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

Seventh Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS)

REMPEC/WG.64/10
24 November 2026
Original: English

Lija, Malta, 2-3 November 2026

REPORT

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE

MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS RELATING TO MARPOL WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE BARCELONA CONVENTION (MENELAS)

Lija, Malta, 2-3 November 2026

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.

REMPEC
Malta, 2026

INTRODUCTION

1 The Seventeenth Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) within the framework of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the "Barcelona Convention") (MENELAS), hereinafter referred to as the Meeting, was convened in Lija, Malta, from 2 to 3 November 2026, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2026-2027 of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP, adopted by the Twenty-fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 24) (Cairo, Egypt, 5-8 December 2025).

2 The principal objectives of the Meeting, which was organised by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), were:

.1 to examine the implementation of the MENELAS Programme of Activities for the period 2026-2027, notably:

.1 the detailed draft Study on the possible criteria and possible minimum levels of fines for each offence provided for under the Annexes to MARPOL, as set out in the consolidated draft Decision, as adjusted, taking into consideration the specificities of each Contracting Party (CP); and

.2 the associated draft Guidelines to ensure the uniform and effective implementation of the consolidated draft Decision, as adjusted, in the Mediterranean region;

.2 to discuss about cooperation with other regional and international organisations;

.3 to elect the Chair and Vice Chair of the network for the period 2026-2027; and

.4 to discuss and agree on items to be included in the MENELAS Programme of Activities for the period 2028-2029.

3 All MENELAS Designated Representatives were invited to nominate jointly and, in consultation with the REMPEC Prevention Focal Points and the REMPEC Governmental Focal Points, their representatives at the Meeting. The invitation to participate at the Meeting was also extended to observers from relevant regional and international organisations, the activities of which were relevant to the objectives of the Meeting.

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

ALBANIA	MALTA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	MONTENEGRO
EGYPT	SLOVENIA
ITALY	SPAIN
LEBANON	TUNISIA
LIBYA	TÜRKIYE

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

OPENING OF THE MEETING

6 The Meeting was opened by Mr. Ivan SAMMUT, Head of Office of REMPEC, on Monday, 2 November 2026 at 0900 hours[1], who welcomed the participants to the Meeting and acknowledged that it was made possible thanks to the financial support of the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF). He also thanked the Government of Malta, particularly the Authority of Transport in Malta, for providing the meeting facilities in kind.

7 Mr. Sammut noted that 20 Contracting Parties had designated their MENELAS Designated Representative, reflecting recognition of the Network's role in supporting cooperation among the authorities responsible for enforcing MARPOL and its Annexes, and, in this regard, he also recalled the adoption of the revised MENELAS Terms of Reference by the Contracting Parties during COP 24, last December 2025. However, he expressed concern regarding the relatively limited participation in the Meeting and highlighted the importance of considering how to strengthen Contracting Parties' ownership of the Network and encourage a broader participation. Finally, he encouraged the delegates to actively participate during the meeting and share their views openly and constructively, including where further clarification or work was needed. He also invited the Meeting to consider way forward and future activities for the biennium 2028-2029, taking into account the evolving maritime landscape, emerging issues and international priorities, as well as the entry into effect of the Mediterranean SO_X ECA and the related implementation and enforcement priorities in the region.

ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

Rules of Procedure

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

Election of Officers

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

Ms Özlem ÖZER (Türkiye)	Chairperson
Mr Vlado LALIĆ (Montenegro)	Vice-Chairperson
Mr Enis OMEROVIC (Bosnia and Herzegovina)	Rapporteur

Working Languages

10 The working languages of the Meeting were English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation services were provided during the Meeting. All working documents were available in both official languages of the Centre, i.e. in English and in French. Information documents were available in their original language.

[1] Malta local time or GMT+1.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

11 The Chairperson thanked the Meeting for supporting her election and proposed that the Provisional Agenda, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.64/1/Rev.1 and annotated in document REMPEC/WG.64/1/1, be adopted.

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

AGENDA ITEM 2: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY MENELAS DURING THE 2025-2026 PERIOD

13 The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present the Report on the activities of MENELAS for the period from November 2025 to October 2026, as set out in the Annex to document REMPEC/WG.64/2.

14 In its presentation, the Secretariat provided information on the activities carried out by the Working Group within MENELAS over the period April-October 2026, including:

.1 the development of a draft Study on the possible criteria and possible minimum level of fines for each offence provided for under the Annexes to MARPOL;

.2 the associated draft Guidelines to ensure the uniform and effective implementation of the consolidated draft decision, as adjusted, in the Mediterranean region;

.3 comments and feedback received from the members of the Working Group within MENELAS, consolidated in a dedicated matrix containing both the comments and explanations related to the actions taken or the proposed approach to address them, as provided in Appendix to information document REMPEC/WG.64/INF.3.

15 The Meeting took note of and endorsed the Report on the activities of MENELAS under the period from November 2025 to October 2026, as set out in the Annex to document REMPEC/WG.64/2 and prepared pursuant to Decision IG.27/11.

16 The Meeting appreciated the work of the Working Group within MENELAS undertaken by correspondence and endorsed the Report of the Working Group within MENELAS as set out in the Appendix to information document REMPEC/WG.64/INF.3.

AGENDA ITEM 3: STUDY ON POSSIBLE CRITERIA AND POSSIBLE MINIMUM LEVELS OF FINES FOR EACH OFFENCE PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE ANNEXES TO MARPOL

17 At the invitation of the Chairperson, the Secretariat provided information on the draft Study on possible criteria and possible minimum levels of fines for each offence provided for under the Annexes to MARPOL (hereinafter referred to as the "draft Study"), as presented in document REMPEC/WG.64/3 and information document REMPEC/WG.64/INF.4. In its presentation, the Secretariat also referred to the Report of the Working Group within MENELAS, as set out in information document REMPEC/WG.64/INF.3.

18 The Chairperson invited Professor Dr Norman A. MARTÍNEZ GUTIÉRREZ, REMPEC consultant, to present the draft Study, as set out in the Appendix to information document REMPEC/WG.64/INF.4

19 The Meeting welcomed the preparation of the draft Study, and valued, in this regard, the presentation by Professor Martínez Gutiérrez.

20 During an exchange of views, a number of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention expressed their positions on the draft Study, as follows.

21 The representative of Malta referred to the forthcoming transposition, at national level, of the amendments to the EU Ship-Source Pollution Directive[2], and raised the difficulty of taking the offender's financial capacity into account when setting a fine, while considering the nature, extent and location of the pollution to be more relevant. In this regard, it was noted that a system assigning points to various criteria could be a potentially useful approach for calculating the amount of the fine. Malta further noted the challenges in detecting certain types of pollution, particularly pollution involving hazardous and noxious substances (HNS), and welcomed the draft Study as a useful contribution to aligning national practices.

22 The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina called for caution in drawing conclusions on regional harmonisation, given that only eight Contracting Parties had responded to the questionnaire and that the underlying national legislation had not been comprehensively verified.

