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

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

REMPEC/WG.56/INF.3
12 May 2023
Original: English

Kappara, Malta, 13-15 June 2023

**Agenda Item 2: Progress report on REMPEC activities since the Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC
Report of the First Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and
Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) (Floriana, Malta, 29 November-1 December 2022)**

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document will not be printed and is made available in electronic format only. Delegates are encouraged to consult the document in its electronic format and limit printing.

Note by the Secretariat

This document presents the report of the First Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) (Floriana, Malta, 29 November-1 December 2022).

Background

1 The First Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), hereinafter referred to as the First Coordination Meeting, was held in Floriana, Malta, from 29 November to 1 December 2022, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-2023 of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), adopted by the Twenty-second 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 (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021).

2 The report of the First Coordination Meeting is presented in the **Appendix** to the present document.

Action requested by the Meeting

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

Appendix

Report of the First Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) (Floriana, Malta, 29 November-1 December 2022)

(REMPEC/WG.52/8)



**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)
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MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)**

First Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy
for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine
Pollution from Ships (2022-2031)

REMPEC/WG.52/8
13 March 2023
Original: English

Floriana, 29 November - 1 December 2022

**Report of the First Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and
Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031)**

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INTRODUCTION

1 The First Coordination Meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), was organised in Malta by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) between 29 November and 1 December 2022, in accordance with the Decision IG.25/16 on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), hereinafter referred to as the “Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)”, adopted by the Twenty-second 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 22) (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021).

2 The principal objectives of the Meeting were to:

- .1 report and assess the progress made in the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);
- .2 define priority actions and propose related activities for the following biennium; and
- .3 define roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the proposed activities and establish operational and strategic synergies, through specific partnership agreements, if required, by coordinating parallel initiatives and processes to ensure the capitalisation of past and ongoing efforts, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the resources and expertise mobilised to meet the Common Strategic Objectives (CSOs) of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

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

ALBANIA	MALTA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	MONACO
CROATIA	MONTENEGRO
EGYPT	MOROCCO
EUROPEAN UNION	SLOVENIA
FRANCE	SPAIN
ISRAEL	TUNISIA
ITALY	TÜRKIYE

by representatives from the following UN organisations:

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

by representatives from the following inter-governmental organisations:

- PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)
- RAMOGE AGREEMENT

by a representative from the following regional activity centre of UNEP/MAP:

- SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)

by representatives from other organisations:

- BIRDLIFE MALTA
- CEDRE
- CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

- INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION LIMITED (ITOPF)
- IPIECA
- MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP (MOIG)
- OCEANCARE
- SDG4MED – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN
- WESTMED INITIATIVE

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

OPENING OF THE MEETING

5 The Meeting was opened by Honourable Ms Graziella Galea, Member of the Parliament of Malta and of the Maltese Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) on Tuesday 29 November 2022 at 09:00 hours. Ms Galea welcomed participants to this first coordination meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), which was held at the new premises of REMPEC in Floriana, Malta. She recalled the fundamental role that REMPEC fulfils in the Mediterranean region, and the uniqueness of the organisation as one of the only IMO regional bodies, a signifier of the importance of the Mediterranean region for shipping. Ms Galea highlighted the diversity and number of participants at the Meeting, which in itself was a testament to the importance of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), and also welcomed the gender balance achieved by the Meeting. She stressed the importance of regional collaboration, whilst also recognising the need for CPs and relevant stakeholders to take responsibility for individual actions towards a collective and shared objective. Finally, Ms Galea wished the Meeting successful and fruitful discussions, which would lead to achieving the vision of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), i.e. *“a clean and healthy Mediterranean marine and coastal environment with a sustainable and pollution free maritime sector, supported by a rigorous enforcement system and strengthened multi-sectoral cooperation, for the benefit of present and future generations”*.

6 Mr Gabino Gonzalez, Head of Office of REMPEC, welcomed participants to the new offices of REMPEC, and recognised the significance of this meeting as the first of five biennial coordination meetings that will be held throughout the duration of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031). He commented on the high-level representation at the Meeting and thanked the participants who had registered to attend and welcomed the presence of sixteen (16) out of the twenty-two (22) CPs, alongside representation from numerous partner organisations. Mr Gonzalez congratulated the Meeting on efforts to meet gender balance, with female delegates constituting 24% of all distinguished delegates. He expressed thanks to the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (*Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica*) for its support through a discretionary contribution, and to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) for its financial support. Mr Gonzalez also recognised the efforts of all contributors who had provided input to the reporting on actions of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031). He acknowledged the role of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) as a driver for good and transparent communication towards clearly defined shared objectives, and recalled the objective of the meeting, to discuss the joint execution of the Action Plan. Mr Gonzalez cautioned against individualism and encouraged the Meeting to consider what could be accomplished when all interested parties work together towards a collective and common ambition.

ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

Rules of Procedure

7 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).

