



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

Meeting of National Experts on the
Revision of the Regional Strategy for
Prevention and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships

REMPEC/WG.36/8
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**MEETING OF NATIONAL EXPERTS ON THE REVISION OF THE
REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO
MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS**

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R E P O R T

INTRODUCTION

1. The Meeting of National Experts on the Revision of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, organised by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), was convened in Malta between the 11 and 12 March 2015, pursuant to the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)'s Programme of Work for 2014-2015 adopted by the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols (COP 18) (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013). The Meeting was partly financed by a voluntary contribution from the Government of Malta to REMPEC activities.

2. The main objective of the Meeting was to discuss and agree on the revision of the Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021), hereinafter referred to as "the Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021)", which REMPEC prepared and circulated to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, UNEP/MAP and IMO, prior to the Meeting, with a view to its submission to the 11th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, scheduled to be held in Malta, between 15 and 17 June 2015, for further review.

3. All REMPEC Prevention and OPRC Focal Points were invited to nominate jointly and in consultation with all national authorities concerned their representatives for the Meeting. The invitation to attend the Meeting was also extended to observers from relevant international organizations, MAP Partners, and concerned industries whose activities are relevant to the work of REMPEC.

4. The following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention attended the Meeting:

ALBANIA	LEBANON
CROATIA	MALTA
CYPRUS	MONACO
EGYPT	MONTENEGRO
THE EUROPEAN UNION	MOROCCO
FRANCE	SLOVENIA
GREECE	SPAIN
ISRAEL	TUNISIA
ITALY	TURKEY

The representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme/Co-ordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MEDU) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) were also present, as well as representatives from IPIECA - The global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues and the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF).

5. A complete list of participants is attached in **Appendix I** to the present Report. The detailed list of Meeting documents is found in **Appendix II** of the present Report.

6. It should be noted that the present report refers to the numbering of the Specific Objectives referred in the Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) (Document REMPEC/WG.36/6).

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

7. Mr Gabino Gonzalez, Head of Office of REMPEC, welcomed the participants to the Meeting on Wednesday, 11 March 2015 at 09.00 hours. In his opening address, Mr Gonzalez reminded that the main objective of the Meeting was to review and agree upon the Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021), corresponding to Agenda Item 9 of the Meeting. He stated that the Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021) would be further examined by the 11th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Malta; 15-17 June 2015) and the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points scheduled in autumn 2015, prior to its adoption by the 19th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 19) to be tentatively held in February, 2016 in Greece.

8. He then expressed his satisfaction about the fact that 18 out of the 22 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention were attending the Meeting, most of them being represented by a delegation composed of experts in the field of prevention of and response to marine pollution. He further welcomed the participation IMO, UNEP/MEDU, IPIECA and ITOPIF and invited the Meeting to actively participate in the discussion of the Meeting.

9. Mr Gonzalez thanked Mr Miguel Palomares, REMPEC's Consultant, former Director of the Marine Environment Division at the IMO, for his support throughout the revision process of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2005-2015) (hereinafter referred to as "the Regional Strategy of 2005-2015").

10. He updated the Meeting on the restructuring of REMPEC following the decisions adopted by COP 18, leading to the departures of Mr Frédéric Hébert, former Director of REMPEC, Mr Jonathan Pace, former Senior Programme Officer, Mrs Francesca Borg, former Clerk, and Mr Mario Bonello, former Technical Assistant. He informed the Meeting that Mr Jonathan Pace had been offered an alternative position at the IMO Headquarters in London, starting 1st February 2015. Mr Gonzalez also seized the opportunity to welcome Mr Franck Lauwers, who joined REMPEC as Programme Officer (Prevention) on 9 March 2015. Finally, he indicated that the recruitment of a new Programme Officer (OPRC) was in process and that it would hopefully be completed by summer 2015 with a view to maintaining the number of three (3) Professional Staff members in the Centre, as it was the case before the restructuring of the Centre.