23 The Secretariat acknowledged that the limited number of replies and the self-reported nature of the information were limitations, as pointed out in the draft Study, and explained that, for this reason, the draft Study did not, at this stage, propose minimum fines. It focused instead on assessing the criteria reported by the responding Contracting Parties, including also those reflected in the consolidated draft Decision, as adjusted, in order to provide basis for further consideration and support discussion among the Contracting Parties.

24 The representative of Türkiye expressed support for harmonising penalty procedures in the Mediterranean region, considering this a priority for ensuring effective deterrence. Türkiye further noted that its current penalties were linked to the gross tonnage of the vessel, while the quantity of oil spilled in a major collision could be difficult to determine promptly, and therefore supported further examination of the criteria and of the procedures to identify and quantify spills.

25 The consultant replied that progressing the work on the criteria for determining fines would be beneficial, noting that ship tonnage and the owner's financial capacity could be relevant to setting a fine, but should not be the sole basis, so that larger operators are not penalised solely because of their size. At the same time, penalties should remain commensurate with the offence and sufficiently dissuasive, to ensure that they are not treated as an ordinary operating cost.

26 The representative of Italy expressed appreciation for the preparation of the draft Study, considering the challenging task of comparing the wide variety of national penalty systems, and requested clarification on whether the reference to the detention of a vessel mentioned in the draft Study included the detention under Port State Control, or also the seizure of a vessel in criminal proceedings.

27 The consultant clarified that the reference to ship detention in the draft Study was broad enough to encompass different forms of detention, but underlined that caution was required in distinguishing their legal basis and context.

28 The representative of Tunisia underlined the importance of addressing strict liability for environmental damage and noted that determining whether such damage is reversible or irreversible may affect the costs of restoration, compensation and the severity of the sanctions. In addition to the preventive principle, Tunisia highlighted the precautionary principle, the polluter-pays principle and the

[2] Directive (EU) 2024/3101 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 amending Directive 2005/35/EC as regards ship-source pollution and on the introduction of administrative penalties for infringements

interests of future generations and further stressed the value of harmonising administrative and judicial sanctions.

29 The consultant clarified that the scope of the draft Study concerns MARPOL offences relating to the prevention of pollution, whereas liability and compensation for pollution damage remain governed by other applicable international conventions and regimes addressing the effects of the pollution, including environmental damage, cleanup costs and economic losses, which generally provide for strict liability subject to specific exceptions. In this regard, intentionality may be relevant when assessing, instead, the cause of an offence and it can be treated as an aggravating factor.

30 The representative of Egypt suggested that the proposed sanctioning criteria should not be considered exhaustive or definitive but should remain subject to periodic review, taking into account practical experience and developments in enforcement practices. Furthermore, Egypt highlighted the importance to ensure that penalties remain proportionate to the severity and circumstances of each violation, are based on sufficient and reliable evidence, and allow for appropriate flexibility to accommodate differences in national legal frameworks and enforcement capacities.

31 The Secretariat reiterated that the Study's findings should be further considered once a more comprehensive picture of national practices has been collated, and further work could examine a combination of criteria for determining fines, rather than focusing on a single criterion, such as gross tonnage. The Secretariat clarified that the aim was not to change national legislation, procedures or practices, but to take stock of existing approaches within national jurisdictions and use that information to explore the harmonisation of procedures across the Mediterranean.

32 The Meeting took note of the various observations expressed by the Contracting Parties' delegates, while highlighting that the harmonisation of procedures is important and should be made a priority.

33 The Meeting stressed the need for further work to assess the criteria to be taken into consideration and that the work on the possible harmonisation of minimum criteria and procedures and minimum fines be continued with a view to identifying areas of common understanding and potential convergence at the regional level.

34 In this context, the Meeting recommended that in view of the limited feedback provided by Contracting Parties, the matter be referred to the Seventeenth Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points, with a view to encouraging the participation of a greater number of Contracting Parties in the questionnaire and ensuring a more comprehensive representation of national experiences, practices and perspectives, which can further facilitate the future work to be undertaken.

AGENDA ITEM 4: GUIDELINES TO ENSURE THE UNIFORM AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSOLIDATED DRAFT DECISION, AS ADJUSTED, IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

35 The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to provide information on the draft Guidelines to ensure the uniform and effective implementation of the consolidated draft decision, as adjusted, in the Mediterranean region (hereinafter referred to as the "draft Guidelines"), as presented in document REMPEC/WG.64/4.

36 Following an introduction by the Secretariat and, at the invitation of the Chairperson, Ms Ramat JALLOH, on behalf of Professor Dr Norman A. MARTÍNEZ GUTIÉRREZ, REMPEC consultant, presented the draft Guidelines, as set out in the Appendix to information document REMPEC/WG.64/INF.5.

37 The Meeting welcomed the presentation by Ms JALLOH and took note of the contents of the draft Guidelines, including the revisions made therein by the Secretariat to address the comments and feedback received from the Contracting Parties following the consultation process during the intersessional work, as presented in detail in the Report of the Working Group within MENELAS, set out in the Appendix to information document REMPEC/WG.64/INF.3.

38 The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina requested clarification on the intended legal status of the draft Guidelines and their relationship with the consolidated draft Decision, as adjusted. Furthermore, the delegate stressed the importance of distinguishing technical recommendations from any future legally binding obligations requiring consideration and approval from the competent national authorities, particularly where implementation might require amendments to domestic legislation.

39 The Secretariat clarified that the draft Guidelines, including their technical guidance, are not intended to be legally binding. They are intended to be a practical tool to assist the Contracting Parties, by providing legal and technical concepts supporting the implementation of the draft Decision. The Secretariat emphasised that the draft Guidelines are not a conclusive document, but provide, instead, draft guidance for future work towards a common approach and possible solutions.

40 The representative of Spain requested clarifications regarding 1) the inclusion of gross tonnage in the calculation of the fine and the reason why several specific criteria are considered for Annexes IV and V but not for Annexes I and II; 2) whether higher sanctions could be imposed in special areas under MARPOL, taking into account Article 4.4 of MARPOL Convention, which provides that the severity of the penalty should be the same wherever the offence is committed; and 3) whether Annex C to the draft Guidelines was to be considered mandatory.

41 The Secretariat clarified that the criteria considered in draft Guidelines reflect those already contained in the latest version of the consolidated draft Decision, as adjusted, following the agreement of the Sixth MENELAS Meeting (December 2024). Furthermore, regarding Article 4.4 of MARPOL, the Secretariat recalled that the draft Guidelines (paragraph 19) do not establish tiers of sensitivity within the Mediterranean; since the status of MARPOL Special Area under Annexes I and V and of the Med SO_X ECA under Annex VI apply region-wide, it would be treated as embedded in the base fine rather than applied as a separate multiplier. In this sense, the sensitivity of the affected area would be recorded as evidence bearing on the damage assessment. Finally, regarding Annex C, the Secretariat highlighted that the revised draft Guidelines explicitly describe it as a "recommended" fine calculation worksheet to be completed in accordance with respective national legal requirements.

42 Following the discussion, the Meeting took note that the draft Guidelines are not intended to establish a separate sanctioning regime, do not themselves create offences or penalties, and do not replace national legislation or applicable international obligations and acknowledged that the draft Guidelines still require further consideration and work on aspects that still need to be defined.