Election of Officers

8 Following informal consultations with the CPs, the Head of Office of REMPEC proposed Italy as Chair, Türkiye as Vice-Chair and Montenegro as Rapporteur. The Meeting unanimously agreed to elect the following officers of the Meeting:

Dr Ezio Amato (Italy)	Chair
Mr Fatih Şenol (Türkiye)	Vice-Chair
Ms Darinka Joksimovic (Montenegro)	Rapporteur

Working Languages

9 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 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

10 The Chair thanked the Meeting for supporting his election and echoed the comments made by Ms Galea and Mr Gonzalez in their opening remarks, stressing the need for collaborative working. He proposed that the Provisional Agenda, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.52/1/1 and annotated in document REMPEC/WG.52/1/2 Rev.1, be adopted.

11 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 2: REPORTING AND MONITORING PROCEDURE

12 At the invitation of the Chair, the Secretariat introduced the consultation process carried out in preparation for the Meeting, through the completion of the tables reproduced in document REMPEC/WG.52/INF.3, by the CPs and relevant stakeholders.

13 The Head of Office of REMPEC then presented the proposed reporting and monitoring procedure, through the online platform being developed by REMPEC, also aimed at raising public awareness, when available.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ANALYTICAL REPORT

14 The Chair invited the Secretariat to present the analytical report on the CPs needs and priorities against regional stakeholders ongoing and future actions and projects and available resources, identifying the gaps and duplication in activities being undertaken to support the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

15 Ms Jennifer Godwin, REMPEC Consultant, presented the analytical report, as laid down in document REMPEC/WG.52/3, and referred to the compiled input from the CPs and regional stakeholders set out in document REMPEC/WG.52/INF.4 and graphical analysis presented in document REMPEC/WG.52/INF.5.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2024-2025 AND BEYOND

16 At the invitation of the Chair, the Head of Office of REMPEC recalled that, according to the practical arrangements for the management and implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), the outcome of the Meeting would be considered for the preparation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget, which would be submitted to the Fifteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC for its review, to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points for its approval and to the Twenty-third Ordinary Meeting of the CPs for its adoption.

17 The Meeting discussed priority actions for the elaboration of the PoW 2024-2025 and encouraged relevant national, regional and international organisations, institutions and agencies, and accredited UNEP/MAP Partners to consider these priorities when defining their respective PoWs, taking into account the outcome of the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5: RESOURCE MOBILISATION

18 The Chair invited the Secretariat and relevant organisations and to provide information on the funding opportunities and resource mobilisation strategies to support the mobilisation of resources for the full implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

19 The Secretariat and relevant organisations presented various opportunities to support the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and the related processes to benefit from them, including, but not limited to, those offered through other relevant strategies and frameworks, technical assistance and funding opportunities.

AGENDA ITEM 6: RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2024-2025 AND BEYOND

20 Whilst considering the outcome of the discussion under agenda item 4 and 5, the Chair invited the Meeting to discuss in working groups:

- .1 the roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the proposed actions for the biennium 2024-2025; and
- .2 the establishment of operational and strategic synergies, through specific partnership agreements, if required, by coordinating parallel initiatives and processes to ensure the capitalisation of past and ongoing efforts, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the resources and expertise mobilised to meet the CSOs of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

21 Mr Franck Lauwers, Programme Officer (Prevention) presented a table entitled "*Elements of a joint workplan for the implementation of CSO 3*" to support the working group discussing the actions related to CSO 3 (air emissions from ships), as reproduced in **Annex IV** to the present report.

22 The working groups reported the outcome of their discussions back to the Meeting in plenary.

AGENDA ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS

23 At the invitation of the Chair, Mrs Cristina Farchi of the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (*Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica*), delivered a presentation on the designation of a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) in the north-western Mediterranean to protect cetaceans from international shipping, as submitted to the IMO by Italy, France and Monaco. The proposal would be discussed at the 79th Session of the IMO's Marine Environment Committee (MEPC 79) (London, United Kingdom, 12-16 December 2022). Mrs Farchi communicated the key proposed recommendations of the PSSA and highlighted the low economic impacts anticipated as a result of the introduction of the voluntary PSSA.

24 The Chair also invited Eng Mario Dogliani, Technical Manager, SDG4MED, to present the EU-funded LIFE4MEDECA Project. Eng Dogliani indicated that the project aimed at providing expertise and assistance to administrations, operators and private entities in the preparation, implementation, governance and financing of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particular Matter (Med SO_x ECA).

AGENDA ITEM 8: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

25 The Chair read through the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting, which had been circulated to all participants, as document REMPEC/WG.52/WP.1, for their consideration, review, amendment, and adoption.

