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

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

REMPEC/WG.61/INF.5

24 January 2025

Original: English only

Sliema, Malta, 13-15 May 2025

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

**Report of the Regional Workshop on Reporting, Monitoring, and Data Sharing (MEDEXPOL 2024) – (Malta, September 2024)**

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### **Note by the Secretariat**

This document presents the report of the Regional Workshop the Regional Workshop on Reporting, Monitoring, and Data Sharing (MEDEXPOL 2024), held in Lija, Malta from 25 to 26 September 2024.

**Background**

1 The Regional Workshop on ton Reporting, Monitoring, and Data Sharing (MEDEXPOL 2024), hereinafter referred to as the Regional Workshop, was held in Lija, Malta, from 25 to 26 September 2024, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2024-2025 of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), adopted by the Twenty-third Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Portorož, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023).

2 The report of the Regional Workshop 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.

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## **Appendix**

**Regional Workshop on Reporting, Monitoring, and Data Sharing (MEDEXPOL 2024)  
(Lija, Malta, 25 - 26 September 2024)**



## **REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON REPORTING, MONITORING, AND DATA SHARING (MEDEXPOL 2024)**

**Lija, Malta  
25-26 September 2024**



**REMPEC October 2024**



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### **Disclaimer**

This activity was financed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP), the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF), and was implemented by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), in cooperation with the IMO.

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## SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Title of the seminar/ course/ workshop:</b>	Regional Workshop on Reporting, Monitoring, and Data Sharing (MEDEXPOL 2024)
<b>Host:</b>	The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)
<b>Venue and date:</b>	Malta Transport Centre, Lija, Malta 25 to 26 September 2024
<b>Type:</b>	Regional
<b>Organised by:</b>	REMPEC, in close cooperation with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
<b>Supported by:</b>	IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) and the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF)
<b>Number of Participants and Number of Countries and/or Organizations:</b>	[19] participants from [15] countries and [3] organizations

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### Summary

The 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Malta, June 2023), recognized the lack of reporting, discrepancies between the information on operational aspects and incidents of the reports and those available on the Country Profiles and the MEDGIS-MAR's 'accidents and 'equipment' databases. REMPEC organized the **Regional Workshop on Reporting, Monitoring and Data Sharing (MEDEXPOL 2024)**, hereinafter referred to as the Workshop, to implement the recommendations of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, pertaining to these topics.

Beyond raising awareness on the effective implementation of the instruments, the Workshop considered more closely the added value and benefits at national and regional level of reporting on and implementation of the instruments. It also highlighted the need to further work on thresholds for reporting and on the definition of assessment criteria for acute pollution. The Workshop also 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 national level could hinder access to correct and up-to-date information and data. The Workshop concurred to foster Contracting Parties' (CPs) ownership of REMPEC's platforms as their primary interface for activities related to the implementation of the legal instruments.

Furthermore, the Workshop agreed on conclusions and recommendations to be submitted to the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points to be held in 2025. Inter alia, the Workshop agreed:

On Reporting:

- 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 and easier update of the layer “accidents”;
- Contracting Parties to get better organized for reporting activities at national level in order to facilitate the exchange of reporting needs.

On Monitoring:

- to prepare a proposal for lowering the minimum threshold for reporting, taking into consideration other regional sea conventions, as well as MSFD, for submission to the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points;
- Contracting Parties to take note and apply the recommendation of the Decision IG.26/3 of COP 23 on the submission of the report on incidents and spills.

On Data Sharing:

- 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, in preparation for the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points;
- Contracting Parties to agree on the preparation of an update of the “Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution”, eventually considering other merging topics.

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**Key words:** OPRC, Mediterranean Sea, Reporting Systems, Comparison between Periodic reporting on the implementation of Legal Instruments and on Pollution Incidents, Duplication of reporting, Country Profiles, Monitoring and Assessment of Impact of Spills, Exchange of Information, Common Communication in case of Emergency

**WBS element:** TC/22431 – 04 -2000

**Co-ordinator(s):** Malek Smaoui (REMPEC), in close cooperation with Ms Martina Bocci and Mr Benjamin Couzigou, REMPEC Consultants

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) is a Regional Activity Centre established within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). REMPEC's objective is to contribute to preventing and reducing pollution from ships and combating pollution in case of emergency. In this respect, the mission of REMPEC is to assist the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (CPs) in meeting their obligations under Articles 4(1), 6 and 9 of the Barcelona Convention; the 1976 Emergency Protocol; and the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and the Offshore Protocol.

2. According to these instruments, the CPs have a set of obligations, in terms of Exchange of Information, Monitoring, and Reporting that they committed to implement. These provisions encompass the protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean and emergencies.

3. To facilitate and assist the CPs in fulfilling these obligations, digital templates of different reports were developed, and platforms established to host data sets and information, namely:

- The Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS), developed by the UNEP/MAP Coordination Unit to facilitate the reporting on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;
- The Pollution reporting system (POLREPs) for use between CPs for exchanging information in case of emergency, published in the International Maritime Organization Manual on Oil Pollution;
- The Mediterranean Integrated Geographical Information System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment and Response (MEDGIS-MAR) on national data (response equipment, accidents, oil and gas installations, and oil handling facilities) for each Mediterranean coastal, updated by and restricted to each Mediterranean coastal State provided with personalized credentials, developed by REMPEC; and
- The Country Profile pages, on REMPEC website, containing detailed information on the implementation of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol. The information available in the Country Profiles pages is updated solely by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and validated by REMPEC.

4. The 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, Malta, June 2023 recognized:

- the lack of reports, revisions, and updates under MEDGIS-MAR and Country Profile, and the necessity of crucial involvement of the CPs in the maintenance and update of these Platforms;
- discrepancies between the information on operational aspects and incidents reported under the BCRS and those available on the Country Profile and the MEDGIS-MAR's 'accidents' and 'equipment' databases; and
- 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 m<sup>3</sup>, acute pollution, and those from sources other than ships.

5. It also agreed that active involvement of the Contracting Parties (CPs) is crucial for the maintenance and update of MEDGIS-MAR and Country Profiles databases.

6. With the aim to implement the recommendations of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points pertaining to these three topics, the Workshop focused on improving CPs reporting and monitoring capabilities and on capitalizing as much as possible the use of these platforms (MEDGIS-MAR and Country Profiles).

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

7. The principal objectives of the Workshop were:

- .1 to assist the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in fulfilling their obligations under the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and the 1994 Offshore Protocol of the Barcelona Convention, specifically in reporting, monitoring, and data sharing on marine pollution incidents;
- .2 to raise awareness and visibility of the tools available for the reporting, monitoring, and data sharing needs; and
- .3 to foster Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention ownership of REMPEC's platforms as interface for national activities related to the implementation of both Protocols.

## **3. VENUE, DATES, ROLES AND PARTICIPANTS**

8. The Workshop was held in Lija, Malta, from 25 to 26 September 2024, pursuant to the Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget for 2024-2025 of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP.

9. The Workshop was organised by REMPEC, and co-funded by the IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) and the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF). The premises were provided by the Authority for Transport in Malta (TM).

10. The Workshop gathered around 20 participants, from 15 out of 22 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, as well as representatives from CEDRE and ITOPF. The representative of the Bonn Agreement participated at the Workshop via MS Teams during Day 1. The list of Participants is provided in **Annex 1**.

## **4. ACTIVITIES AND PROCEEDINGS**

*Pre-seminar/symposium/workshop/course assignments:*

11. The choice of venue proved to be conducive to the Workshop success as it had all the facilities required for the purpose. The venue was equipped with microphones for each individual and interpretation facilities. REMPEC conducted all the logistics for the Workshop, including the opening and closing ceremonies, arrangements of facilities for use by the participants, REMPEC consultant, reproduction of materials, operation of sound/video equipment and simultaneous English and French interpretation.