11. Mr Gonzalez finally invited the participants for a tour-de-table.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Rules of procedure

12. The Meeting decided to apply, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

13. Following the suggestion from the Head of Office of REMPEC, the Meeting agreed with the creation of two Working Groups, as follows: a Working Group on Prevention to discuss issues related to prevention of pollution from ships, and a Working Group on OPRC to deal with issues related to preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution.

2.2 Election of Officers

14. Upon a proposal from the Head of Office of REMPEC, after the necessary informal consultations were carried out, the Meeting elected the following officers:

Meeting:	Mr Ioannis Efstratiou (Cyprus)	Chairperson
	Mr Elson Thana (Albania)	Vice-Chairperson
	Mr Ahmed Sheta (Egypt)	Rapporteur

15. The Chairperson of the Meeting thanked the participants for electing him as Chairperson, reminded the importance of the Meeting in advancing towards a cleaner state for the Mediterranean Sea through the consideration of both prevention of as well as preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships. He then welcomed the election of Mr Thana as Vice-Chairperson, and Mr Sheta as Rapporteur.

2.3 Working languages

16. The working languages of the Meeting were English and French Simultaneous English/French interpretation was provided for the plenary sessions and for the sessions of the Working Group on Prevention, whilst interpretation was provided when required by the Head of Office of REMPEC in the Working Group on OPRC. The working documents prepared by REMPEC prior to the Meeting were also available in both official languages of the Centre, i.e. English and French.

AGENDA ITEM 3 **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

17. The Chairperson of the Meeting presented the Provisional Agenda (Document REMPEC/WG.36/3/1), the Provisional Annotated Agenda (Document REMPEC/WG.36/3/2) and the Draft Timetable (Document REMPEC/WG.36/3/3). He suggested amending Agenda Item 10, originally labelled "Closure of the Meeting", by the following wording: "Other business and closure of the Meeting". The Meeting agreed with this proposal. The final agenda is reproduced in **Appendix III** of the present Report.

18. Further to the invitation of the Chairperson, to inform the Secretariat about any presentations to be made during the Meeting, the representative of Israel proposed to deliver a presentation on the vision of SOx Emission Control Area (ECA) in his country. The Chairperson of the Meeting suggested that the most appropriate would be to introduce such a presentation in the context of the discussion on Specific Objective 13 related to MARPOL Annex VI. The Meeting agreed with the proposal.

AGENDA ITEM 4: **SYNTHETIC REPORT ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (2005-2015)**

19. The Chairperson of the Meeting introduced Agenda Item 4 related to the Synthetic report on the Assessment of the Implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2005-2015) (hereinafter referred to as the Synthetic Report) (Document REMPEC/WG.36/4), and invited Mr Gonzalez to present the said report.

20. Mr Gonzalez delivered a presentation that provided a thorough background to the participants regarding the Regional Strategy of 2005-2015, from the objectives to the structure of the document that was adopted in 2005 by the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Portorož, 8-11 November 2005) with a view to facilitating the implementation of the Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol). He explained that the Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021) (Document REMPEC/WG.36/6) followed the same structure, listing, on the one hand, the obligations of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and, on the other hand, those of the Secretariat.

21. Mr Gonzalez also described the methodology used for the elaboration of the Synthetic Report, explaining that the Secretariat assessed the implementation of the Regional Strategy of 2005-2015 by the Contracting Parties and REMPEC. In order to do so, REMPEC prepared pre-filled individual questionnaires based on various information sources (REMPEC Country Profiles, the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS), relevant reports including project reports, etc.) and submitted each individual questionnaire to the corresponding Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for review and amendments. The assessment of the implementation of the Specific Objectives of the Regional Strategy of 2005-2015 by REMPEC was also prepared and made available. Seventeen (17) replies were received from the Contracting Parties, including ten (10) from non-European countries.

22. Mr Gonzalez used visual bar charts to represent the level of implementation of each Specific Objective, clustering them within percentage intervals. He indicated that the percentages reflected the situation of the Seventeen (17) Contracting Parties who replied, and did not include the Contracting Parties who had not replied to REMPEC. It transpired that, one of the main obstacles identified by the Contracting Parties was the lack of financial and human resources to fulfil their mandate. Amongst the Specific Objectives implemented by less than 20 percent of the Contracting Parties were the following:

- Specific Objective 8 – To reduce the pollution generated by pleasure craft activities; and
- Specific Objective 13 – To examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea as a SOx emission control area under MARPOL Annex VI.