26 Following interventions by some delegations to express their views on the conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting, and after having entrusted the Secretariat to carry out final editing and any editorial corrections that might be identified, as appropriate, the Meeting adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting, as detailed in **Annex V** to the present report.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

27 The Chair observed that the Meeting was the last meeting of Mr Gabino Gonzalez in his role as Head of Office of REMPEC. The Chair thanked him for his dedicated 16 years of service. Mr Gonzalez reflected on his time with REMPEC and thanked CPs, the IMO, as well as his REMPEC colleagues for their good collaboration and hard work. Ms Helen Buni, Technical Officer, Sub-Division for Implementation, Marine Environment Division, IMO, also offered thanks to Mr Gonzalez for all his efforts in this role as Head of Office of REMPEC and brought compliments from friends and colleagues at the IMO, wishing him success in his new position.

28 The Chair closed the Meeting at 13:00 hours on Thursday, 1 December 2022.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Mr Bledar KAROLI

Head of Sector, Sector of Maritime Transport Development Policies and Strategies
Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE

Mrs Erna ZILDOVIC

Executive Director
Hydro-Engineering Institute Sarajevo

CROATIA / CROATIE

Mr Niko HRDALO

Head of Department
Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure

EGYPT / EGYPTE

Eng Yosra SALEH

General Manager of Environmental Crisis Management
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)

EUROPEAN UNION / UNION EUROPÉENNE

Dr Rosa ANTIDORMI

Environmental Policy Officer, DG Environment-Marine Environment and Clean Water Services Unit
European Commission

Mrs Asta MACKEVICIUTE

Administrator, European Commission

Mr Georgios CHRISTOFI

Head of Unit Capacity Building
European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)

Mrs Radina RUSSEVA

Policy Adviser, Executive Office
European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)

FRANCE / FRANCE

Ms Julie RIGAUD

Chargée de mission, Secrétariat général de la mer

ISRAEL / ISRAEL

Mr Nir LEVINSKI

North Regional Manager - Marine environment protection division
Ministry of the environment protection

ITALY/ ITALIE

Dr Ezio AMATO

Head, Environmental Emergencies at Sea Unit
Italian Institute for the Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)

Mrs Cristina FARCHI (remote)

Officer
Italian Ministry of Environment

MALTA / MALTE

Ms Evangelia POULI

Assistant Registrar – Manager A
Merchant Shipping Directorate – Transport Malta

Mr Mevric ZAMMIT

Head, Marine Operations and Incident Response
Ports and Yachting Directorate – Transport Malta

MONACO

Mr Pierre BOUCHET

Pilote maritime, Direction des Affaires Maritimes de Monaco

MONTENEGRO / MONTÉNÉGRO

Ms Darinka JOKSIMOVIC

Senior Advisor for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Ships, Maritime Safety and Ports
Management Administration

MOROCCO/ MAROC

Ms Naoual ZOUBAIR

Chef du Service Littoral, Ministère de la Transition Énergétique et du Développement Durable

SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE

Mr Tomo GREGORIC

Slovenian Maritime Administration

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

Mr Pablo PEDROSA REY

Head Pollution Response Unit, Directorate General of Merchant Marine, Ministry of Public Works,
and Transport

TUNISIA / TUNISIE

Mr Larbi BOUGUERRA

Chef du Département du Contrôle et du Suivi de la Pollution
Agence Nationale De Protection de l'Environnement, Ministère de l'Environnement.

TÜRKIYE / TURQUIE

Mr Fatih ŞENOL

Marine Survey Engineer
Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure-General Directorate of Maritime --
Marine Environment Department

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS / ORGANISATIONS DES NATIONS-UNIES

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO) / ORGANISATION MARITIME INTERNATIONALE (OMI)

Ms Helen BUNI

Technical Officer, Sub-Division for Implementation, Marine Environment Division

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONNEMENT PROGRAMME/MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP) / PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT / PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE (PNUE / PAM)

Mr Stavros ANTONIADIS

Associate Administrative Officer

Ms Elisabeth CHOURAKI

International Technical Expert, PAMEx Coordinator

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE OF UNEP/MAP / CENTRE D'ACTIVITÉS RÉGIONALES PNUE/PAM

SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)/ CENTRE D'ACTIVITES REGIONALES POUR LES AIRES SPECIALEMENT PROTEGEES (CAR/ASP)

Mr Atef OUERGHY

Programme officer in charge of Ecosystem Conservation

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS / AUTRES ORGANISATIONS
OTHER PARTNERS/AUTRES PARTENAIRE

BIRDLIFE MALTA

Mr Nicholas BARBARA

Head of Conservation

CEDRE

Mr Arnaud GUENA
Deputy Director

CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

Ms Anna MARCONATO
Senior Programme Manager, Executive Secretariat

Mrs Stefania SILVESTRI
Project Officer, Executive Secretariat

ITOPF LTD.

