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

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

REMPEC/WG.61/6/4/2

14 April 2025

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Sliema, Malta, 13-15 May 2025

Agenda Item 6: Illegal and accidental oil and HNS pollution from ships

Upgrading of Databases and REMPEC Platforms

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Note by the Secretariat

The present document provides an outline on REMPEC available platforms and makes recommendations for their update and revision.

Background

1 The Thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), Malta June 2019, considered document REMPEC/WG.45/8/9 presenting the set of tools developed by REMPEC, over the years, with a view to assisting the Contracting Parties to the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, in the process of implementing its Article 7 on Dissemination and exchange of information, provided as Annex to the present document .

2 The Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, Online May-June 2021, considered the progress made on data sharing, monitoring and reporting, as laid down in document REMPE/WG.51/9 and on the MEDGIS-MAR upgrade complemented with 15 new features.

3 In this context, the Fourteenth Meeting encouraged the Contracting Parties to regularly update their Country Profile, MEDGIS-MAR, MENELAS, and to use Waste Management Tool to establish or review their national waste management strategy for oily waste resulting from accidental marine pollution.

4 The Fifteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Malta, June 2023), acknowledged the importance of the Country Profiles as well as the MEDGIS-MAR databases and datasets, and the contribution of the Contracting Parties in the maintenance and updating of these databases. It recognised that, although the information on spills continued to be collected, this data remained under reported and not necessarily representative of oil spills from ships under the threshold of 50 m3 and those from sources other than ships. It also noted the lack of visibility and knowledge on the Mediterranean Oil Spill Waste Management Decision Support Tool.

5 In this context, the Fifteenth Meeting, inter alia:

- .1 instructed the Secretariat to develop a new layer on MEDGIS-MAR related to spills in the Mediterranean to be evaluated during the Regional Workshop on Reporting, Monitoring, and Data Sharing (MEDEXPOL 2024);
- .2 agreed on the proposal to upload the final OSWMP of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in their Country Profiles.

6 In accordance with the recommendation of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Focal Points, REMPEC organised MEDEXPOL 2024 (Malta September 2024). As regard to the Platforms, the outcome of the discussion is reported in the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Workshop, as set out in the report of the Workshop, provided in Document REMPEC/WG.61/INF.5, among them for:

- .1 The Secretariat
 - i. to upload Part III of the BCRS template of the Report on the implementation of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol in the Country Profiles;
 - ii. to assess possible future developments of MEDGIS-MAR to enable:
 - possible interconnection with the Country Profile pages to allow for a unique update by CPs;
 - easier update of the layer “accidents”;
 - iii. to develop a layout of the new structure for the Country Profiles (in coordination with the Correspondence group under the MTWG) and provide a detailed assessment of the feasibility for its upgrade to the present meeting.

.2 The Contracting Parties

- i. to link previous reports on the Country Profile on the REMPEC website; and
- ii. to coordinate with REMPEC on the upload of the last version of the “Manual on national mechanisms for the mobilization of response equipment and personnel in case of emergency” (approved by the 15th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Point, June 2023), or its template.

7 During the period under review, MEDGISMAR experienced technical issues that led to its malfunction, resulting in lack of updates on incidents and delays in the development of the spill layer. Although one of the underlying issues was related to the link with PAP/RAC and MAPs, the situation remained unaddressed.

The Way Forward

8 The Country Profile, in its present structure, was considered by the 11th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points (June 2015), as detailed in paragraph 6 of the document [REMPEC/WG.37/10](#). The Country Profile of each CP contains detailed information on measures in place at national level for the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, specifically on the following subjects:

.1 General information

.2 OPRC – Preparedness for and response to marine pollution:

- Contact list of National Competent Authorities;
- Conventions and Protocols;
- National and regional system;
- Response strategy;
- Risk assessment;
- Expertise;
- Resources; and
- Training and follow-up

.3 Prevention:

- Contact list of National Competent Authorities;
- List of ratified international Conventions; and
- Implementation of international Conventions.

9 Upon reviewing the current structure of the Country Profile, it is evident that most sections have not been updated since originally provided by the CPs for aspects related to ‘training and follow-up’ and provide limited flexibility to incorporate recent activities, agreements, and developments. To address this, and in light of MEDEXPOL 2024’s objective to foster CPs’ ownership of REMPEC’s platforms as their primary interface for activities related to the implementation of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and the Offshore Protocol, the Secretariat proposes to update the Country Profile, if CPs deem necessary, to:

- .1 add to the list provided in paragraph 8 above, a new item for both prevention and OPRC on:
 - key national achievements, developments in the field of Preparedness and response to Oil and HNS pollution;
 - ongoing Actions and future plans, projects, strategies; and
 - list and links to relevant websites and platforms that facilitate data sharing and exchange of information; and

- .2 submit to the seventeenth meeting of the Focal Points a proposal to further enhance the use and relevance of the Country profile.