12. To contribute to the preparation of the Workshop the following action were also undertaken by REMPEC: the establishment of a correspondence group on Reporting, Monitoring and Data

Sharing, under the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) in May 2024, and the circulation of a survey on Reporting, Monitoring and Data Sharing, in July 2024.

13. Mr Malek Smaoui, Programme Officer (OPRC), REMPEC, oversaw the organisation and coordination of the Workshop. He closely worked with Mr Benjamin Couzigou (IMO Consultant), and with Ms Martina Bocci (REMPEC Consultant) during the preparatory phase and the organisation and delivery phase of the Workshop. (**Annex 2**)

#### *Opening of the Workshop:*

14. The Workshop was opened by the Head of Office of REMPEC, Mr Ivan Sammut, on Wednesday 25 September 2024 at 0900 hours. The text of the statement is provided in **Annex 3**.

15. Participants introduced themselves, notably mentioning if they represented an authority/organisation responsible for the regulation of shipping or an authority/organisation in charge of issues related to the marine environment.

#### *Organisation of the Workshop*

16. The Workshop 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 (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) to its deliberations. Election of Officers

17. Following informal consultations, the Workshop agreed to elect the following officers of the Meeting:

- Mr Luigi Alcaro (Italy) Chairperson
- Ms Hala Ibrahim Mohamed Said (Egypt) Vice-Chairperson
- Mr Mohamed Naceur Jeljeli (Tunisia) Rapporteur

18. The agenda, as proposed in document REMPEC/WG.57/1/1/Rev.1 and annotated in document REMPEC/WG.57/2 was adopted by the Workshop. The agenda is reproduced in **Annex 4** to the present report.

#### **Reporting - Correlation Between Reporting Commitment, Benefits, and Incentives for Effective Reporting**

19. The Secretariat introduced document REMPEC/WG.57/2/1 'Reporting on the implementation of activities' and on pollution incidents, presenting a summary of a comparative review of different reporting obligations of Contracting Parties, relative to maritime transport and offshore activities, under the various applicable Governance systems (the IMO related Conventions, the Barcelona Convention and the EU directives). Findings from the comparison between the three systems and between the reporting on implementation of the legal instruments and on pollution incidents were illustrated and opportunities to facilitate reporting and encourage further reporting were presented. Considerations were proposed regarding minimum threshold for reporting on spills, in view of improving significance of data collection on marine pollution events.

20. In its presentation the consultant, Ms Martina Bocci, referred to the 'Comparative review of existing reporting procedures and formats, at international and regional level' as outlined in document [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.10](#) which was presented to the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Online, May 2021). The presentation addressed the objective and benefits of reporting, both at national and regional levels.

21. The attendees noted that a major barrier to reporting is given by the disaggregation of data sources at national level: different institutions and offices are responsible for the data needed for reporting. This poses challenges to the Focal Points in gathering such data. In addition, the institutions holding the needed data often are not aware of the reporting obligations, nor of the related tools (e.g. MEDGIS-MAR). In this context, there is still a need for capacity building. On the other hand, it was noted that there is also a need for the OPRC Focal Points to contribute to raise awareness of the different actors holding the information needed for reporting.

22. The attendees also noted that the lack of reporting is also caused by the existence of multiple reporting systems (IMO, REMPEC, EU) each one with their own reporting obligations and related formats. A coordination among all systems should be pursued at high governance level. However, actions could be taken by countries to ameliorate this situation: for example, minimizing the number of Focal Points for the different Protocols of the Barcelona Convention. Exchange of good practices among Mediterranean countries on this aspect would be beneficial.

23. In relation to restructuring of the Country Profile page, the Workshop commented that the visibility for other countries of the new information should be decided at each country level, taking into consideration also eventual confidentiality aspects. As for the possibility to upload previous reports already submitted, to be used as basis for next reports, the Workshop recommended to proceed as much as possible with automatic upload from the Secretariat, not to request to CPs to spend additional effort for reports already uploaded.

24. During the discussion on the possibility to lower the threshold for reporting on spills, Ms Laura de la Torre, Deputy Secretary OSPAR Commission / Bonn Agreement, shared some updates: under this Convention all spills are reported, no matter the size. No minimum threshold for reporting is defined. Instead, discussion is still undergoing on the conditions under which monitoring of impacts on biota should be conducted. A case-by-case approach is also being discussed, given the complexity of the elements to be considered to define an acute pollution event. Availability to exchange with REMPEC on this topic was expressed by the Bonn Agreement delegate.

25. With some Focal Points already adhering to the proposal of lowering the threshold for reporting, the Workshop agreed on the need for a technical proposal on this topic, including reference to the experience gained under other Regional Sea Conventions. Developments undertaken in the framework of the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) should also be considered in the formulation of the proposal.

26. The Secretariat then introduced document REMPEC/WG.57/2/2 'Reporting in Case of Emergency'. The document prepared jointly by REMPEC and the European Commission's European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), provided information on consultations held by REMPEC to implement the outcomes of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (May 2021) and the proposed steps towards the establishment of a Common Emergency Communication System in the Mediterranean, in parallel with the commencement of the new CECIS MP development, planned for late autumn 2024.

27. In its presentation, the Secretariat referred to the decision of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, as detailed in its report [REMPEC/WG.51/13](#), agreeing on 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 and consequent adaptations. The Delegate of the EU presented the New CECIS MP and way forward to integrate these adaptations considering the new CECIS Marine Pollution facilities.



28. With reference to the revision of the Country Profile and the developments of MEDGIS-MAR, the Delegate of the EU recommended to carefully avoid any duplication of the systems where information and data are provided and made available, not to duplicate effort and to avoid any risk of desynchronization. Recommendation for a gradual transition to CECIS MP for reporting on equipment availability by all Mediterranean Countries was also given. In relation with the other contents of MEDGIS-MAR, not related with equipment availability and request for assistance, being them not in the scope of CECIS MP, they should not be incorporated in this system, to avoid overloading the platform and lack of clarity on its scope. In relation with data on incidents, they are going to be reported by Mediterranean EU countries under SafeSeaNet and are visible there. Mediterranean non-EU countries can exchange information on incidents via POLREP POLINF POLFAC. The outcome of the discussion is reported in the Conclusions and Recommendations par. 23 provided in **Annex 6** of the present document.

29. The Workshop took note of the information provided and considered the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in documents REMPEC/WG.57/2/1 and REMPEC/WG.57/2/2. The outcome of the discussion is reported in the Conclusions and Recommendations par. 21-26 provided in **Annex 6** of the present document.

### **Monitoring - A new challenge for Enhancing Mediterranean Quality Status**

30. Under this agenda item, the consultant, Ms Martina Bocci, introduced document REMPEC/WG.57/3 'A new challenge for Enhancing Mediterranean Quality Status', which provided a summary of the monitoring obligations relative to maritime transport and offshore activities in the framework of the Barcelona Convention, including reference to formats and guidance documents available. The document also included two "to-do-lists" aiming at easing consultation and application of guidance documents, standards and supporting document, in relation to monitoring offshore activities and shipping incidents, and their related pollution. It also drew the attention to the usefulness of the results of monitoring of pollution related with maritime transport and offshore activities for the preparation of the periodic Quality Status Report of the Mediterranean. Finally, some considerations concerning the possibility to provide additional guidance to support CPs in fulfilling their monitoring obligations to improve monitoring and assessment of CI19, particularly in relation to impacts on biota, were provided. The outcome of the discussion is reported in the Conclusions and Recommendations par. 29, 31, 32 provided in **Annex 6** of the present document.