Mr Franck LARUELLE
Technical Team Manager

IPIECA

Mr Peter TAYLOR
OSPRI Manager

MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP (MOIG)

Mr Houcine MEJRI
Director

OCEANCARE

Mr Carlos BRAVO VILLA
Ocean Policy Consultant

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)

Hon Grazeilla GALEA
Member of Parliament - Member of the Maltese Delegation to PAM

RAMOGE

Mr Florent CHAMPION
Secrétaire technique, Secrétariat de l'Accord RAMOGE

SDG4MED - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Eng Mario DOGLIANI
Technical Manager

WESTMED INITIATIVE

Dr Stephanie VELLA

National Hub Malta

SECRETARIAT / SECRETARIAT

**REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC) / *CENTRE REGIONAL MEDITERRANEEN POUR
L'INTERVENTION D'URGENCE CONTRE LA POLLUTION MARINE ACCIDENTELLE
(REMPEC)***

Mr Gabino GONZALEZ
Head of Office

Mr Malek SMAOUI
Programme Officer (OPRC)

Mr Franck LAUWERS
Programme Officer (Prevention)

Ms Marie HELDERLE
Junior Programme Officer (VIS)

Mr Johannes ECHEVERRI
Head of Office Assistant

Ms Amanda INGLIS
Secretary / Administrative assistant

Mr Pierre MAZZACANO D'AMATO
Secretary / Administrative assistant

REMPEC'S CONSULTANTS / *CONSULTANTS DU REMPEC*

Capt Joseph ZERAFA

Ms Jennifer GODWIN

Annex II

Agenda

Opening of the Meeting

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Reporting and monitoring procedure
3. Analytical report
4. Priority actions for the biennium 2024-2025 and beyond
5. Resource mobilisation
6. Roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the proposed actions for the biennium 2024-2025 and beyond
7. Other business
8. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations

Closure of the Meeting

Annex III**List of documents****WORKING DOCUMENTS**
DOCUMENTS DE TRAVAIL

	English	Français
REMPEC/WG.52/1/1	Provisional agenda	Ordre du jour provisoire
REMPEC/WG.52/1/2/Rev.1	Annotated provisional agenda and draft timetable	Ordre du jour provisoire annoté et projet d'emploi du temps
REMPEC/WG.52/3	Analytical report	Rapport analytique
REMPEC/WG.52/WP.1	Draft conclusions and recommendations	Projet de conclusions et de recommandations

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS
DOCUMENTS D'INFORMATION

	English	Français
REMPEC/WG.52/INF.1/Rev.1	Provisional List of Documents	Liste provisoire des documents
REMPEC/WG.52/J/1	Provisional list of participants	Liste provisoire des participants
REMPEC/WG.52/INF.2	List of participants	Liste provisoire des participants
REMPEC/WG.52/INF.3	Reporting and monitoring templates	Modèles de rapport et de suivi (en anglais uniquement)
REMPEC/WG.52/INF.4	Compilation of contributions	Contributions compilées (en anglais uniquement)
REMPEC/WG.52/INF.5	Graphical analysis	Analysis graphique (en anglais uniquement)
REMPEC/WG.52/INF.6	Resource mobilisation strategy – MARPOL Annex VI and MedSOxECA	Stratégie de mobilisation des ressource – Annex VI de MARPOL – ECA SOx Med (en anglais uniquement)

Elements of a joint workplan for the implementation of

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

Action Number	Action Description	Activities	Entity(ies)	Timeline	Means	Status of implementation
3.1 Networks						
3.1.1	To actively participate in existing global and regional working groups established to reduce SO _x and NO _x emissions from ships notably the SO _x /NO _x Technical Committees of Experts, MENELAS, IMO Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships, and Global Network of Maritime Technology Cooperation Centres (MTCC) and Regional Seas Programmes (HELCOM, OSPAR, Bonn Agreement)	Activity 1.4.2. c) Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) nitrogen oxides (NO _x) Emission Control Area (ECA)(s) Technical Committee of Experts	REMPEC	2023 onwards	In-house expertise / consultancy / regional meeting	
		WestMED Green Shipping Technical Group (Technical Group among the institutional representatives of the 10 Contracting Parties of the WestMED sub-basin)	UfM / WestMED	continuous	In-house expertise	
		IPIECA Fuels group	IPIECA	continuous	In-house expertise	

3.2 Capacity Building / Technical Cooperation						
3.2.1	To increase as much as possible, the level of knowledge in the field of SO _x and NO _x emission control area requirements under MARPOL Annex VI by providing technical assistance and capacity building activities	Activity 1.4.2. a) Technical support and capacity building provided to CPs, which so request, to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI.	REMPEC	2023 onwards	In-house expertise, consultancy, national workshops, regional meeting	
		Activity 1.4.2 d) Terms of Reference for a specific Technical and Feasibility Study to assess the relevant existing studies and gather further knowledge on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for nitrogen oxides, developed and validated by the NO _x ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts.	REMPEC	2023		
		TIER: Tailor-made technical assistance	EMSA	continuous	SAFEMED V, IPA II	