10 In relation with developments of MEDGIS-MAR: During the period under review, MEDGIS-MAR experienced technical issues that led to its malfunction, resulting in lack of updates on incidents and delays in the development of the spill layer.

11 Moreover, MEDEXPOL 2024 noticed that data fragmentation among different institutions at national level is a major barrier to reporting; concurred that CPs should consider more closely the added value and benefits at national level and beyond (e.g. statistical purposes, trends and outlooks) of reporting on and implementation of the legal instruments, noted that the Country Profile and MEDGIS-MAR should be kept under review in order to avoid duplication with other systems to further facilitate the reporting obligations under the IMO and other relevant instruments, recognized that reporting and monitoring are closely linked to the availability of accurate and up-to-date information and that disaggregation of information sources at the national level could hinder access to correct and up-to-date information and data. Considering the above, MEDEXPOL 2024 recommended;

- .1 The Contracting Parties
 - to get better organized for reporting activities at national level in order to facilitate the exchange of reporting needs
- .2 The Secretariat
 - to assess possible future developments of MEDGIS-MAR to enable:
 - possible interconnection with the Country Profile pages to allow for a unique update by CPs;
 - easier update of the layer “accidents”.

Actions requested by the Meeting

12 **The Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 **take note** of the information provided in the present document; and
- .2 **consider** the proposed activities, as laid down in paragraphs 9 and 11 above, to be integrated into the PoW of the MTWG for the biennium 2026-2027.

Annex

List of Available REMPEC Platforms

REMPEC Country Profile ([link](#))

The Country Profiles contain detailed information on measures in place at national level for the implementation of the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol).

The Mediterranean Integrated Geographical Information System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment and Response ([MEDGIS-MAR](#))

Contains national data (response equipment, accidents, oil and gas installations, and oil handling facilities) for each Mediterranean coastal State. The platform also contains public data including shoreline type layers, environmental layers (i.e. Alboran areas, Cetaceans, Coral, Environmentally or Biologically Significant Areas, Fisheries restricted areas, Monk seal, Natura 2000, Pelagos sanctuary, Seabirds, Seagrass, Loggerhead sea turtles, Green sea turtles, Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), bathymetry), socio-economic layers (i.e. Desalination plants, Power plants, Ports and Marinas) as well as maritime traffic layers gathered from various sources.

The Maritime Integrated Decision Support Information System on Transport of Chemical Substances ([MIDSIS-TROCS](#))

A decision support system designed as a reference for use in the field, helping decision-makers to select the most appropriate measures to manage potential hazardous material marine spill. It is a free and publicly available tool that aims to facilitate decision making in case of chemical spill.

The new version 4.0 of MIDSIS-TROCS includes the following updates:

- The integration of databases and information from other projects, in particular from the [HNS-MS project](#).
- The update of the chemical database and relevant emergency guides.
- The update of the accident database.
- The integration of the “Marine HNS Response Manual, Multi-regional Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC” in the upgraded decision support trees feature.
- The development of a [stand-alone application](#) of MIDSIS-TROCS 4.0 both on workstations (laptop, computer) and mobile phones, tablet (App) to satisfy the needs of operational personnel, who would require information onsite without access to internet.

The Mediterranean Oil Spill Waste Management Decision Support Tool ([Waste Management](#))

The tool was developed as a decision support tool, to be used by any country when establishing or revising its national waste management strategy for oily waste resulting from an accidental marine pollution, aimed at facilitating decisions on the most suitable techniques for the Countries, and also to highlight, where necessary, the regulatory amendments.

The Tool focuses on oil spill waste, i.e. oil, weathered and/or emulsified oil, oiled material, oiled sediment, oiled equipment, etc. recovered after an accidental oil spill.

The Tool is designed to assist any country of the Mediterranean Sea to develop a complete and operational “Oil Spill Waste Management Plan - OSWMP” covering:

- Preparedness: developing an oil spill waste management plan.
- Response: choosing the best oil spill waste treatment.

The Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials working to MARPOL, within the framework of the Barcelona Convention ([MENELAS](#))

A network of individuals from participating States supported by an electronic information system.

The MENELAS information system is an internet-based tool comprising of two main parts:

Public Interface:

- information relating to illicit discharges
- the aim of the network
- identifying participating and associate members
- information on activities and achievements
- guidance on the domestic legislative framework and procedural requirements regarding illicit discharges
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Forum/hotline (restricted area), to facilitate the exchange of information between members on:

- legal frameworks
 - tips for investigators
 - special techniques/devices/tools
 - evidence gathering/procedures
 - lessons learnt
 - post-case analysis
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