31. In its presentation, the Secretariat referred to the report of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact (Malta, May 2023), [REMPEC/WP.55/11](#), which agreed about the five (5) key indicators of IMAP Common Indicators for the Oil and Gas industry, and the report of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points (Malta, June 2023), [REMPEC/WG.56/8](#), which requested the Secretariat to continue working on the development of IMAP Common Indicator 19 to contribute to the 2023 Med QSR.

32. The Secretariat also referred to the supporting documents developed by REMPEC to facilitate the monitoring of Oil and HNS spills, as a result to shipping and offshore activities: the Guidance Factsheets of the IMAP CI 19 ([REMPEC/WG.51/9/1](#)), the revised DSs/DDs for the IMAP CI 19, prepared in coordination with INFORAC provided in Annex 2 to the document [REMPEC/WG.56/3/4/Rev.1](#), the document 'Best practice review of Descriptor 8 (D08C04, 2018 Reporting) of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)', as laid down in document [REMPEC/WG.56/INF.6](#), illustrating the monitoring activities required after pollution events due to ship and offshore activities.

33. The Workshop took note of the information provided and considered the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in document REMPEC/WG.57/3.



34. The Workshop highlighted the need to provide to OPRC FP more background on the methodology for preparation of the Quality Status Report of the Mediterranean, the base of data used as well as the way the aggregated results at regional level was presented. The Secretariat clarified all these elements were shared with MEDPOL FP during the phase of preparation of the assessment. It was concluded that there is a need to improve communication and exchanges on such important matters.

35. The use for the Quality Status Report of the Mediterranean of satellite data acquired by EMSA and available through CleanSeaNet was discussed. The role of satellite data in informing about small spills which are important for pollution at regional level in the Mediterranean was highlighted. The need for ground-truth observations to confirm satellite data was also stressed. The Workshop highlighted the need to proceed with technical studies to provide criteria and conditions under which these data are to be used. REMPEC clarified that any request of data to EMSA should include all details regarding the typology of data and the scope of their use.

36. The outcome of the discussion is reported in the Conclusions and Recommendations paragraphs 27-32 provided in **Annex 6** of the present document.

#### **Data Sharing - Towards a Country profile integrated Platform for enhancing Prevention, Preparedness, and Response**

37. The Secretariat introduced document REMPEC/WG.57/4/1 'Restructuring of the Country Profile to facilitate data collection, categorisation, update and consequent actions' aiming at contributing to the implementation of a common approach on data sharing and to facilitate CPs role in their data submission and consultation. To do so, a proposal to review and adjust the structure of the Country Profile, with the ultimate aim to facilitate the collection and utilization of datasets for statistical analysis and studies at regional level, could be developed. The proposal considered the feedback received to the Questionnaire on Data Sharing, Monitoring, and Reporting, distributed by REMPEC to the Contracting Parties in July 2024.

38. The Secretariat presented the continuous improvements of tools to support and incentivize Data Sharing, referring, in particular, to the decisions of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points (May 2017), as detailed in paragraph 6 of the document [REMPEC/WG.37/10](#), and to last updates of MEDGIS-MAR, as considered by the 13th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points (June 2019), and detailed in sub-paragraph 12.4 of Document [REMPEC/WG.45/8](#).

39. The consultant, Ms Martina Bocci, also briefly presented the results from the Questionnaire on Reporting, Monitoring and Data Sharing distributed in July 2024. Some opportunities to revise the Country Profile pages were also mentioned.

40. The consultant, Ms Martina Bocci, then introduced the document REMPEC/WG.57/4.2 'Data capitalization: Raising awareness and periodic update – Brochure of the Study on Trends and Outlook of Marine Pollution', and reflect on the added value from the possible update on the [Study on Trends and Outlook of Marine Pollution, Maritime Traffic and Offshore Activities in the Mediterranean](#) (December 2021), prepared by REMPEC, in collaboration with the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (PB/RAC), the Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MEDPOL), and the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), in the framework of the Programme of Work 2020-2021 of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP), as well as on the opportunity to prepare periodically a synthetic brochure based on the updates of the Study. The usefulness of contribution from the CPs was highlighted.

41. The Workshop was invited to take note of the information provided and consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in documents REMPEC/WG.57/4/1 and REMPEC/WG.57/4/2.

42. The Workshop noticed that access to Country Page resources should be available to OPRC FP and also to other national authorities to facilitate gathering of data on one hand and facilitate their utilization and capitalization on another hand. The Workshop then invited REMPEC to prepare a layout for the Country Profile, to be presented to the next meeting of REMPEC Focal Points. In view of the possible revision of the Country Profile page, the Representative of the EU recommended to avoid upload of compiled reports and templates but instead to develop online databases, to be used for direct upload (and download) of data.

43. The Workshop welcomed the preparation by REMPEC of a periodic synthetic document with fact and figures regarding marine pollution and offshore activities in the Mediterranean. The Workshop also welcomed the preparation of an update version of the Study on Trends and Outlooks in the Mediterranean, starting from the 2021 version and eventually considering also other emerging topics.

44. The outcome of the discussion is reported in the Conclusions and Recommendations paragraphs 33-36 provided in **Annex 6** of the present document.

#### **Any other business**

45. Cedre presented the information document REMPEC/WG.57/INF.2 about the 'MANIFESTS Genius (From Gases and Evaporators risk assessment towards an Integrated management of sea and land pollution incidents)' that aims to address gaps for responding to accidental releases of volatile and gaseous HNS at sea.

46. The Workshop welcomed with interest the results presented by Cedre and requested REMPEC to liaise with Cedre to organize a capacity building event on the tool MANIFEST during 2025.

### **5. ASSESSEMENT AND ANTICIPATED OUTCOME**

47. The IMO's ITCP standard evaluation questionnaire was used in the Workshop to assess the performance of the lecturers and the uptake of information by the participants. 13 participants submitted completed evaluation questionnaires. Participants were all satisfied by Arrangements prior to the activity. The length of the event was considered just right by all participants. The venue, equipment and facilities were considered excellent-good. Presentation and clarity of materials distributed were quoted as excellent by more than 60% of participants, the technical content, comprehensiveness and quantity were quoted as excellent by more than the 70% of participants. The feedback from participants on the lecturers was appreciated, particularly the contents of the presentations and the Effectiveness in suggesting solution to issues. Almost all participants conserved the objectives of the workshop met and confirmed they will have the opportunity to transfer the outcome to colleagues

48. A summary of the answers to the questionnaires were prepared and is shown in **Annex 5** to the present report.

### **6. CLOSING CEREMONY**

49. The Secretariat informed the Workshop that the Report of the Workshop would be prepared and circulated after the Workshop.

50. The Head of Office of REMPEC made the closing remarks. He elaborated that this Workshop showed that the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention could join forces together as well as have a healthy and constructive discussion that achieved good results, that will be presented to the fifth OFOG Sub-group Environmental Impact Meeting and the Sixteenth Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points in 2025.

51. He thanked the Chairperson and Rapporteur, REMPEC consultant for the presentations and assistance in preparing for the Workshop. Last, he thanked Mr Malek Smaoui REMPEC, who oversaw the organisation and coordination of the Workshop with the support from the REMPEC consultants and other REMPEC staff involved.