Consolidated draft Decision, as adjusted – Proposals for amendments

43 The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to provide information on the consolidated draft Decision, as adjusted (hereinafter referred to as the "draft Decision") and proposals for amendments as presented in document REMPEC/WG.64/4/1.

44 In its presentation, the Secretariat referred to the proposals for amendments to the draft Decision, which drew on the assessment and considerations set out in the draft Study and associated draft Guidelines. The Secretariat clarified that some of the proposed amendments were purely editorial, such as corrections of typographical errors, others were of a more substantive nature and related to both technical and legal matters.

45 Following the discussion on the need for further work and deliberations on the draft Study and draft Guidelines, the Meeting considered it premature to agree on any further substantive, technical or

legal amendments to the text of the draft Decision. Accordingly, the Meeting requested the Secretariat to revise the draft Decision solely to incorporate the editorial corrections.

46 The draft Decision, with the editorial corrections reflected in track changes mode, is reproduced in **Annex IV** to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 5: COMMON MARINE OIL POLLUTION DETECTION/ INVESTIGATION REPORT

47 At the invitation of the Chairperson, the Secretariat provided information on the proposed updates to the Common Marine Oil Pollution Detection/Investigation Report (hereinafter referred to as "the Common Report"), as presented in document REMPEC/WG.64/5.

48 In its presentation, the Secretariat referred to the Common Report endorsed by the Sixteenth Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points (Malta, 13–15 May 2025) and to the amendments adopted subsequently by BONN 2025 in September 2025 to the Aerial Operations Handbook, including the Standard Pollution Reporting Log Completion Guide. These amendments aimed to further enhance the alignment of its terminology with the classification of substances under the MARPOL Convention.

49 The Meeting considered the importance of ensuring consistency and interoperability to the greatest extent practicable with the other regional frameworks (e.g. Bonn Agreement and HELCOM) and encouraged to continue liaising with them on future updates.

50 The Meeting endorsed the updates to the Common Report, while encouraging its practical use during operational activities, and concurred that the updated Common Report, including the harmonised completion guide, be submitted to the Seventeenth Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points for consideration and endorsement.

51 The updated Common Report, as adopted, is reproduced in **Annex V** to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 6: COOPERATION WITH OTHER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

52 The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to provide information on cooperation with other regional and international organisations.

53 In its presentation, the Secretariat referred to the Report on the Activities of MENELAS for the period from November 2025 to October 2026, as requested by Decision IG.27/11, as set out in the Annex to document REMPEC/WG.64/2.

54 At the invitation of the Chairperson, Mr Ivan Saavedra Guy, on behalf of the North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors (NSN), delivered a presentation on the Network's recent activities. Reference was made to OSPAR decision 2025/1 addressing the prohibition of EGCS wash water discharges in internal waters and port areas, and to Recommendation 2025/1 concerning the recommended ban within territorial seas. The NSN representative also reported that, as MENELAS, the NSN is currently working to establish criteria for determining fines and a similar methodology, including the circulation of a questionnaire, will be followed to collect information on national penalty systems.

55 The Secretariat thanked Mr Saavedra for his presentation and extended its appreciation to the NSN, particularly its Chair, for their continued cooperation, including through the exchange of information and updates on matters of common interest, considering NSN a well-established network from which MENELAS could benefit.

56 The Meeting valued the presentation from the NSN and encouraged the Secretariat to continue liaising with the relevant regional and international organisations.

57 A number of Contracting Parties expressed furthermore the importance for MENELAS to cooperate with the port State control regimes, notably the Mediterranean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Med MoU) and the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Paris MoU), to facilitate information exchanges and joint training on MARPOL-related investigation, within existing mandates and available resources, to promote reciprocal participation in relevant meetings where appropriate, and support interoperability of reporting tools.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE PERIOD 2026-2027

58 At the invitation of the Chairperson, the Secretariat provided information on the election of the chair and the vice-chair of the Network for the period 2026-2027.

59 The Secretariat reported that the call for nominations for these positions, pursuant to the revised Terms of Reference, had initially been launched on 3 June 2026 through the Working Group within MENELAS. Moreover, REMPEC Circular Letter 13/2026 dated 3 August 2026, called for submission of nominations by the Contracting Parties.

60 As no candidacies were forthcoming from the Contracting Parties, informal consultations were carried out by the Secretariat to explore any interest for these positions for the period 2026-2027.

61 Following the consultations, Ms Özlem ÖZER (Türkiye) and Mr Vlado LALIĆ (Montenegro) agreed to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair of the 7th MENELAS Meeting. At its close, after both had expressed their willingness to continue serving in these roles until the end of the 2026–2027 biennium, the Meeting unanimously endorsed their nominations.

AGENDA ITEM 8: FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS AND FUTURE WORK

62 The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to provide information on the proposals for follow- up activities and future work for 2028-2029 biennium as presented in document REMPEC/WG.64/8.

63 In its presentation, the Secretariat referred to the various elements that could possibly form part of future work, as mentioned during the Meeting, with a view to assisting the Meeting in deciding on a proposed programme of activities for the period 2028-2029.

64 One delegation drew attention on the importance to take into consideration the challenges faced by the Contracting Parties in implementing international and regional requirements, particularly in terms of human resources, technical expertise and operational capabilities. Adequate technical and financial assistance, together with capacity-building and training programmes, should be provided to ensure effective and sustainable implementation of MARPOL requirements, taking into account the national circumstances and capabilities of each country.

65 The Secretariat took note of the importance of capacity building activities related to the effective implementation and enforcement of MARPOL Convention, including in the context of MENELAS, port State control and penalties for offences. In this regard, in order to identify priority areas and any specific needs of the Contracting Parties that could inform future work, the Secretariat proposed, subject to the Meeting's agreement, conducting a survey by circulating a questionnaire to the Contracting Parties in due course.

66 Following an exchange of views, the Meeting considered the proposals set out in document REMPEC/WG.64/8 and agreed to include the following items in the MENELAS Programme of Activities for the period 2028-2029, subject to the outcome of relevant discussions at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC:

.1 further work on the consolidated draft Decision, as adjusted, and further consideration of the draft Study and of the associated draft Guidelines as a connected package with the objective to make further progress;

.2 discuss and develop a list of potential regional training and capacity-building activities related to the effective enforcement of the MARPOL Convention, with a particular focus on Annex VI, following consultation with the Contracting Parties to identify the priority areas to be addressed;

67 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to report to the Seventeenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC on the outcome of the Meeting.

68 The Meeting observed that, depending on the outcome of relevant discussions at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, the Working Group within MENELAS might need to be re-established to oversee, through correspondence coordinated by the Secretariat, the completion of the work referred to in paragraph 66 above, ahead of the next meeting of MENELAS.

69 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to present the results of the work of the Working Group within MENELAS, if so re-established, at the next meeting of MENELAS.

70 The Meeting recommended that the next meeting of MENELAS should be held subject to the decision on the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2028-2029 by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

AGENDA ITEM 9: OTHER BUSINESS

71 The Chairperson invited participants to raise any other matters. No additional matters were proposed.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

72 The Chairperson invited the Rapporteur to read through the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting that resulted from the discussions at the Meeting, which had been circulated by the Secretariat to all delegates, as document REMPEC/WG.64/WP.1, for their consideration, review, amendment, and adoption.