		can be provided upon request from the projects' beneficiaries				
		MA in Ocean Governance (2022)	IOI	continuous		
		IPIECA Fuels group	IPIECA	continuous		
3.5 Ratification / Transposition						
3.5.1	To ratify and implement MARPOL Annex VI, to ensure its transposition into national law, and to cooperate to ensure full compliance with its provisions	Activity 1.4.2. a) Technical support and capacity building provided to CPs, which so request, to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI.	REMPEC	2023 onwards	In-house expertise / consultancy	
		EMSA can support upon request beneficiaries	EMSA	continuous	SAFEMED V, IPA II and other complementary projects funded by the EU	
3.9 Alternative Energy / New Technologies						
3.9.1	To provide low-sulphur oxides fuels for international shipping	Activity 3.2.3 a) Institutional capacity of countries for implementation and enforcement of IMO' energy efficiency measures	REMPEC	2023 onwards	In-house expertise, consultancy, national and regional workshops/capacity building, regional and international partnerships, pilot project	

		for ships, in line with the IMO Initial GHG Strategy, improved and elevated, in particular through the development and implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs).				
		Activity 3.2.3 b) Capacity Building activities on low carbon shipping and clean ports implemented.	REMPEC	2023 onwards	In-house expertise, consultancy, national and regional workshops/capacity building, regional and international partnerships, pilot project	
		Activity 3.2.3 c) International and regional partnerships for technology innovation and cooperation towards energy efficient and clean shipping and ports promoted via the creation of public-private, North-South and industry-shipping-port-hinterland transport	REMPEC	2023 onwards	In-house expertise, consultancy, national and regional workshops/capacity building, regional and international partnerships, pilot project	

		alliances at regional levels. A set of workshops and studies implemented and future technology demonstrations in pioneer countries, including dock electrification, prepared.				
		Establishing a regional observatory (starting from WestMED pilot) for sustainable energy for green shipping (ports & fleets). Objective is to assess the state of the art and future potentials in research and innovation, for technological chains and solutions aimed at fostering sustainable energy for Mediterranean ports and fleets.	WestMED			
3.9.3	To provide adequate onshore power supplies	Activity 3.2.3 c) International and regional	REMPEC	2023 onwards	In-house expertise, consultancy, national and regional	

		<p>partnerships for technology innovation and cooperation towards energy efficient and clean shipping and ports promoted via the creation of public-private, North-South and industry-shipping-port-hinterland transport alliances at regional levels. A set of workshops and studies implemented and future technology demonstrations in pioneer countries, including dock electrification, prepared.</p>			workshops/capacity building, regional and international partnerships, pilot project	
		<p>EMSA has developed a dedicated OPS guidance (port side)</p>	EMSA	on-going	In-house expertise, consultancy	
		<p>Establishing a regional observatory (starting from WestMED pilot) for</p>	WestMED			

		<p>sustainable energy for green shipping (ports & fleets). Objective is to assess the state of the art and future potentials in research and innovation, for technological chains and solutions aimed at fostering sustainable energy for Mediterranean ports and fleets.</p>				
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ANNEX V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The First Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), hereinafter referred to as “the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)”, held at the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), Floriana, Malta, from 29 November to 1 December 2022, hereinafter referred to as the “Meeting”:

- 1 **expressed** appreciation for the financial support provided through the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) and the discretionary contribution from the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (*Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica*);
- 2 **recalled** the agreed practical arrangements for the management and implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, in particular the terms of reference and objectives of the biennial coordination meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), the definition of its Secretariat and members, the terms of condition for participation and the required national network;
- 3 **welcomed** the establishment of this inaugural biennial coordination meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and expressed its satisfaction on the success of the consultation process carried out in preparation for this meeting, through the completion of the tables reproduced in document REMPEC/WG.52/INF.3 involving Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (referred to as “CPs”) as well as relevant regional, international institutions and stakeholders addressing challenges and offering expertise, resources, and funding to progress on the improvement of the prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships in the Mediterranean region;
- 4 **acknowledged** the effort and achievements of those CPs and relevant stakeholders that submitted responses during this first stage of the consultation process on the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);
- 5 **emphasised** the importance of the governance, partnership, and resource mobilisation, notably the governance of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan within the framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;
- 6 **acknowledged** the responsibility of CPs to achieve, as far as possible, the seven Common Strategic Objectives (CSOs) with the support of all relevant stakeholders in the region through a collaborative, coordinated, and collective effort to plan, finance, and implement at national, sub-regional and regional level actions on people and institutions, as well as actions for infrastructure, information and knowledge-sharing;
- 7 **encouraged** national, sub-regional, regional and international institutions to formalise their cooperation as defined during the Meeting through the continuation and establishment of sustainable partnership agreements to provide further financial and technical support, as appropriate, to CPs for the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);
- 8 **agreed** to the reporting and monitoring procedure presented at the Meeting by:
 - .1 requesting the Secretariat (REMPEC) to consult with CPs and relevant stakeholders to obtain their formal written authorisation (in accordance with data protection rules):
 - .1 to grant access to the information contained in the reporting format to the public, or CPs and relevant stakeholders only, or data owners only; and