52. The Workshop was closed on Thursday 26 September 15:30 hours.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

53. The conclusion and recommendations, as adopted by the Workshop, are set out in **Annex 6** to the present report.

\*\*\*

## ANNEX 1

## List of Participants

No.	COUNTRY	NAME AND SURNAME	GENDER [male/ female]	POSITION	CONTACT DETAILS OF NATIONAL AUTHORITY	IMO-funded / self-funded / National
1.	<b>BOSNIA &amp; HERZEGOVINA/ BOSNIE &amp; HERZÉGOVINE</b>	<b>Selma ČENGIĆ</b>	Female	Executive Director	Hydro-Engineering Institute	IMO
2.	<b>CROATIA / CROATIE</b>	<b>Robert BALJKAS</b>	Male	Senior Adviser Specialist	Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, Maritime Safety Administration	MTF
3.	<b>CYPRUS / CHYPRE</b>	<b>Zacharias KAPSIS</b>	Male	Maritime Affairs Officer	Shipping Deputy Ministry of the Republic of Cyprus	MTF
4.	<b>EGYPT / EGYPTE</b>	<b>Hala IBRAHIM</b>	Female	General Manager of Environmental Crisis Management Department	Ministry Of Environment	IMO
5.	<b>EUROPEAN UNION / UNION EUROPÉENNE</b>	<b>Asta MACKEVICIUTE</b>	Female		DGECHO	EU
6.	<b>EUROPEAN UNION / UNION EUROPÉENNE</b>	<b>Mindaugas VANSEVICIUS</b>	Male		DGECHO	EU
7.	<b>GREECE / GRÈCE</b>	<b>Konstantinos MANGIDAS</b>	Male	Hellenic Coast Guard Officer	Hellenic Coast Guard	MTF
8.	<b>ISRAEL / ISRAËL</b>	<b>Nir FAIR</b>	Male	Marpol inspector Marine	Environment Protection Division Ministry of Environmental Protection	MTF
9.	<b>ITALY / ITALIE</b>	<b>Luigi Nicola ALCARO</b>	Male	Researcher	ISPRA	MTF
10	<b>LIBYA / LIBYE</b>	<b>Ali TANTOSH</b>	Male	Head of Documentation and Information Unit, Environmental Emergency Department	Ministry of Environment	IMO

No.	COUNTRY	NAME AND SURNAME	GENDER [male/ female]	POSITION	CONTACT DETAILS OF NATIONAL AUTHORITY	IMO-funded / self-funded / National
11	<b>MALTA / MALTE</b>	<b>Annabelle HABER</b>	Female	Senior Officer Thematic	Environment and Resources Authority	National
12	<b>MALTA / MALTE</b>	<b>Mevric ZAMMIT</b>	Male	Head, Marine Operations and Incident Response	Authority for Transport in Malta	National
13	<b>MONTENEGRO</b>	<b>Haris HUSIC</b>	Male	Acting Director	Administration for Maritime Safety and Ports Management	MTF
14	<b>MOROCCO / MAROC</b>	<b>Hanane ATMANE</b>	Female	Head of Safety of Navigation and Prevention of Marine Pollution by Ship	Merchant Marine Directorate	IMO
15	<b>SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE</b>	<b>Aleš GOMBAČ</b>	Male	Coastal Sea Guard	Slovenian Maritime Administration	MTF
16	<b>TUNISIA / TUNISIE</b>	<b>Mohamed Naceur JELJELI</b>	Male	Directeur Général	Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement (ANPE)	IMO
17	<b>TÜRKIYE</b>	<b>Can Berk ATASOY</b>	Male	Third Secretary	Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Malta	Self-funded
18	<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>Arnaud GUÉNA</b>	Male	Deputy Director, Production Manager	Cedre	Self-funded
19	<b>UK</b>	<b>Duarte SOARES</b>	Male	Senior Technical Adviser	ITOPF	Self-funded
20	<b>UK</b>	<b>Laura de la Torre</b>	Female	Deputy Secretary	Bonn Agreement and OSPAR Commission	Online

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## ANNEX 2

### List of IMO consultants and subjects covered by each of them

No.	NAME AND SURNAME	GENDER [male/ female]	CONTACT DETAILS OF ORGANIZATION	IMLI/WMU GRADUATE	SUBJECTS COVERED
1	Benjamin Couzigou	Male	EOSP - Enhancing Oil Spill Preparedness, France	--	Monitoring and Assessment of spills on the state of the marine Environment
2	Martina Bocci <sup>1</sup>	Female	t-ELIKA , Italy	-	-Reporting on the implementation of the Convention and Protocols -Monitoring and Assessment of spills on the state of the marine Environment – Data sharing and capitalisation

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<sup>1</sup> MTF

## **ANNEX 3**

### **Statements (Opening and closing ceremonies)**

#### **Regional Workshop on Reporting, Monitoring and Data Sharing (MEDEXPOL 2024), Lija, Malta, 25-26 September 2024**

#### **Opening remarks, by Ivan Sammut, Head of Officer, REMPEC**

Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and welcome to MALTA.

It is a great honour and pleasure for REMPEC to welcome you to the Regional Workshop on Reporting, Monitoring and Data Sharing (MEDEXPOL 2024). MEDEXPOL is a biannual event that brings together the representatives Mediterranean coastal States, the European Union, and other national, international and non-governmental organizations, and MAP partners to discuss technical and other pertinent matters in Relation to the Prevention and Response to marine Pollution. For 2024, the Focal Points Meeting agreed to discuss the important topic of Reporting, Monitoring and Data Sharing, with the aim to develop proposals for concrete actions with the aim to assist the Contracting Parties in fulfilling related commitments under the international and regional legal framework, which will be submitted to the forthcoming Offshore and REMPEC Focal Points Meetings.

The rationale behind the theme of this year's MEDEXPOL is to consider addressing these topics as a matter of priority, in view of the fact that it is still observed that there exists lack of reporting on the implementation of these legal instruments and on pollution incidents, the absence of an integrated approach on the monitoring and assessment of the state of the marine environment ensuring uniform distribution of reported data across the entire region; and the lack of effective use of regional information, which is intended to enhance and simplify reporting and monitoring commitments.

In this context, this week's Workshop will consider important matters such as:

- to assist the CPs in fulfilling their obligations under the Barcelona Convention 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and the 1994 Offshore Protocol, specifically in reporting, monitoring, and data sharing on marine pollution incidents;
- to raise awareness and visibility of the tools available for the reporting, monitoring, and data sharing needs; and
- to foster CPs ownership of REMPEC's platforms as interface for national activities related to the implementation of both Protocols.

It is noted that MEDEXPOL2024 is a step among others already taken in preparation for the upcoming 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, notably.

- Periodic survey on Oil and HNS spills at sea, to improve data collection, particularly acute pollution and spills originating from sources other than ships, 21 February 2024

- Establishment of the Correspondence Group on Data Sharing, Monitoring, and Reporting under the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG), 28 May 2024
- Circulation of Questionnaire to contribute to the preparation of the Workshop, 4 July 2024.

During these two days, we will discuss and develop concrete actions to complement those already initiated, emphasizing the importance of an integrated approach that engages the Parties, MAP components, and the Secretariat (REMPEC), capitalizing inter alia the two important tools provided by REMPEC the Country Profile and MEDGIS-MAR.

This Workshop is also being held on the day when the International Maritime Organization celebrates World Maritime Day. The 2024 World Maritime Day theme “Navigating the future: safety first” reflects IMO’s work to enhance safety and security, in tandem with the protection of the marine environment, whilst ensuring its regulatory development process safely anticipates the fast pace of technological change and innovation. This dovetails with the objectives of this Workshop – we cannot ensure a more sustainable industry unless we have available the necessary information on which future policy decisions may be based. Let’s work together to achieve more reliable results. I am confident that with the spirit of compromise that has always prevailed in such meetings we will make a difference.

Finally, I would like to thank you ALL for joining this workshop and for your contribution.