73 Following interventions by a number of delegations who expressed their views on the draft conclusions and recommendations, and after entrusting 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 VI** to the present report.

74 The Secretariat indicated that the report of the Meeting would be prepared and circulated following the Meeting.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

75 Before closing the Meeting, the Chairperson thanked all delegations for their active participation and REMPEC, as Secretariat, for the preparation and successful organisation of the Meeting.

76 The Head of Office of REMPEC expressed his appreciation to the Chairperson, Ms Özlem ÖZER, for the smooth running of the proceedings, and thanked all REMPEC staff for their work throughout the Meeting. He also thanked all delegations for their contribution as well as the interpreters and technicians for their support.

77 The Chairperson closed the Meeting at 13:00 hours on Tuesday, 3 November 2026.

******

ANNEX(E) I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / *LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS*

CONTRACTING PARTIES / *PARTIES CONTRACTANTES*

ALBANIA / *ALBANIE*

Ms Edit VARDHAMI
Head of the Circular Economy Sector
Ministry of Environment

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA / *BOSNIE & HERZÉGOVINE*

Dr Enis OMEROVIĆ
Dean, Faculty of Law
University of Zenica

EGYPT / *EGYPTE*

Dr Hala IBRAHIM MOHAMED SAID
General manager of crisis management
EEAA- Egyptian Environmental Affair Agency

ITALY / *ITALIE*

CDR Elisa BAGLIVO
Head of office of Protection of Marine Waters and Coasts from Pollution
Ministry of Environment and Security Energy

LEBANON / *LIBAN*

Admiral Mazen BASBOUS
Directorate General of Land and Maritime Trasport
Directorate General of Land and Maritime Trasport

LIBYA / *LIBYE*

Mr Ali TANTOSH
Head of the Documentation and Information Unit
Environmental Emergency Department
Ministry of Environment

MALTA / *MALTE*

Dr Robert VASSALLO
Senior Manager Legal, EU and International Affairs
Authority for Transport in Malta

MONTENEGRO / *MONTÉNÉGRO*

Mr Vlado LALIC
Employes in Ministry of Maritime Affairs
Ministry of Maritime Affairs

SLOVENIA / *SLOVÉNIE*

Dr Vesna MILINKOVIĆ
District State Prosecutor
District State Prosecutor's Office in Koper

SPAIN / *ESPAGNE*

Mr Iván SAAVEDRA GAY
Inspector de Seguridad Marítima
Dirección General de la Marina Mercante

TUNISIA / *TUNISIE*

Mme Folla NAIMI
Chargée de la direction des affaires juridiques et du contentieux
Agence National de Protection de l'Environnement

TÜRKIYE

Ms Özlem ÖZER
Environmental Expert
Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change

Ms Derya Didem UGUR
Environmental Engineer Msc
Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change

OTHER ORGANISATIONS / *AUTRES ORGANISATIONS*
OTHER PARTNER / *AUTRES PARTENAIRES*

CONSULTANT

Prof Norman MARTINEZ

Ms Ramat JALLOH

CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS / *INTERPRETES DE LA CONFERENCE*

SONOVISION

Ms Hanem ATTIA
Interpreter

Ms Najet MCHALA
Interpreter

SECRETARIAT / *SECRÉTARIAT*

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 Ivan SAMMUT
Head of Office

Ms Elisa GIANGRASSO
Programme Officer

Mr Kerem NOYAN
Programme Officer

Mr Chris SACCO
Finance / Administrative Assistant

Ms Mary Grace PISANI
Senior Administrative Assistant

Ms Francesca GRECH
Administrative Assistant

***

ANNEX II

AGENDA

for the Seventh Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS) to be held at Lija Malta, from Monday, 2 November to Tuesday, 3 November 2026

The Meeting commences at 9 a.m. on Monday, 2 November 2026

Opening of the Meeting

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Progress Report on Activities Carried Out by MENELAS during the 2025-2027 biennium
3. Study on possible criteria and possible minimum levels of fines for each offense provided for, under the Annexes to MARPOL, as set out in the consolidated draft Decision, as adjusted, taking into consideration the specificities of each Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention
4. Guidelines to support the uniform and effective implementation of the consolidated draft Decision on minimum criteria, as adjusted, in the Mediterranean region
5. Common Marine Oil Pollution Detection/Investigation Report
6. Cooperation with other regional and international organizations
7. Election of the Chair and Vice Chair for the period 2026-2027
8. Follow-up actions and future work
9. Other business
10. Conclusions and recommendations

Closure of the Meeting

******

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.64/1/Rev.1	Provisional Agenda
REMPEC/WG.64/1/1	Annotated Provisional Agenda and Draft Timetable
REMPEC/WG.64/2	Report on the Activities of MENELAS for the period from November 2025 to October 2026, as requested by Decision IG.27/11
REMPEC/WG.64/3	Draft Study on possible criteria and possible minimum levels of fines for each offense provided for, under the Annexes to MARPOL, as set out in the consolidated draft Decision, as adjusted,
REMPEC/WG.64/4	Draft Guidelines to ensure the uniform and effective implementation of the consolidated draft Decision on minimum criteria, as adjusted, in the Mediterranean region
REMPEC/WG.64/4/1	Consolidated draft Decision, as adjusted, to apply criteria for a common minimum level of fines for each offense provided for under the Annexes to MARPOL, within the framework of the Barcelona Convention - Proposals for amendments
REMPEC/WG.64/5	Updating of the Common Marine Oil Pollution Detection/ Investigation Report
REMPEC/WG.64/8	Proposals for follow-up activities and future work for 2028-2029 biennium
REMPEC/WG.64/WP.1	Conclusions and recommendations
REMPEC/WG.64/10	Report of the Meeting

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.64/INF.1	List of documents
REMPEC/WG.64/INF.2	List of participants
REMPEC/WG.64/INF.3	Report of the Working Group within MENELAS
REMPEC/WG.64/INF.4	Draft Study on possible criteria and possible minimum levels of fines for each offence provided for under the Annexes to MARPOL, based on a comparative legal and operational analysis and taking into consideration the specificities of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention
REMPEC/WG.64/INF.5	Draft Guidelines to ensure the uniform and effective implementation of the consolidated draft Decision, as adjusted, in the Mediterranean region

******

ANNEX IV

Consolidated draft decision, as adjusted, to apply criteria for a common minimum level of fines for each offense provided for under the Annexes to MARPOL, within the framework of the Barcelona Convention[1]

[1] Consolidated draft Decision, as adjusted, incorporating the editorial changes as agreed by the Seventh Meeting of MENELAS (Malta, 2-3 November 2026)

Decision [XX]

Criteria for a common minimum level of fines for each offense provided for under the Annexes to MARPOL, within the framework of the Barcelona Convention

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols at their [XX] Meeting,

Having regard to the Barcelona Convention, in particular Article 6 thereof, whereby Contracting Parties shall take all measures in conformity with international law to prevent, abate, combat and to the fullest possible extent eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area caused by discharges from ships and to ensure the effective implementation in that Area of the rules which are generally recognised at the international level relating to the control of this type of pollution,

