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

Regional Expert Meeting on the harmonisation of procedures in the Mediterranean pursuant to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004

REMPEC/WG.54/1/1
1 March 2023
Original: English

Kappara, Malta, 22-23 March 2023

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

Annotated provisional agenda and draft timetable

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

Note by the Secretariat

This document provides brief information on the actions to be taken by the Meeting as well as a draft timetable for the Meeting. This timetable prepared by the Secretariat is of a tentative nature and may be modified by the Meeting, as appropriate.

Introduction

1 The Regional Expert Meeting on the harmonisation of procedures in the Mediterranean pursuant to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention), hereinafter referred to as the Meeting, is being convened in Kappara, Malta from 20 to 23 March 2023, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-2023 of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP, adopted by the Twenty-second Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean ("the Barcelona Convention") and its Protocols (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021) (UNEP/MED IG.25/27).

2 The Meeting, which is organised by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), in close cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), is financed by the IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) and the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF).

3 The principal objectives of the Meeting are:

- .1 to raise awareness of the BWM Convention and related Guidelines;
- .2 to strengthen regional capacity for effective implementation and enforcement;
- .3 to assist countries in the region, where applicable, to ratify the BWM Convention; and
- .4 to discuss revised draft harmonised regional procedures for the uniform implementation of the BWM Convention in the Mediterranean.

4 The target audience for the Meeting are the Government officials responsible for ratification, implementation and enforcement of the BWM Convention. All REMPEC Prevention Focal Points were invited to nominate jointly and, in consultation with the REMPEC Governmental Focal Points, their two (2) representatives in the Meeting. Preferably, one participant should represent an authority/organisation responsible for the regulation of shipping, and one should represent an authority/organisation in charge of issues related to the marine environment.

5 In order to assist the Meeting in its work, the Secretariat prepared the following annotations to the proposed provisional agenda of the Meeting.

Opening of the Meeting

6 The Meeting will open on Wednesday, 22 March 2023 at 0900 hours and is expected to close on Thursday, 23 March 2023 at 1700 hours.

Organisation of the Meeting

Rules of Procedure

7 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) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the deliberations of this Meeting.

Election of Officers

8 **The Meeting will be invited** to elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and a Rapporteur.

Working Languages

9 The working languages of the Meeting will be English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation services will be provided during the Meeting. All working documents will be available in both official languages of the Centre, i.e. in English and in French. Information documents will be available in their original language unless a translation is provided in the second working language.

Agenda Item 1 **Adoption of the Agenda**

10 The agenda, as proposed in document REMPEC/WG.54/1/Rev.1 and annotated in the present document, will be proposed for adoption by the Meeting. The Meeting will also be invited to agree on a timetable to carry out its work. A draft timetable is proposed in the **Annex** to the present document.

Agenda Item 2 **Harmonisation of procedures in the Mediterranean pursuant to the BWM Convention**

11 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will provide information on the revised draft harmonised regional procedures for the uniform implementation of the BWM Convention in the Mediterranean, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.53/2.

12 The Secretariat will refer to the following documents:

- .1 compilation of the feedback and comments received on the revised draft harmonised regional procedures for the uniform implementation of the BWM Convention in the Mediterranean, as presented in the Annexes to document REMPEC/WG.54/INF.3;
- .2 Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027), as presented in the Annex to document REMPEC/WG.54/INF.4;
- .3 communication received from the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC): Harmonized voluntary arrangements for ballast water management in the Mediterranean Region (BWM.2/Circ.35), as presented in the Annex to document REMPEC/WG.54/INF.5; and
- .4 communication received from the Administration of Croatia: General guidance on the voluntary interim application of the D1 ballast water exchange standard by vessels operating between the Mediterranean Sea and the North-East Atlantic and/or the Baltic Sea (BWM.2/Circ.39), as presented in the Annex to document REMPEC/WG.54/INF.6.

13 Participants will be encouraged to present their views on the revised draft harmonised regional procedures for the uniform implementation of the BWM Convention in the Mediterranean.

14 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided as well as to comment, as deemed appropriate.

Agenda Item 3 **Other business**

15 **The Meeting will be invited** to consider any other matters that may be raised under this agenda item.

Agenda Item 4 **Conclusions and recommendations**

16 Under this agenda item, the Meeting will review, amend, as appropriate, and adopt draft conclusions and recommendations that will result from the meeting discussions, as prepared by the Rapporteur.

17 The report of the Meeting will be prepared and circulated after the Meeting.

Closure of the Meeting

18 The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairperson on Thursday, 23 March 2023 at 1700 hours.

Annex

Draft timetable

Day 1 – Wednesday, 22 March 2023		
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Registration of participants</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	Opening of the Meeting	
09:30 – 09:45	Agenda Item 1	Adoption of the Agenda
09:45 – 10:30	Agenda Item 2	Harmonisation of procedures in the Mediterranean pursuant to the BWM Convention
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00 – 12:30	Agenda Item 2 (cont.)	Harmonisation of procedures in the Mediterranean pursuant to the BWM Convention
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00 – 15:00	Agenda Item 2 (cont.)	Harmonisation of procedures in the Mediterranean pursuant to the BWM Convention
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:30 – 17:00	Agenda Item 2 (cont.)	Harmonisation of procedures in the Mediterranean pursuant to the BWM Convention

Day 2 – Thursday, 23 March 2023		
09:00 – 10:30	Agenda Item 2 (cont.)	Harmonisation of procedures in the Mediterranean pursuant to the BWM Convention
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00 – 12:15	Agenda Item 2 (cont.)	Harmonisation of procedures in the Mediterranean pursuant to the BWM Convention
12:15 – 12:30	Agenda Item 3	Other business
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00 – 15:00	Agenda Item 4	Conclusions and recommendations
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:30 – 16:45	Agenda Item 4 (cont.)	Conclusions and recommendations
16:45 – 17:00		Closure of the Meeting