Whilst thanking you all, I once again warmly wish you a very productive Workshop.

THANK YOU

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## **ANNEX 4**

### **Programme Regional Workshop on Data Sharing, Monitoring and Reporting (MEDEXPOL 2024)**

**Lija, Malta – (from Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024)**

#### Opening of the Meeting

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Reporting - Correlation Between Reporting Commitment, Benefits, and Incentives for Effective Reporting
  - 2.1 Reporting on the implementation of activities
    - Commitment, objective, benefit (National and Regional)
    - Reporting obligations and future capitalization options.
  - 2.2 Reporting in case of Emergency
    - Chronic duality between the EU and REMPEC Emergency Communication Systems
    - Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean: new CECIS Marine Pollution facilities and limitations
3. Monitoring - A new challenge for Enhancing Mediterranean Quality Status
  - Evaluation of impact of Offshore exploration and exploitation activities in the marine environment using the IMAP CIs 1,2,15,17 and 18
  - Guidance document for IMAP CI 19 and the monitoring of the impact of accidental spill of shipping and offshore activities on the biota, and related supporting documents (Fact Sheet and DDs & DSs).
  - Contribution to the development of the periodic Mediterranean Quality Status Report and other assessment related topics
4. Data Sharing - Towards a Country profile integrated Platform for enhancing Prevention, Preparedness, and Response.
  - 4.1 Restructuring of the Country Profile to facilitate data collection, categorisation, update and consequent actions.
  - 4.2 Data capitalization: Raising awareness and periodic update – Brochure of the Study on Trends and Outlook of Marine Pollution.
5. Any other business
6. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations

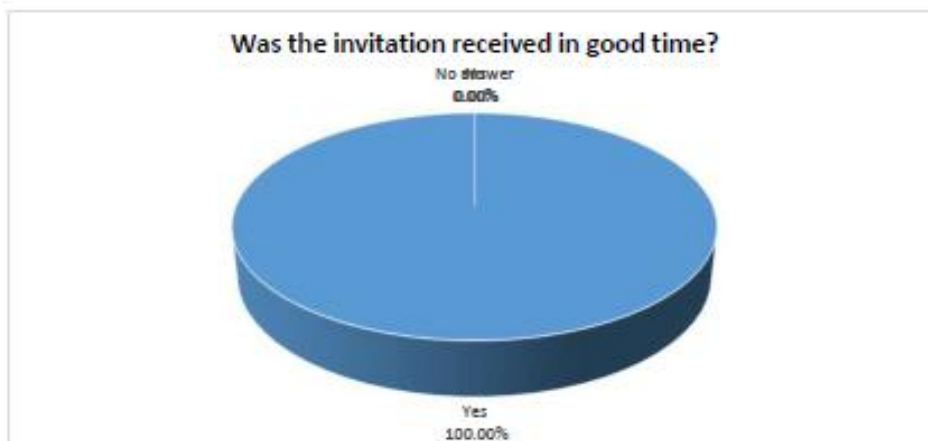
#### Closure of the Meeting

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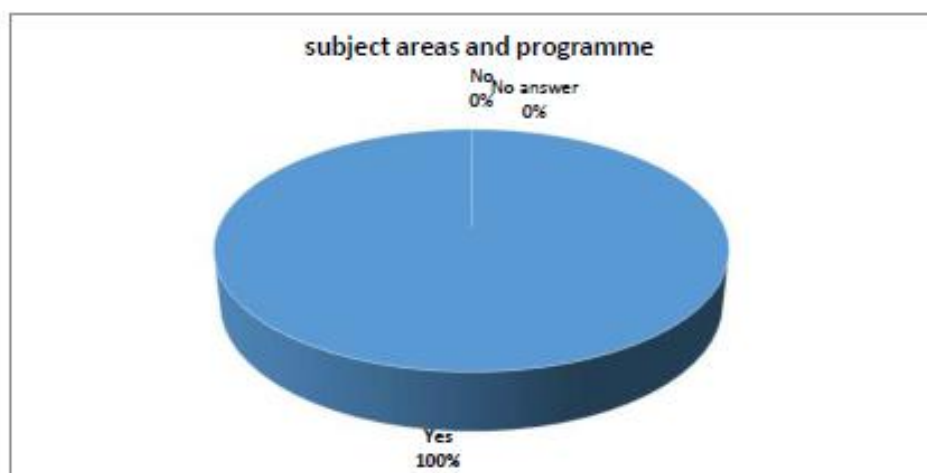
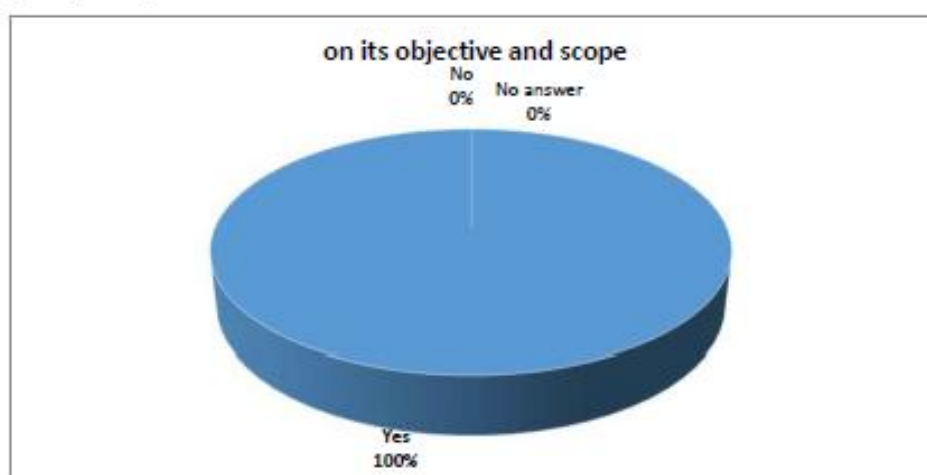
## ANNEX 5

### Synopsis of Evaluation questionnaires

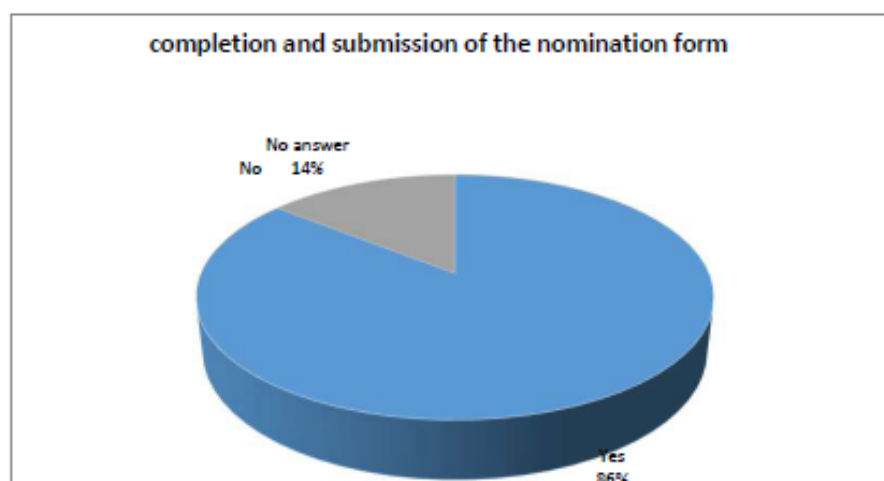
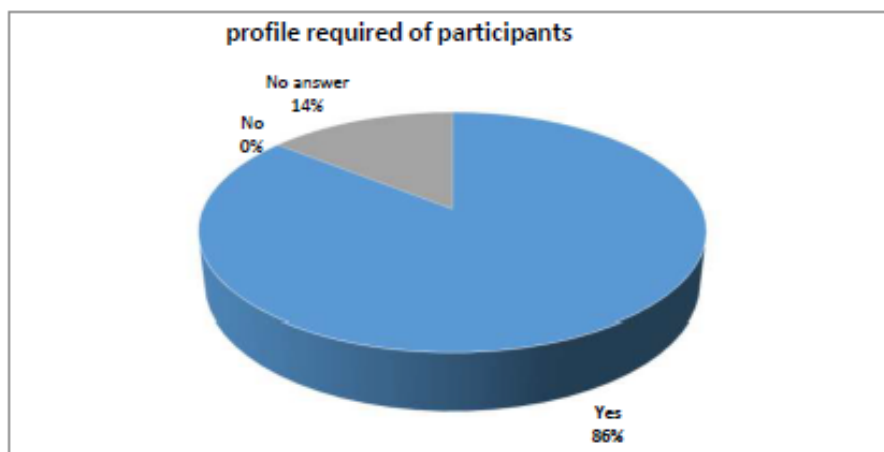
#### 1 Was the invitation received in good time?