Having also regard to the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, in particular Article 4 paragraph 2 thereof, whereby the Parties shall take measures in conformity with international law to prevent the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area from ships in order to ensure the effective implementation in that Area of the relevant international conventions in their capacity as flag State, port State and coastal State, and their applicable legislation,

Having further regard to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, and as further amended by the Protocol of 1997 (MARPOL), in particular Annex I thereof on regulations for the prevention of pollution by oil, Annex II thereof on regulations for the control of pollution by noxious liquid substances in bulk, Annex III thereof on harmful substances carried in packaged form, Annex IV thereof on prevention of pollution by sewage from ships, Annex V thereof on the prevention of pollution by garbage from ships, and Annex VI thereof on the prevention of air pollution from ships, as amended, notably regulation 14 thereof on sulphur oxides (SO_X) and particulate matter, as well as Appendix VII thereto on emission control areas (ECAs),

Recalling that the Mediterranean Sea is defined as a "special area" under MARPOL Annex I and MARPOL Annex V,

Recalling also the designation of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SO_X ECA) under MARPOL Annex VI,

[placeholder for further preambular paragraphs]

1. *Adopt* the criteria for a common minimum level of fines for each offense provided for under the Annexes to MARPOL, within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, set out in the Annex to this Decision; and

2. *Request* the Contracting Parties to take the necessary measures to apply the criteria for a common minimum level of fines for each offense provided for under the Annexes to MARPOL, within the framework of the Barcelona Convention.

Annex

Criteria for a common minimum level of fines for each offense provided for under the Annexes to MARPOL, within the framework of the Barcelona Convention

I INTRODUCTION

1) The following acts are violations of MARPOL:
   a) Discharges against MARPOL Annex I and violations of the obligations to keep the Oil Record Book, including missing or wrong entries and/or lack of signature therein;
   b) Discharges against MARPOL Annex II and violations of the obligations to keep the Cargo Record Book, including missing or wrong entries and/or lack of signature therein;
   c) ~~Discharges~~ Jettisoning against MARPOL Annex III;
   d) Discharges against MARPOL Annex IV;
   e) Discharges against MARPOL Annex V and violations of the obligations to keep the ~~Oil~~Garbage Record Book, including missing or wrong entries and/or lack of signature therein; and
   f) Air emissions, shipboard incineration or water pollution against MARPOL Annex VI.

2) Only those offences against the regulations of MARPOL which are subject to administrative fines are addressed in the harmonised system of fines.

3) The Contracting Parties should - as far as possible within the framework of their legal systems - aim at adopting legislation which allows fines to be imposed on a legal person (shipowner/operator of a ship). The financial capacity of the legal or natural person liable should be considered when determining the level of the fine imposed.

4) There should be no difference in the level of fines imposed on nationals of the Contracting Parties and foreigners.

5) Repeat offenders should be imposed a higher fine compared to the previous cases.

6) “Unit of account” means the monetary unit of measurement used under the Barcelona Convention.

7) Violations of the duty to keep the Oil Record Book, the Cargo Record Book, and the Garbage Record Book properly are regarded as continuing offences. The offence begins when no proper entry is made.

8) Having regard to the established Exclusive Economic Zones of the Contracting Parties and the national jurisdiction related thereto, the criteria are applicable to all ships violating regulations of MARPOL.

II GENERAL CRITERIA

The following general criteria are common for all violations of MARPOL listed in paragraph I 1) above:

1) The degree of culpability or fault of the responsible person, within the meaning of the legal system of the Contracting Party concerned. These circumstances refer to notions of liability (e.g. intention, recklessness, negligence, etc.) where these are used to qualify the degree of illegal behaviour. In this context, if MARPOL discharge regulations were violated by night, this fact may be interpreted as pointing to an intentional violation.

2) A previous violation by the same natural or legal person.

3) The damage caused by an illegal discharge to the environment or human health, including, where relevant, its impact on fishing, tourism and coastal communities. Migratory patterns in the affected area should also be considered.

4) Level of cooperation with authorities in investigating the offence, either circumventing or obstructing the investigation, or assisting the authorities in said investigation.

5) Any economic benefits generated or expected to be generated from the offence.

6) Gross tonnage of the ship, type of the ship, and type of pollutant.

III SPECIFIC CRITERIA AND MINIMUM LEVEL OF FINES

In those cases where, under national legislation, offences against MARPOL may be subject to administrative fines, the fines to be imposed should be based on the following criteria:

1) MARPOL Annex I

a) Illegal discharge of oil (Regulations 15 and 34)
Criteria:
- Quantity of illegally discharged oil
- Environmental damage caused by the discharge

Minimum fine: [XX] units of account

b) Violation of the duty to keep the Oil Record Book properly (Regulation 17, paragraphs 4-6, and Regulation 36, paragraphs 5-7)
The minimum fine indicated refers to cases in which a quantity of 1 tonne was not recorded in the Oil Record Book, or entries are missing for a period of more than one week.

i) No Oil Record Book kept on board
Criteria:
- Period of time during which no Oil Record Book was kept on board (level of fine should be based on the duration of time in which no Oil Record Book was kept)
- Quantity of sludge not accounted for, based on consumption calculations

Minimum fine: [XX] units of account

ii) Oil Record Book is kept on board, but entries are missing or wrong, and/or lacking signature
Criteria:
- Quantity of sludge for which entries are missing or wrong (the level of fine should increase at least with each tonne of sludge for which no entries, or wrong entries, were made)
- Duration of time during which no entries, or wrong entries, were made (amount of fine should be based on the length of the period during which the Oil Record Book was not kept properly).

Minimum fine: [XX] units of account

2) MARPOL Annex II

a) Illegal discharge of noxious liquid substances (Regulation 13)
Criteria:
- Quantity of substance discharged illegally (the level of fine should increase at least with each tonne of illegally discharged substance)
- Category of substance (X, Y or Z)
- Environmental damage caused by the discharge

Minimum fine: [XX] units of account

b) Violation of the duty to keep the Cargo Record Book properly (Regulation 15)
The minimum fine indicated refers to cases in which a quantity of 1 tonne was not recorded in the Cargo Record Book, or entries are missing for a period of more than one week.

i) No Cargo Record Book kept on board
Criteria:
- Period of time during which no Cargo Record Book was kept on board (level of fine should be based on the duration of time in which no Cargo Record Book was kept)
- Quantity of cargo not accounted for, based on consumption calculations

Minimum fine: [XX] units of account

ii) Cargo Record Book is kept on board, but entries are missing or wrong, and/or lacking signature
Criteria:
- Duration of time during which no entries, or wrong entries, were made (the level of fine should be calculated on the basis of the length of the period in which the Cargo Record Book was not properly kept)
- Quantity and category of substance (X, Y or Z) for which entries are missing or wrong

Minimum fine: [XX] units of account

3) MARPOL Annex III

Illegal jettisoning of harmful ~~packages~~ substances in packaged form (Regulation 8)
Criteria:
- Quantity of harmful substances contained in packages
- Lack of proper stowage, packaging, labelling of packages containing harmful substances