23. Mr Gonzalez continued presenting the different levels of implementation for each Specific Objective, and finished by recognizing the efforts of the Contracting Parties in the implementation of the following Specific Objectives including *inter alia*:

- Specific Objective 2 – Ensuring effective maritime administrations;
- Specific Objective 5 – Delivery of ship-generated wastes;
- Specific Objective 16 – To enhance the levels of prepositioned equipment under the direct control of Mediterranean States;
- Specific Objective 19 – To increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances; and
- Specific Objective 21 – To strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans.

24. Mr Gonzalez invited the Meeting to consider these achievements and outcomes while reviewing the Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021) under Agenda Item 6. He further stated that the Contracting Parties which were yet to submit their questionnaires could still do so by contacting REMPEC and supplying the said information.

25. Following the presentation, the Meeting took note of the information provided and recognized the need to intensify efforts to implement the Regional Strategy.

26. The Chairperson of the Meeting acknowledged the lack of financial and human resources, thanked Mr Gonzalez for his presentation, and highlighted the encouraging and continuous progress made over the last 10 years.

27. All participants were then invited to gather for a commemorative group photo.

AGENDA ITEM 5: COMPARATIVE REPORT ON ON-GOING AND EXISTING MEDITERRANEAN, EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIES/SECTORIAL ACTION PLANS/INITIATIVES ON MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

28. The Chairperson of the Meeting introduced Agenda Item 5 and asked the Secretariat to present the Comparative Report on on-going and existing Mediterranean, European and international strategies/sectorial action plans/initiatives on marine environment protection (hereinafter referred to as the "Comparative Report") (Document REMPEC/WG.36/5).

29. Mr Franck Lauwers, Programme Officer (Prevention) at REMPEC delivered a presentation on the said Comparative Report. He explains that its objectives were to provide recommendations on the potential marine environment protection synergies and to contribute, through the implementation of the Regional Strategy, to Mediterranean, European and International strategies / sectorial action plans / initiatives on marine environment protection.

30. Mr Lauwers indicated that the following thirteen (13) initiatives, sectorial action plans and strategies had been identified as being relevant to the revision process of the Regional Strategy of 2005-2015 at the Mediterranean, European and International levels:

- MAP Phase II;
- Draft UNEP/MAP's Mid-Term Strategy (2016-2021);
- Ecosystem Approach (EcAp);
- Review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD);
- Regional Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management;
- Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management;
- Draft Offshore Protocol Action Plan;
- European Maritime Safety Agency Action Plans;
- Union Civil Protection Mechanism;
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC);
- H2020 Initiative;

- IMO Member State Audit Scheme; and
- IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme priorities.

31. Following the presentation, the representative of the European Union stressed that the latest legal status of the European Maritime Safety Agency should be reflected and agreed to submit an updated text to that end. The Meeting agreed to request the Secretariat to reflect the updates in the presentation.

AGENDA ITEM 6: INTRODUCTION TO THE DRAFT REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (2016-2021)

32. The Chairperson of the Meeting introduced Agenda Item 6 and asked the Secretariat to present the Draft Regional Strategy for Preparedness of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) (hereinafter referred as the Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021)) (Document REMPEC/WG.36/6).

33. Mr Gonzalez introduced Mr Miguel Palomares, REMPEC's Consultant for the revision process of the Regional Strategy of 2005-2015 and asked him to present the Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021) (Document REMPEC/WG.36/6) focusing on its structure, the General Objectives as well as the Specific Objectives and their relevant annexes to be further examined within each Working Group.