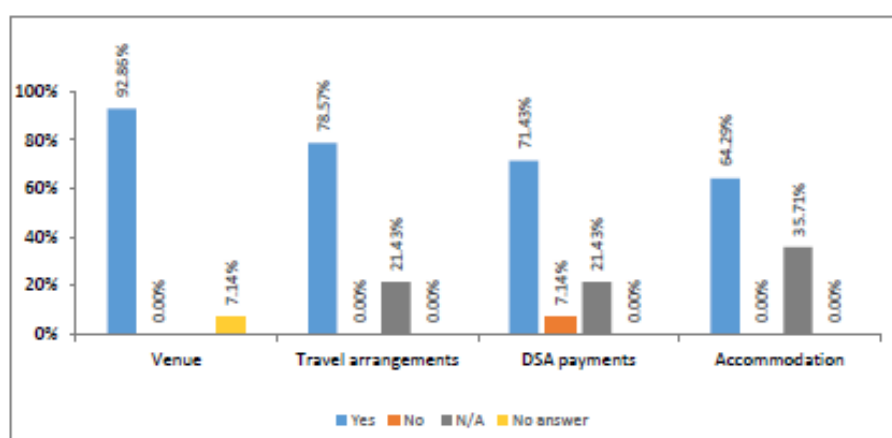
#### 2 Did you receive the information listed below about the event before your participation



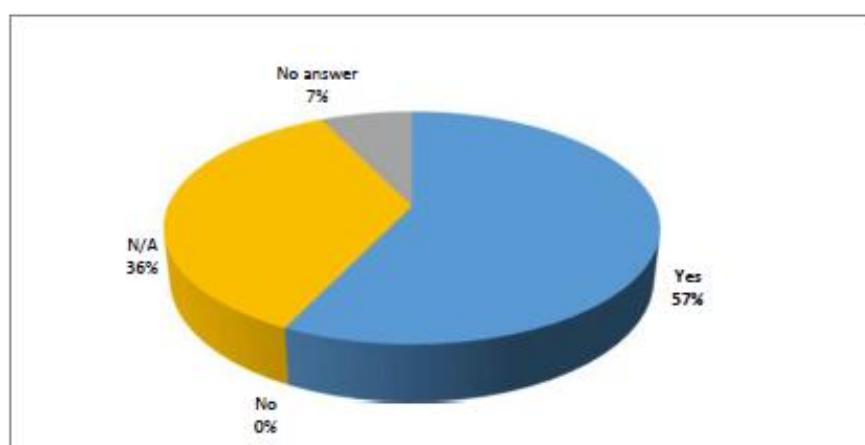
### 3 Were the instructions on the following easy to understand?



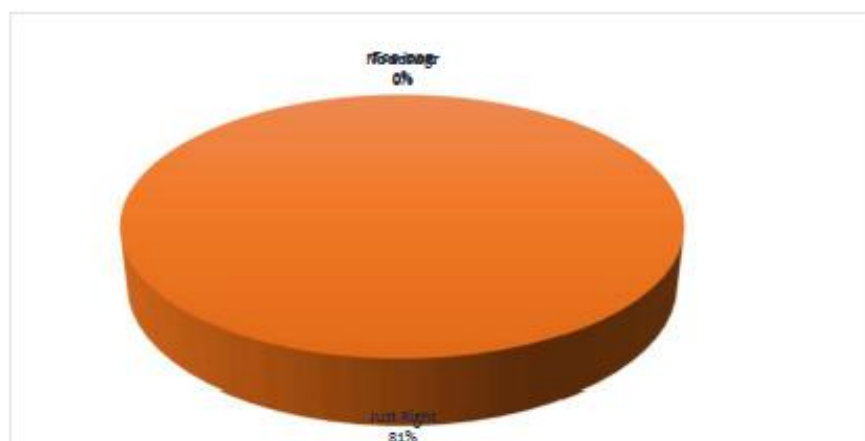
### 4 Did you receive logistical information on



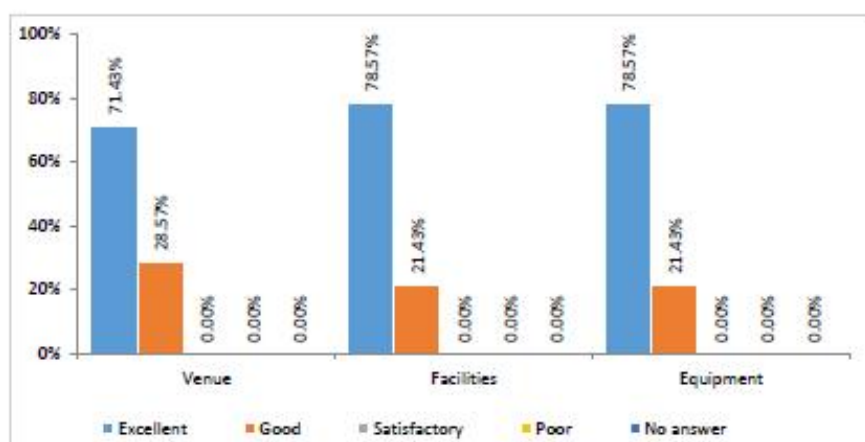
5 If you were given any pre-event assignment, was it useful?



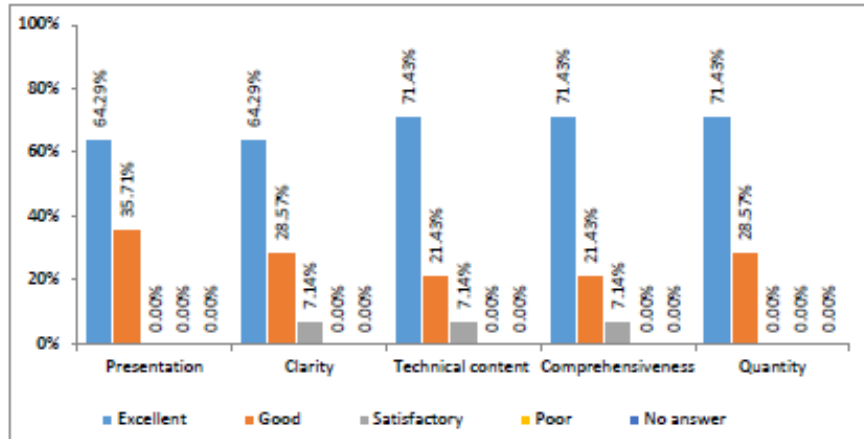
6 To cover the topics fully, was the event (please check the appropriate box)