- .2 for the use of logos.
 - .2 raising public awareness and promoting activities/projects through social media or the online platform of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), when available;
 - .3 completing the progress report by providing input on ongoing and future related actions based on the action tables of the Action Plan; and
 - .4 enabling CPs and relevant stakeholders to submit relevant information on projects, tools, specifically linking the initiatives to the appropriate CSO or action.
- 9 **encouraged** CPs and relevant stakeholders to complete their National Action Plan (NAP) and “stakeholder’s table”, respectively, if they have not yet done so, as soon as possible;
- 10 **encouraged** CPs and relevant stakeholders that had already completed their NAPs and “stakeholder’s table”, respectively, to regularly update;
- 11 **noted** the information contained in documents REMPEC/WG.52/3, REMPEC/WG.52/INF.4, and REMPEC/WG.52/INF.5;
- 12 **encouraged** all CPs to actively participate in the deliberations at the 79th Session of the International Maritime Organization’s Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 79) (London, United Kingdom, 12-16 December 2022) and to support the adoption of the draft amendments to Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) concerning the Mediterranean Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SO_x ECA), as set out in document MEPC 79/3/2, and in particular, the proposed date of application of the Med SO_x ECA (1 May 2025);
- 13 **further encouraged** CPs that have not yet ratified MARPOL Annex VI to share information on their respective ratification status, as appropriate, at MEPC 79;
- 14 **encouraged** all CPs to actively participate in the deliberations and support the proposal on the designation of a Particular Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) in the North-Western Mediterranean Sea to protect cetaceans from international shipping at MEPC 79, as set out in document MEPC 79/10;
- 15 **invited** relevant stakeholders to streamline processes for national assessments, planning of activities/projects and their implementation;
- 16 **noted** the priority actions shared by a number of CPs and relevant stakeholders for the elaboration of the United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) Programme of Work (PoW) for 2024-2025 and invited the relevant national, regional and international organisations, institutions and agencies, and accredited UNEP/MAP Partners, to consider these priorities when defining their respective PoWs;
- 17 **noted** the opportunities to support the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and the related processes to benefit from them, including, but not limited to, those offered through:
 - .1 other relevant strategies and frameworks:
 - .1 the Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy;
 - .2 “The Mediterranean: a model sea by 2030” (PAMEx);

- .3 the draft regional fund-raising strategy to support Mediterranean coastal States in the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI as well as the implementation of the Med SO_x ECA and linked compliance measures, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.52/INF.6; and
 - .4 the Fundraising Strategy for the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO), including the Post-2020 Strategy for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), for the period 2022-2030 and beyond.
- .2 technical assistance:
- .1 the IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) and other long-term thematic projects;
 - .2 the Euro Mediterranean Maritime Safety (SAFEMED V) Project and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) Project; and
 - .3 the LIFE4MEDECA Project.
- .3 funding opportunities:
- .1 the PAMEx Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF);
 - .2 the new European Union (EU) Programme for Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters in Mediterranean Countries (PPRD Med programme), and call for proposals, e.g. the Knowledge for Action in Prevention and Preparedness (KAPP); and
 - .3 the EU funding programmes on greening of maritime transport and ports.
- 18 **invited** CPs and relevant stakeholders to take the necessary actions to benefit from these funding opportunities, technical assistance projects, and other relevant strategies and frameworks, individually or collectively by exploring operational cooperation;
- 19 **invited** the Secretariat (REMPEC) to share the resource mobilisation strategy to support the implementation of the Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027), upon completion;
- 20 **agreed to** the outcome of the working groups (WGs) discussions:
- .1 WG (CSO 1.1) in relation to preparedness and response to oil and chemical pollution:
 - .1 to explore further synergies and share documents, mapping, and best practices, in order to align the development of a sub-regional agreement in the Adriatic and the North Adriatic Maritime Incident Response System (NAMIRS) Project, with the support and guidance of REMPEC expertise;