Minimum fine: [XX] units of account

4) MARPOL Annex IV

Illegal discharge of sewage (Regulation 11)
Criteria:
- Quantity of sewage discharged
- Duration of illegal discharge
- Distance from nearest land
- Whether discharge has been instantaneous or at a moderate rate
- Speed of the ship
- Visibility of effluents and/or solids and/or discoloration of the surrounding water
- Lack of approved sewage treatment plant

Minimum fine: [XX] units of account

5) MARPOL Annex V

a) Illegal discharge of garbage (Regulations 3 and 6)
Criteria:
- Quantity of substance discharged (the level of fine should increase at least with each tonne of illegally discharged substance)
- Type of substance (plastics, wood, food wastes, etc.)
- Distance from nearest land
- Lack of treatment of garbage through a comminutoer or grinder
- Feasibility/practicability of visiting a near port reception facility without significant deviation from the established route
- Degree of harmful nature of the discharge to the marine environment:
  - cleaning agents including carcinogenic components
  - vulnerability of habitat and protected species to interactions with lost fishing gear
- Lack of garbage management plan

Minimum fine: [XX] units of account

b) Violation of the duty to keep the Garbage Record Book properly (Regulation 10, paragraph 3)
The minimum fine indicated refers to cases in which a quantity of 1 tonne was not recorded in the Garbage Record Book or entries are missing for a period of more than one week.

i) No Garbage Record Book kept on board
Criteria:
- Period of time during which no Garbage Record Book was kept on board (level of fine should be based on the duration of time in which no Garbage Record Book was kept)
- Quantity and type of garbage not accounted for, based on consumption calculations

Minimum fine: [XX] units of account

ii) Garbage Record Book is kept on board, but entries are missing or wrong and/or lack of signature
Criteria:
- Quantity and type of garbage for which entries are missing or wrong (the level of fine should increase at least with each tonne of garbage for which no entries, or wrong entries, were made)
- Duration of time during which no entries, or wrong entries, were made (the level of fine should be calculated on the basis of the length of the period in which the Garbage Record Book was not properly kept)

Minimum fine: [XX] units of account

6) MARPOL Annex VI

a) Illegal emission of ozone-depleting substances (ODS), nitrogen oxides (NO_X), sulphur oxides (SO_X) and particulater matter (PM), and volatile organic compounds (VOC) (Regulations 12, 13, 14 and 15)
Criteria:
- Duration of emission
- Type of emitted substances

Minimum fine: [XX] units of account

b) Illegal incineration of ship-generated wastes on board a ship (Regulation 16)
Criteria:
- Duration of incineration
- Type of incinerated substances

Minimum fine: [XX] units of account

c) Illegal discharge of Exhaust Gas Cleaning System (E~~C~~GCS) residue (Regulations 4 and 14)
Criterion:
- Lack of operation of an equivalent method of compliance provided under Regulation 4 ('EGCS' or 'scrubbers')

Minimum fine: [XX] units of account

ANNEX V

Updated Common Marine Oil Pollution Detection/Investigation Report[1]

[1] As adopted by the Seventh MENELAS Meeting (Malta, 2-3 November 2026)

ANNEX B

□ HELCOM □ BONN AGREEMENT □ BARCELONA CONVENTION

STANDARD POLLUTION OBSERVATION / DETECTION LOG

□ NO POLLUTION DETECTED

REPORTING AUTHORITY	AIRCRAFT REG	MISSION No	CAPTAIN	CO PILOT	OPERATOR	OBSERVER	DAY	DATE	MONTH	YEAR

FLIGHT TYPE	ROUTE / AREA				TIME OVER THE SEA DAY		TIME OVER THE SEA NIGHT		TOTAL TIME OVER THE SEA	
					hrs	mins	hrs	mins	hrs	mins

No	AREACODE	TIME UTC	POSITION		DIMENSIONS		AREA COVER %	OILED AREA Km^2	OIL APPEARANCE COVERAGE (PERCENTAGE - %)						MINIMUM VOLUME m^3	MAXIMUM VOLUME m^3	COMBAT Y / N
			LATITUDE 'NORTH'	LONGITUDE 'EAST/WEST'	LENGTH Km	WIDTH Km			1	2	3	4	5	Oth			

No	POLLUTION TYPE	DETECTION AND DOCUMENTATION									WEATHER							SATELLITE CONFIRM			
		SLAR	IR	UV	VIS	MW	LF	PHOTO	VIDEO	FLIR	WIND		CLOUD		VIS (km)	SEA STATE	Wx	Mineral oil	Other pollution	Natural phen.	Nothing found
											DEG	KTS	TYPE	BASE							
											o			FT							
											o			FT							
											o			FT							
											o			FT							
											o			FT							

No	REMARKS

OIL APPEARANCE TABLE			
No	OIL APPEARANCE DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM VOLUME m^3 / km^2	MAXIMUM VOLUME m^3 / km^2
1	SHEEN	0.04	0.30
2	RAINBOW	0.30	5.00
3	METALLIC	5.00	50.0
4	DISCONTINUOUS TRUE COLOUR	50.0	200
5	TRUE COLOUR	200	>200

ANNEX B

STANDARD POLLUTION REPORTING LOG COMPLETION GUIDE

HELCOM:	Tick HELCOM Box if the flight is in HELCOM Area
BONN AGREEMENT:	Tick BONN AGREEMENT Box if flight is in BA area
BARCELONA CONVENTION:	Tick BARCELONA CONVENTION Box if flight is in Med area
NO POLLUTION DETECTED:	Tick NO POLLUTION DETECTED if no pollution is detected
REPORTING AUTHORITY:	National Authority Responsible for Pollution Control.
AIRCRAFT REG:	Aircraft Registration Letters / Numbers.
MISSION No:	Nationally Assigned Mission Number.
FLIGHT TYPE:	National Designation for Flight Type as follows:
	NAT - National
	REG - Regional
	EXER - Exercise
	OPS - Operational Flight.
	RIG - Oil Rig Patrol
	SHIP - Shipping Patrol
	TDH - Tour de Horizon Flight
CEPCO	- Co-ordinated Extended Pollution Control Operation
CAPTAIN OF AIRCRAFT:	Name of Captain
CO PILOT:	Name of Co Pilot
OPERATOR:	Name of Operator
OBSERVER:	Name of Observer
DAY:	Number Assigned to the Day of the Week as follows:
	Monday - 01
	Tuesday - 02
	Wednesday - 03
	Thursday - 04
	Friday - 05
	Saturday - 06
	Sunday - 07
DATE/MONTH/YEAR:	Two number designation for each of date/month/year of Flight
ROUTE / AREA:	Flight Route or Area
TIME OVER THE SEA – DAY:	Time over the Sea during Daylight
TIME OVER THE SEA – NIGHT:	Time over the Sea at Night
TOTAL TIME OVER SEA:	Total time between Coasting Out and Coasting In.
No:	Number allocated to pollution detection.