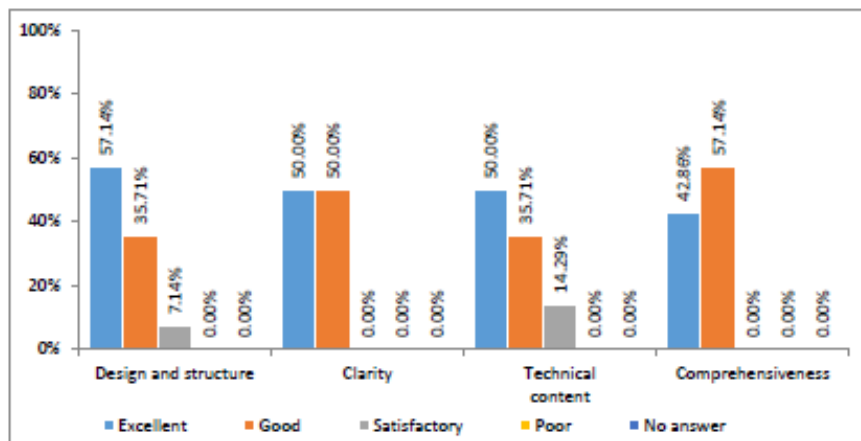
7 How do you rate the event with regard to the following?



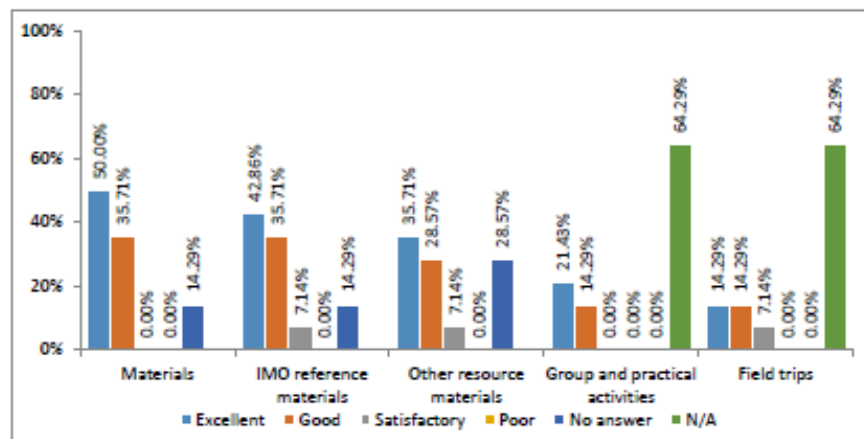
8 How do you rate the following aspects of the materials?



9 How would you rate the following aspects of the presentations?

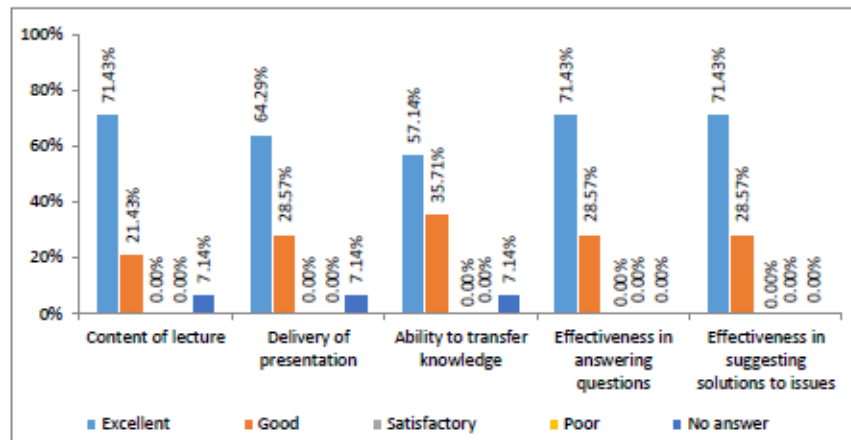


10 How would you rate the use of the following?

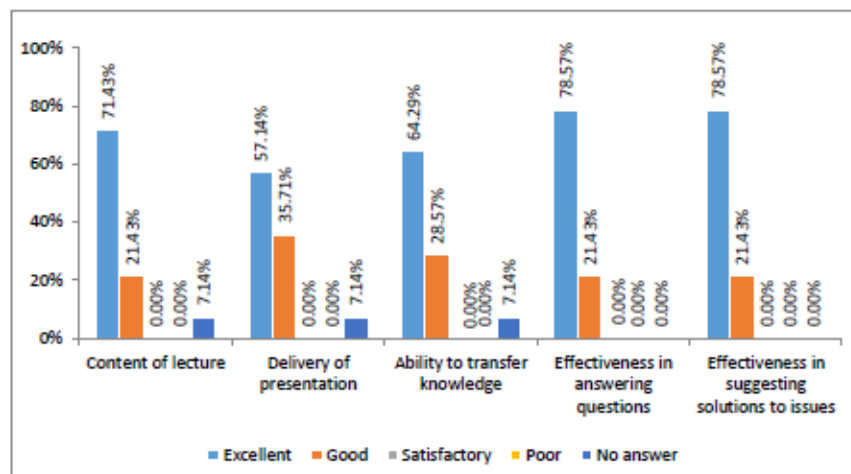


## 11 Please rate each lecturer with regard to the following

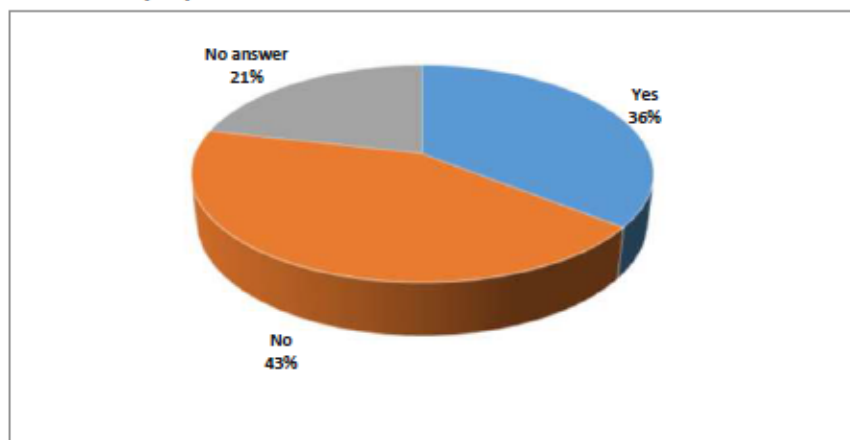
### 11.1 Consultant 1



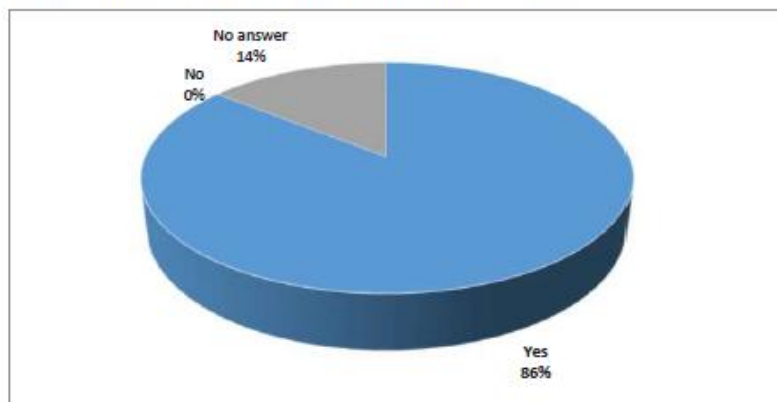
### 11.2 Consultant 2



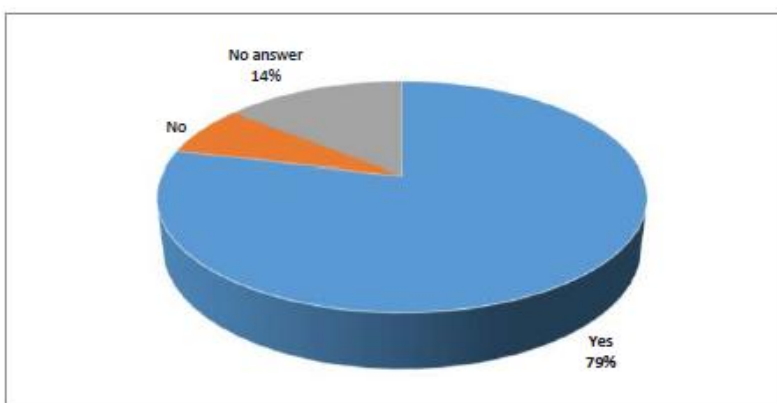
## 13 Are there any topics which should be added?