- .2 to explore the use of existing data (e.g. equipment inventory, sensitivity mapping) available on the Mediterranean Integrated Geographical Information System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment and Response (MEDGIS-MAR) for the completion of the mapping and risk assessment within the NAMIRS Project;
- .3 to bridge the Improving the Integrated Response to pollution Accident at sea and chemical risk in port (IRA-MAR) Project with other projects such as the NAMIRS Project, by inviting beneficiaries of other relevant projects to the final conference scheduled in 2024, for their utilisation in sub-regional agreements and exercises such as RAMOGEPOL;
- .4 to invite CPs and relevant stakeholders to contact Cedre, to contribute to and benefit from chemical spills tests to be carried out in 2023, to further test prototypes, processes or equipment;
- .5 to explore the possibility to expand the results of the BEst Rapid Environmental Assessment Decision sYstem (BE READY) Project (oil and HNS modelling tools) in other geographical regions;
- .6 to further explore synergies, and promotion of the use of the IMO's and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)'s e-learning tools;
- .7 to integrate EMSA standby oil spill response vessels and equipment assistance stockpiles into the response chain of CPs;
- .8 to continue to support the participation of CPs from existing sub-regional agreements to exercises (communication, tabletop, full-scale) organised in other Mediterranean sub-regions and other EU sea basins, and promote the establishment of synergies between these agreements, notably to benefit from the RAMOGE Agreement¹;
- .9 to continue the regular update of the Maritime Integrated Decision Support Information System Transport of Chemical Substances (MIDSIS-TROCS) with new data from the Improving Member States preparedness to face an Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) pollution of the Marine System (HNS-MS) Project, the database and tools of the MANaging risks and Impacts From Evaporating and gaseous Substances To population Safety (MANIFESTS) Project, and other HNS databases and tools, notably by creating links, as well as linking existing databases and tools such as the MARine Chemical Information Sheets (MAR-CIS) accessible to EU Member States, IPA and SAFEMED beneficiaries;
- .10 to continue monitoring the results of the analysis set out in document REMPEC/WG.52/3 to identify actions not already covered by the activities discussed, and identify further opportunities for collaboration/cooperation at the Mediterranean level and with other Regional Seas Conventions;

¹ Accord relatif à la Protection de l'Environnement Marin et Côtier d'une Zone de la Mer Méditerranée.

- .11 to continue working on the establishment of the Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean, in line with the decision taken at the Fourteenth Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points;
 - .12 to continue the established cooperation with other Regional Seas Conventions on Common Indicator 19 of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP), i.e. the occurrence, origin, extent of acute pollution events (e.g. slicks from oil, oil products and hazardous substances), and their impact on biota affected by this pollution; and
 - .13 to consider organising a regional or sub-regional discussion based on either a tabletop or full-scale exercise that would incorporate familiarisation with and testing of different operational, as well as decision support tools, including those available via EMSA, developed in recent projects.
- .2 WG (CSO 1.2) in relation to prevention of oil and chemical pollution:
- .1 to continue the cooperation between REMPEC, EMSA and the RAMOGE Agreement with respect to illicit ship pollution discharges, notably:
 - .1 the availability of CleanSeaNet (CSN) services by EMSA offered to CPs;
 - .2 the importance of real time surveillance through the Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) or manned aerial means and Automatic Identification System (AIS) Maritime Traffic Live Ships Map for identification of potential polluters;
 - .3 the ongoing work of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS) with respect to: (i) the common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report; (ii) the criteria for a common minimum level of fines for each offense provided for under the Annexes to MARPOL; (iii) the modalities of possible creation and operation, including in terms of governance and financing, of a regional “Blue Fund”; and
 - .4 the participation of CPs in coordinated aerial surveillance operations for illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean (OSCAR-MED) and the possible further practical use of the common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report.
 - .2 to stress the need for judicial cooperation, possibly through the *Union des Procureurs généraux de la Méditerranée* (UPGM);
 - .3 to highlight the need for CPs to report illicit ship pollution discharges, as appropriate; and

- .4 to stress the necessity to follow up on the revision of Directive 2005/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on ship-source pollution and on the introduction of penalties for infringements.
- .3 WG (CSO 2 / CSO 3) in relation to climate change and air emissions from ships:
 - .1 to recall the urgency of ratification, transposition and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI, particularly in view of the expected entry into effect of the Med SO_x ECA on 1 May 2025;
 - .2 to provide support to CPs, in particular those that have not yet ratified MARPOL Annex VI, to the effective implementation of the Med SO_x ECA requirements, noting that both EMSA and REMPEC had available arrangements for legal and technical capacity-building, including through the IPA and SAFEMED V projects;
 - .3 to note the offer by the EU to seek potential funding for translation into national languages for MARPOL Annex VI transposition packages, in coordination with IMO and REMPEC;
 - .4 to stress that the effectiveness of any capacity-building effort depends on suitable national legislation being available, and took note that support is also available from EMSA for CPs that have ratified MARPOL Annex VI, but have not yet transposed relevant provisions into national legislation;
 - .5 to take note of the EU's offer to investigate the possibility to provide smart technologies in Mediterranean congested areas, while recalling the importance of monitoring ship emissions in the region to support enforcement;
 - .6 to highlight that the cost of implementing the Med SO_x ECA is limited to the use of low sulphur fossil fuels and the adaptation of onboard fuel management procedures without significant modifications of ships, noting that an important implementation element will be making compliant fuel available throughout the Mediterranean basin;
 - .7 to stress the importance of moving forward with the work on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Nitrogen Oxides (Med NO_x ECA), welcoming the establishment of the NO_x ECA Technical Committee of Experts in 2023, to develop terms of reference for a NO_x ECA feasibility study, in line with decision IG.25/14;
 - .8 to acknowledge the need to reduce air emissions from ships in light of longer-term climate targets (e.g. related reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions from ships) as well as air emissions other than SO_x (e.g. NO_x), which will involve non-fossil alternative fuels as well as technologies to decarbonise the shipping and port sectors that are being developed and not yet fully tested;