AREA CODE: The international telephone code for the country (Area) in which the pollution is located:

Bonn Agreement

Belgium	32	Denmark	45
France	33	Germany	49
Ireland	353	Netherlands	31
Norway	47	Spain	34
Sweden	46	United Kingdom	44

Helcom

Estonia	372	Denmark	45
Finland	358	Germany	49
Latvia	371	Lithuania	370
Poland	48	Russia	7
Sweden	46		

Barcelona Convention

Albania	355	Algeria	213
Bosnia and Herzegovina	387	Croatia	385
Cyprus	357	Egypt	20
France	33	Greece	30
Israel	972	Italy	39
Lebanon	961	Libya	218
Malta	356	Monaco	377
Montenegro	382	Morocco	212
Slovenia	386	Spain	34
Syrian Arab Republic	963	Tunisia	216
Türkiye	90		

TIME UTC: Time of pollution detection.

POSITION: Latitude and longitude of pollution (degrees, minutes and seconds // WGS / 84 Datum).

DIMENSIONS: Length and width of pollution in kilometres.

AREA COVER %: Observer's assessment of the percentage of the boxed dimensioned area (length x width), covered with pollution.

OILED AREA: Oiled Area covered with pollution; calculated by multiplying length, width and cover %

Example:

Length x Width x Cover %
2 Km x 1 Km x 50%, gives...
[2.0] x [1.0] x [0.5]
= Oiled Area = 1 Km^2

OIL APPEARANCE COVERAGE %: Allocation of Percentage of the `Oiled Area' to the Appearance of the pollution.
Example:
1/2 cover – Rainbow - Column 2 = 50%
1/4 cover - Metallic - Column 3 = 25%
1/4 cover - True Colour - Column 5 = 25%

MINIMUM VOLUME: Minimum Quantity of Oil Pollution in cubic metres.
Calculated as follows:

[Oiled Area] x [Appearance Code Minimum Thickness Value] X [Decimal Percentage of Appearance].

[1 Km^2] x [0.3 m^3/km^2] x [0.50] = 0.15 m^3

[1 Km^2] x [5.0 m^3/km^2] x [0.25] = 1.25 m^3

[1 Km^2] x [200 m^3/km^2] x [0.25] = 50 m^3

Minimum Total Quantity = [0.15] + [1.25] + [50] = 51.4 m^3

MAXIMUM VOLUME: Maximum Quantity of Oil Pollution in cubic metres.

Calculated as follows:

[Oiled Area] x [Appearance Code Maximum Thickness Value]

X [Decimal Percentage of Appearance].

[1 Km^2] x [5.0 m^3/km^2] x [0.50] = 2.5 m^3

[1 Km^2] x [50 m^3/km^2] x [0.25] = 12.5 m^3

[1 Km^2] x [>200 m^3/km^2] x [0.25] = > 50 m^3

Maximum Total Quantity = [2.5] + [12.5] + [>50] = > 65 m^3

No: The same number as previously allocated to the pollution detection.

POLLUTION TYPE: Pollution Type as follows:

OIL	Oil, Mineral oil (relating to MARPOL Annex I)
OS	Other Substances- noxious liquid substance, as chemicals, animal and vegetable oils (MARPOL Annex II substance)
GAR	Garbage ((MARPOL Annex V substance)
LIT	Litter (observed 'litter' in general terms - cf. OSPAR definition)
OTH	Other (such as observed floating objects, wood, containers, floating industrial pipes, drums, hatches, ...).
UNK	Unknown (not visually verified detection)

DETECTION: Detection Sensor.

SLAR	- Radar
UV	- Ultra Violet
IR	- Infrared
VIS	- Visual
MW	- Microwave
LF	- Laser Fluorosensor

PHOTO: Photographs of pollution

VIDEO Video of the pollution

FLIR Forward Looking Infrared of the pollution

WEATHER: Weather at the time of pollution observation / detection

Surface Wind: Direction and Speed (knots or beaufort as required by national authorities),

Cloud: Coverage in Octas or aviation description (scattered / overcast)) and Base in feet,

Visibility: Nautical Miles or Kilometres

Sea State: Using the description code given in the Abbreviations

Weather: Rain, Snow, Haze, Mist etc

SATELLITE CONFIRM: Satellite confirmation. Indicate by X if observation is: Mineral Oil Other Pollution Natural phenomenon or Nothing found

REMARKS: Any Amplifying Remarks.

Note: **For all Detections / Observations Boxes write:**

'Y' Sensor used and pollution detected

'N' Sensor used but pollution not detected

'-' Sensor was not used or not available

ANNEX VI

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Seventh Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) within the framework of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean ("the Barcelona Convention") (MENELAS), hereinafter referred to as the Meeting, which was held in Lija, Malta, from 2 to 3 November 2026:

1 **expressed** appreciation for the financial support provided by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF);

2 **recalled** the Decision IG.21/9 on the establishment of MENELAS, adopted by COP18 (Istanbul, Türkiye, 3-6 December 2013) and Decision IG.27/11 on the revision of the Network's Terms of Reference, adopted by COP24 (Cairo, Egypt, 2-5 December 2025) and the Programme of Work and Budget of UNEP/MAP for 2026-2027, including Activities 1.2.7 (a) and (b);

3 **stressed** the importance of the active engagement of all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in the Network in accordance with its revised Terms of Reference, as set out in Decision IG 27/11 adopted by COP24 (Cairo, Egypt, 2-5 December 2025);

4 **thanked** the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), as Secretariat, for the work carried out since the Sixth Meeting of MENELAS (Malta, 4-5 December 2024), as well as for the preparation and successful organisation of the Meeting;

5 **urged** all Mediterranean coastal States to maintain current nominations of their Designated Representatives and to support their continued participation, including, as appropriate, the involvement of authorities responsible for detection, investigation, prosecution or imposition of penalties, and enforcement;

6 **called** the Mediterranean coastal States, which had not already done so, to ratify the MARPOL Convention and its six Annexes;

Agenda Item 2 Progress Report on Activities carried out by MENELAS

7 **took note** and **endorsed** the Report on the Activities of MENELAS in the period from November 2025 to October 2026, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.64/2 and prepared pursuant to Decision IG.27/11;

8 **welcomed** the intersessional work of the Working Group within MENELAS, undertaken by correspondence over the period April 2026 to October 2026, and **endorsed** the Report of the Working Group within MENELAS, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.64/INF.3;

Agenda Item 3 Study on possible criteria and possible minimum levels of fines for each offence provided for under the Annexes to MARPOL

9 **welcomed** the preparation of the draft Study on possible criteria and possible levels of fines for each offence provided for under the Annexes to MARPOL, as presented in document

REMPEC/WG.64/3 and set out in full in document REMPEC/WG.64/INF.4 and **valued**, in this regard, the presentation by Professor Dr Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez[1], as REMPEC consultant;

10 **expressed** appreciation to the Secretariat for the work undertaken and **acknowledged** the draft Study as an analytical reference for further consideration of the draft Decision and more broadly, for assessing the feasibility of developing a common regional approach in the Mediterranean to the criteria for, and possible minimum levels of, fines for each offence provided for under MARPOL Annexes;

11 **took note** that the draft Study's comparative findings are principally based on self-reported information and should be read as an initial and partial regional picture as not all Contracting Parties reported information on their national penalty systems through the questionnaire during the consultation process;