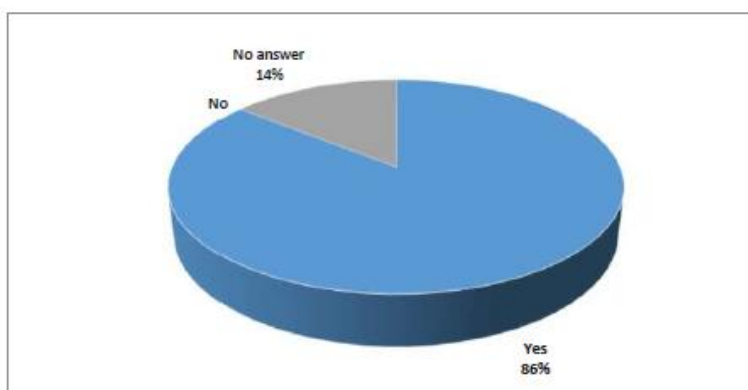
14 Do you consider that the objective of the event was met?



15 Are you likely to use the information you gained on the course when you return to your work?



16 Will you have the opportunity to transfer the knowledge gained to your colleagues at work?



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## ANNEX 6

### Conclusions and Recommendations

The Regional Workshop on Reporting, Monitoring, and Data Sharing (MEDEXPOL 2024), hereinafter referred to as “the Workshop”, held in Lija, Malta from 25 to 26 September 2024:

1. **expressed appreciation** for the financial support provided to this activity by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO)’s Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP);
2. **noted** that the workshop supported the implementation of the Specific Objective SO1 of the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), aiming at continuing to reduce the risks associated with the transport by ships of Oil and Harmful and Noxious Substances (HNS) and their possible harmful consequences on biota and ecosystems in relation to accidents, as well as continue combating the practice of illegal discharge from ships;
3. **emphasized** the importance of the topics discussed during this MEDEXPOL session, which helps strengthen compliance with legal commitments and support improvements also in view of other objectives at national and regional level;
4. **acknowledged** the valuable contribution of the Contracting Parties (CPs) who contributed to the Online Periodical Survey to update on oil and HNS spills, and the EU which provided an overview of the new Emergency Communication and Information System for Marine Pollution (CECIS MP).

### CONCLUSIONS

#### Reporting on the implementation of legal instruments

5. **noted** that there is still lack of reporting on the 2022 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and the Offshore Protocol under the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS);
6. **concurred** that the existence of different, not integrated, reporting systems represents one major barrier to reporting;
7. **noticed** that data fragmentation among different institutions at national level is another important barrier to reporting;
8. **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 instruments;
9. **recognized** that, supported by the available documents for reporting, CPs should now be in a position to proceed with their assessment and reporting;
10. **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;

#### Reporting in case of Emergency

11. **appreciated** the progress made on the development of the new CECIS MP and the joint coordination with REMPEC to establish a Common Communication System for the Mediterranean using the CECIS MP platform;



12. **encouraged** REMPEC and DGECHO to present the initial operational steps of the Common System at the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting REMPEC Focal Points;

### Monitoring

13. **noted** the lengthy process since 2017 to implement assessment and monitoring under IMAP CI 19;
14. **recognized** the gap in the CPs knowledge and expertise on implementing monitoring and assessment of the marine environment using IMAP CIs, and the need to overcome this gap;
15. **agreed** on the usefulness of the Online Periodical Survey to update on oil and HNS spills;
16. **considered** with interest the “to-do lists” for the Offshore 5 Key IMAP CIs and the IMAP CI 19;
17. **highlighted** the need to further work on thresholds and definition of assessment criteria for IMAP CI 19;

### Data Sharing

18. **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;
19. **concurred** with the objective of the Workshop to foster CPs’ ownership of REMPEC’s platforms as their primary interface for activities related to the implementation of both Protocols; and
20. **recognized** the value at regional and national level – e.g. for policy assessment and development, sector strategy development, marine spatial planning initiatives - of reports on marine pollution from ships and offshore activities, such as the Study on Trends and Outlook of Marine Pollution and the synthetic Brochure.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**Under Agenda Item 2 on Reporting on the implementation of activities, the Workshop recommended**

### The Secretariat

21. **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;
22. **to assess** possible future developments of MEDGIS-MAR to enable:
  - .1 possible interconnection with the Country Profile pages to allow for a unique update by CPs;
  - .2 easier update of the layer “accidents”;
23. **to continue working** together with DG-ECHO in the perspective of providing the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points with precise elements facilitating decisions on the way forward for the use of CECIS MP as Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean;

24. **to provide**, subject to availability of funds, capacity building activities to those CPs that request training on reporting to the REMPEC systems;

#### The Contracting Parties

25. **to get better** organized for reporting activities at national level in order to facilitate the exchange of reporting needs;
26. **to link** previous reports on the Country Profile on the REMPEC website.

#### **Under the Agenda Item 3 on Monitoring, the Workshop recommended**

##### The Secretariat

27. **to carry out** periodic assessment on occurrence of spills, based on the responses to the Online Periodical Survey on oil and HNS spills, with feedback to be provided by the CPs by the end of April 2025 for consideration at the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points;
28. **to prepare** a proposal for lowering the minimum threshold for reporting, taking into consideration other regional sea conventions, as well as MSFD, for submission to the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points;
29. **to submit** Annex 1 and Annex 2 to REMPEC/WG.57/3 ("to-do lists") to the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points.

##### The Contacting Parties

30. **to continue** responding to the Online survey on spills, until April 2025 (with the Survey frequency to be reduced to one report every three (3) months);
31. **to take note and apply** the recommendation of the Decision IG.26/3 of COP 23 on the submission of the report on incidents and spills using the latest version of the Data Dictionary and Data Standard (DD&DS) for CI 19 and providing to any extent possible all the data required in DD&DS, including estimation of quantity and volume of oil and other substances released; and
32. **to take note and apply** the recommendation of the Decision IG.26/3 of COP 23 to start collecting data on impacts on biota with reference to the above-mentioned updated version of DD&DS for IMAP CI 19.

#### **Under the Agenda Item 4 on Data Sharing, the Workshop recommended**

##### The Secretariat

33. **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, in preparation for the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points;

##### The Contracting Parties

34. **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 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Point, June 2023), or its template;

35. **to adhere** to the periodic preparation of a brochure (e.g. biannual bases) for communication and awareness purposes (e.g. synthetizing the results from the updated “Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution” and other relevant assessments); and
36. **to agree** on the preparation of an update of the “Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution”, eventually considering other merging topics.

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