- .9 to note the EMSA studies to support the uptake of renewable and low-carbon marine fuels and technologies, including Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Onshore Power Supply (OPS); and
 - .10 to welcome the table entitled "*Elements of a joint workplan for the implementation of CSO 3*" prepared by the Secretariat (REMPEC), which should be seen as a living document to be used and updated as appropriate.
- .4 WG. CSO.5 in relation to non-indigenous species:
- .1 to take note of the availability of various guidance documents (e.g. best practices for sampling) from several organisations (e.g. Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) and EMSA) that should be shared with CPs;
 - .2 to take note of the continuous provision of technical assistance and capacity-building by REMPEC, through the IMO's ITCP, by UNEP/MAP on the collection of data under the IMAP of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp), and by EMSA on ballast water sampling;
 - .3 to continue the work on the harmonisation of regional procedures for the uniform implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention) in the Mediterranean, led by REMPEC;
 - .4 to stress the need for the development of a resource mobilisation strategy to support the implementation of the Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027), and to identify the means to address the needs expressed by CPs in terms of the necessary legal assistance offered through IMO, REMPEC and EMSA;
 - .5 to encourage CPs that have not yet ratified the BWM Convention to do so as soon as possible; and
 - .6 to note the upcoming work on biofouling implemented by REMPEC.
- .5 WG (CSO 4) in relation to marine litter from ships:
- .1 to note the ongoing work carried out within the framework of the EU funded "Marine Litter Med II" Project, on the enhanced management of marine litter from sea-based sources in ports and marinas in the Mediterranean, as well as within the IMO-Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)-Norway GloLitter Partnerships Project;
 - .2 to note the ongoing discussions at IMO on the implementation of the IMO Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships;
 - .3 to ensure synergies with the work carried out by various organisations on the issue of marine litter from ships (UNEP, FAO, IMO and the EU);

- .4 to use the opportunity of the Inter-Secretariat meeting between Regional Agreement Secretariats, European Commission and EMSA to share information on the work carried out by the various European Regional Seas Conventions; and
 - .5 to acknowledge the need to provide further technical and legal assistance to CPs on this topic.
- .6 WG (CSO 7) in relation to underwater noise from ships:
 - .1 to note the need to increase the level of knowledge and to raise awareness on this topic among CPs and relevant stakeholders;
 - .2 to note the ongoing revision of the IMO Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life, and the recent launch of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-IMO GloNoise Partnerships Project;
 - .3 to note the recently approved underwater noise threshold values adopted by the EU; and
 - .4 to take note of the recommendations in the EMSA study on underwater noise from shipping.
- 21 **acknowledged** that the full and timely implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) would require commitments from CPs and relevant stakeholders, through the provision of the necessary human and financial resources, as appropriate;
- 22 **noted** the need to discuss the coordination of implementation of actions, during and between the biennial coordination meetings on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);
- 23 **agreed** to establish a joint Intersessional Working Group for CSO 2 / CSO 3, and separate Intersessional Working Groups for CSO 1 (on preparedness and response), CSO 1 (on prevention), CSO 4, CSO 5, CSO 6 and CSO 7 (on underwater noise);
- 24 **agreed** that the Intersessional Working Groups would be led as follows:
 - .1 CSO 1 (on preparedness and response): France;
 - .2 CSO 1 (on prevention): REMPEC;
 - .3 CSO 2 / CSO 3: Italy;
 - .4 CSO 4: Egypt;
 - .5 CSO 5: SPA/RAC;
 - .6 CSO 6: REMPEC; and
 - .7 CSO 7 (on underwater noise): OceanCare.
- 25 **requested** the Secretariat (REMPEC) to prepare tables similar to that prepared for CSO 3, and to liaise with the leads for their dissemination as well as further completion and regular update by each Intersessional Working Group;

- 26 **requested** the leads of the Intersessional Working Groups to report on their work to the next biennial coordination meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) in 2024;
- 27 **asked** CPs and relevant stakeholders to inform the Secretariat (REMPEC) of the status of implementation of agreed activities and timely reporting for consideration at the next biennial coordination meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);
- 28 **requested** the Secretariat (REMPEC) to secure funding for the organisation of the next biennial coordination meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) in 2024; and
- 29 **thanked** the Chair of the Meeting, all CPs, the regional and international organisations, as well as the Secretariat (REMPEC), for their contribution for the elaboration of an effective joint action plan to achieve by 2031 *“a clean and healthy Mediterranean marine and coastal environment with a sustainable and pollution-free maritime sector, supported by a rigorous enforcement system and strengthened multi-sectoral cooperation, for the benefit of present and future generations”*.