12 **noted** the draft Study's findings regarding some convergence in the types of criteria used at the legislative or policy level by the Contracting Parties, alongside substantial differences in fine severity, calculation methods and enforcement practice, as well as practical challenges identified in detection and surveillance, evidence collection, coordination among competent authorities, case processing and follow-up involving foreign vessels;

13 **recalled** that Article 4 to the MARPOL Convention requires that penalties specified under the laws of the Party shall be adequate in severity to discourage violations and shall be equally severe irrespective of where the violations occur;

14 **recognised** that common criteria will have limited practical effect unless competent authorities of the Contracting Parties can identify suspected violations, collect reliable evidence, communicate across jurisdictions and pursue cases in accordance with applicable law;

15 **noted** that draft Study assesses options for common criteria and does not itself prescribe specific minimum amounts of fines, or establish tariff or predetermine criteria to be adopted by the Contracting Parties;

16 **considered** the nine key sanctioning criteria examined in the draft Study (Part E.2), which were identified through the analysis of domestic legislation and enforcement practices and are reflected, to varying degrees, in the draft Decision, namely: 1) quantity or estimated quantity of pollutants discharged; 2) type and harmfulness of the substance/pollutant; 3) sensitivity of affected area; 4) ship characteristics (type, gross tonnage, operational profile); 5) degree of culpability or fault of the responsible subject (intent, negligence, recklessness); 6) recurrence of offence; 7) damage caused by an illegal discharge to the environment or human health; 8) level of cooperation with authorities, or obstruction during inspection/investigation; 9) economic benefit generated or expected to be generated from the violation and noted the different approaches described under each criterion as illustrating how national legislation or practice may address that factor;

17 **noted** the various observations expressed by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and that the harmonisation of procedures is important and should be made a priority and further work is needed to assess the criteria to be taken into consideration;

18 **considered** the practical challenge in achieving convergence on minimum level of fines and that a gradual, criteria-based approach, developed with due regard to the different national legal systems and applicable international law, would allow regional convergence to proceed, while preserving the need for further evidence and practical assessment;

19 **recommended** that in view of the limited feedback provided by Contracting Parties, the matter be referred to the Seventeenth Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points, with a view to encouraging the

[1] Director, IMO International Maritime Law Institute.

participation of a greater number of Contracting Parties in the questionnaire and ensuring a more comprehensive representation of national experiences, practices and perspectives, which can further facilitate the future work to be undertaken;

20 **further recommended** that the work on the possible harmonisation of criteria and procedures on minimum criteria and minimum fines be continued, taking into consideration the further feedback received through the questionnaire and the subsequent discussions among the Contracting Parties, with a view to identifying areas of common understanding and potential convergence at the regional level.

Agenda Item 4 Draft Guidelines to ensure the uniform and effective implementation of the consolidated draft Decision, as adjusted, in the Mediterranean region

21 **took note** of the draft Guidelines as set out in documents REMPEC/WG.64/4 and REMPEC/WG.64/INF.5, including the revisions made following comments received from the Contracting Parties during the consultation process and related intersessional review and **valued**, in this regard, the presentation by Ms Ramat Jalloh, on behalf of Professor Dr Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez[2], as REMPEC consultant;

22 **noted** that the draft Guidelines are not intended to establish a separate sanctioning regime, do not themselves create offences or penalties, and do not replace national legislation or applicable international obligations;

23 **acknowledged** that the draft Guidelines still require further consideration and work on aspects that still need to be defined;

24 **requested** the Secretariat to update the text of the consolidated draft Decision to reflect the editorial changes as agreed during the Meeting.

Agenda Item 5 Common Marine Oil Pollution Detection/Investigation Report

25 **recalled** the Common Marine Oil Pollution Detection/Investigation Report as endorsed by the Sixteenth Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points and designed, to the greatest extent practicable, to be compatible and interoperable with corresponding tools used by the Bonn Agreement and HELCOM;

26 **took note** of the information in document REMPEC/WG.64/5 on amendments adopted by the Bonn Agreement in 2025 to Annex B of its Aerial Operations Handbook, as presented at the 22nd Inter-Secretariat Meeting (Lisbon, 3-4 February 2026);

27 **considered** the importance of ensuring consistency and interoperability to the greatest extent practicable with the Bonn Agreement, HELCOM and relevant reporting arrangements under the amended EU Ship-Source Pollution Framework;

28 **endorsed** the updates of the common report;

29 **requested** the Secretariat to continue liaising with the Bonn Agreement, HELCOM and other relevant regional frameworks on future updates, with a view to maintaining consistency and interoperability;

[2] Director, IMO International Maritime Law Institute.

30 **encouraged** the Contracting Parties to promote the practical use of the Common Report during relevant surveillance operations and exercises and to share implementation feedback with the Secretariat

31 **recommended** that the updated Common Report, including the harmonised completion guide, be submitted to the Seventeenth Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points for consideration and endorsement;

Agenda Item 6 Cooperation with other regional and international organisations

32 **took note** of the information on MENELAS cooperation with relevant regional and international organisations, as set out in the Report on the Activities of MENELAS in the period from November 2025 to October 2026, contained in document REMPEC/WG.64/2 and prepared pursuant to Decision IG.27/11;

33 **valued** the presentation delivered by the North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors on the Network's recent activities;

34 **encouraged** the Secretariat to continue liaise with other regional and international organisations, including cooperation with the Mediterranean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Med MoU) and the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Paris MoU), to facilitate information exchanges and joint training on MARPOL-related investigation, within existing mandates and available resources, to promote reciprocal participation in relevant meetings where appropriate, and support interoperability of reporting tools;

Agenda Item 7 Election of the Chair and Vice Chair

35 **took note** of the nomination process launched by the Secretariat on 3 June 2026 and REMPEC Circular Letter n. 13/2026 dated 3 August 2026, including the deadline of 9 October 2026, pursuant to the revised Terms of Reference of MENELAS;

36 **further noted** that no candidacies were put forward by the Contracting Parties and that informal consultations were carried out by the Secretariat to explore any interest for the positions for the period 2026-2027;

37 **elected** Ms. Özlem ÖZER (Türkiye) as Chair and Mr Vlado Lalić (Montenegro) as Vice Chair for the period 2026-2027.

Agenda Item 8 Follow up actions and future work

38 **considered** the proposals set out in document REMPEC/WG.64/8 for follow-up activities and future work for the 2028-2029 biennium;

39 **agreed** to include the following items in the MENELAS Programme of Activities for the period 2028-2029, subject to the outcome of relevant discussions at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC:

.1 further work on the consolidated draft Decision, as adjusted, and further consideration of the draft Study and of the associated draft Guidelines as a connected package with the objective to make further progress;

.2 discuss and develop a list of potential regional training and capacity-building activities related to the effective enforcement of the MARPOL Convention, with a particular focus on Annex

VI, following consultation with the Contracting Parties to identify the priority areas to be addressed;

40 **requested** the Secretariat to report the outcome of the Meeting to the Seventeenth Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points; and

41 **recommended** that, depending on the outcome of relevant discussions during the Seventeenth Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, the Working Group within MENELAS be re-established to oversee, through correspondence coordinated by the Secretariat, the complete of the work referred to in paragraph 39 above, ahead of the next meeting of MENELAS.

******