNIUM 2022 - 2023

77 Under this agenda item, the representative from UNEP/MAP provided an overview of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) (2022-2027) and emphasised that the proposed programme was designed to contribute to the implementation of the UNEP/MAP MTS (2022-2027), as well as the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and the Mediterranean BWM Strategy (2022-2027). She recalled that the Meeting is expected to provide technical comments, which would be considered in the preparation of the overall UNEP/MAP Programme of Work for 2022-2023 to be submitted with the related budget for approval by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points.

78 The Secretariat introduced document [REMPEC/WG.51/11](#) which presents, in its Annex, the proposed Programme of Work to be implemented by the Centre during the biennium 2022-2023, and explains the rationale used to prepare it.

79 One delegation congratulated the Secretariat for the preparation of an ambitious but realistic Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2022-2023 and invited the Secretariat to include the activity on the “Condensates – Chemical Intervention Guide”, as agreed under agenda item 10.

80 Another delegation requested the inclusion of the activity on Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean, as agreed under agenda item 9.

81 A delegation announced that its administration will contact shortly the Barcelona Convention Secretariat - Coordinating Unit for UNEP/MAP to progress on the setting up of an agreement to provide financial contribution toward the implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work for 2022-2023, including activities related to climate changes.

82 The Meeting eventually:

- .1 **took note** of the information provided in document [REMPEC/WG.51/11](#);
- .2 **requested the Secretariat** to include in the Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2022-2023, the finalisation of the Condensates – Chemical Intervention

Guide and the further work on the Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean, and

- .3 **agreed upon** the Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2022-2023, as laid down in document [REMPEC/WG.51/11](#), as amended by the Meeting, and further agreed to propose it for approval by the next meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points.

AGENDA ITEM 12: OTHER BUSINESS

83 Under this agenda item, the representative from Monaco thanked the RAMOGE Sub-regional Agreement for its participation in the preparation of the Study on synergy between the three sub-regional agreements and contingency plans in the West Mediterranean prepared in the framework of the West MOPoCo Project. He mentioned that the RAMOGE Pollution Protection and Control working group was currently examining the 18 recommendations resulting from the study. On behalf of the Secretariat of the RAMOGE Agreement, he informed the Meeting, about the organisation of a RAMOGEPOL 2021 anti-pollution exercise, which was organised by France on 26 May 2021, in the Eastern part of “Cap Corse”, in an area with intense maritime traffic and ecologically sensitive, located in the marine natural park of Cap Corse and the Agriates. In accordance with the recommendation 14 of the Study on synergy between the three sub-regional agreements and contingency plans in the West Mediterranean, representatives from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia were invited but were unable to attend due to sanitary conditions. He emphasised that numerous maritime and air resources were mobilised by France, Italy, and Monaco as well as EMSA. He concluded by highlighting two lessons learned from the exercise among many others, i.e. the importance of liaison officers and the valuable input from drones in directing the response means. He invited participants to consult the RAMOGE Agreement website (www.ramoge.org) for more details.

AGENDA ITEM 13: ADOPTION OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

84 The draft conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting were submitted to the participants, under document REMPEC/WG.51/WP.1, for their review by the Meeting.

85 Following a thorough review of document REMPEC/WG.51/WP.1, the Meeting adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting, which have been incorporated in the present report, under the relevant agenda items.

AGENDA ITEM 14: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

86 Following the closing remarks from the representatives from UNEP/MAP, IMO and REMPEC, the Meeting was closed by the Chairperson on Wednesday, 2 June 2021 at 1200 hours (Malta local time or GMT+2).

ANNEX(E) I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

CONTRACTING PARTIES / PARTIES CONTRACTANTES

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organisation of the Meeting
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Progress Report on REMPEC activities since the Thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC
5. Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action Plan
6. Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027)
7. Possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO_x ECA) pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI
8. Guidance Document for the identification and designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas in relation to Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
9. Data sharing, monitoring, and reporting
10. Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) and related activities
11. Proposed Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2022-2023
12. Other business
13. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations
14. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.51/3/1	Provisional agenda
REMPEC/WG.51/3/2	Annotated provisional agenda and draft timetable
REMPEC/WG.51/4	Progress Report on REMPEC activities since the Thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC
REMPEC/WG.51/5	Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action Plan
REMPEC/WG.51/6	Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027)
REMPEC/WG.51/7	Possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO _x ECA) pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI
REMPEC/WG.51/8	Guidance Document for the identification and designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas in relation to Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
REMPEC/WG.51/9	Data sharing, monitoring, and reporting
REMPEC/WG.51/9/1	IMAP Guidance Fact Sheets: Common Indicator 6 and 19
REMPEC/WG.51/9/2	Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean
REMPEC/WG.51/9/3	Manual on national mechanisms for the mobilisation of response equipment and experts in case of emergency
REMPEC/WG.51/10	Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) and related activities
REMPEC/WG.51/10/1	Study on Condensate spills
REMPEC/WG.51/10/2	Marine HNS response manual - Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC
REMPEC/WG.51/11	Proposed Programme of Work of REMPEC for the biennium 2022-2023
REMPEC/WG.51/13	Report of the Meeting
REMPEC/WG.51/WP.1	Draft conclusions and recommendations

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.51/INF.1/Rev.1	List of documents
REMPEC/WG.51/J/1	Provisional list of participants
REMPEC/WG.51/INF.2	List of participants
REMPEC/WG.51/INF.3	Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution, maritime traffic, and offshore activities in the Mediterranean (English only)
REMPEC/WG.51/INF.4	Study on synergy between the three sub-regional agreements and contingency plans in the West Mediterranean
REMPEC/WG.51/INF.5	Report of the Regional Workshop to enhance Regional Cooperation in Responding to Marine Oil and HNS Pollution in the Mediterranean (MEDEXPOL 2020) (online, 27-28 October 2020)
REMPEC/WG.51/INF.6	Report of the Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) (online, 10 March 2021)
REMPEC/WG.51/INF.7	Report of the Third Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS) (Valletta, Malta, 15-16 October 2019) (English only)
REMPEC/WG.51/INF.8	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS) (online, 21-22 April 2021) (English only)
REMPEC/WG.51/INF.9	Report of the Regional Expert Meeting on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med Sox ECA) pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI (online, 27-28 April 2021)
REMPEC/WG.51/INF.10	Comparative review of existing reporting procedures and formats (English only)
REMPEC/WG.51/INF.11/Rev.1	Compilation of Project Sheets (English only)