34. Mr Palomares thanked Mr Gonzalez and mentioned that it was his pleasure to be present, as he was involved in the discussions of the Meeting to prepare the Regional Strategy of 2005-2015 held in Castel Gandolfo (Rome), Italy, from 8 to 10 July 2004. He explained that the Regional Strategy of 2005-2015 was used as a basis for drafting the Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021), in addition to the information collected through the pre-filled questionnaires returned by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the Synthetic Report and the Comparative Report. He indicated that, whilst the former provided the state of play with regard to the implementation of the Regional Strategy of 2005-2015, the latter was an attempt at establishing a picture of the existing programmes and initiatives in order to come up with realistic and achievable Specific Objectives in the Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021).

35. The Consultant recalled that, in the coming months, three (3) meetings would enable further revision of the Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021) to be agreed upon by the Meeting, namely:

- the 11th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC to be held in Malta on 15-17 June 2015;
- the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points scheduled in autumn 2015; and
- COP 19 to be tentatively held in February 2016 in Greece.

36. As for the Regional Strategy of 2005-2015, Mr Palomares explained that the Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021) exposed the General Objectives before presenting 21 revised Specific Objectives. Furthermore, he highlighted the addition of two new Specific Objectives as well as amendments made to the annexes. He urged the Meeting to read the content carefully, and identify the flaws, mistakes, or need for amendments throughout the text. He specifically referred to Annex II – List of Relevant International Conventions and European Union Legislation, for which cross-checking was necessary with a view to ensuring that all relevant information was listed. He stressed the tentative approach resorted to concerning Annex III – Draft estimated cost of implementation of the Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021), which only included costs for REMPEC's activities and not the ones to be borne by the Contracting Parties.

37. Mr Palomares emphasized the importance of the allocation of the necessary financial and human resources to REMPEC, without which the Centre could not be fully operational and would not be in a position to fulfil its mandate. He mentioned that the latter was described at the beginning of the Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021) and presented the changes that had undergone over the years since the Regional Strategy of 2005-2015 was adopted in 2005. He stressed that, although some modifications had been made, the fundamental principles of both Strategies concurred and related to:

- .1 prevention of pollution from ships;
- .2 prevention of maritime accidents; and
- .3 preparation for response to major pollution incidents.

38. The Consultant explained the deadlines associated to the different levels of priority conferred to each Specific Objective, its Sub-Objectives and Sub-Sub-Objectives, if any. He indicated that a high priority was associated to a short notice deadline, while a medium priority allowed for more time to implement actions.

39. Mr Palomares highlighted the strong synergies existing with the work undertaken by other components of MAP, and recall that REMPEC's objectives should be to establish links with the identified entities in order to prevent both duplication of work and poor efficiency in implementing the Specific Objectives. He stressed that any progress made was to be monitored by both the Contracting Parties and REMPEC.

40. The Consultant then presented each Specific Objective individually. Amongst others, he stressed:

- the importance of Specific Objective 1 – Ratification of relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment;
- the creation of National Action Plans (NAP) found in Specific Objective 2 – Ensuring effective maritime administrations, which would guide the Contracting Parties in implementing the Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021), in carrying out a self-assessment of their capabilities and performance, and in preparing for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme to become mandatory in 2016;
- the still-pending Specific Objective 4 – Provision of reception facilities in ports, which could, with reasonable costs, present positive return on investment;
- the two new Specific Objectives 1 bis – To control and manage ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species and 11 bis – Reduction of marine noise caused by ships, the latter being part of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp), which would be facilitated by REMPEC; and
- international cooperation which should be further reinforced, for, *inter alia*, Specific Objectives 5 – Delivery of ship-generated wastes, 6 – Improved follow-up of pollution events as well as monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges, 19 – To increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances, 20 – To revise the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines, and to develop new ones aimed at facilitating international co-operation and mutual assistance within the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, and 21 – To strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans.

41. The Chairperson of the Meeting invited the Meeting to comment on the structure and the introduction part of Document REMPEC/WG.36/6 as well as the proposed General Objectives.

42. Some delegates raised the issue of reporting, which was seen as being tedious and redundant when considering that reports had to be submitted to both REMPEC and UNEP/MEDU. Mr Gonzalez recall that the MAP reporting system, more commonly referred to as BCRS, was used to report implementation measures under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, which would then be taken into account by UNEP/MEDU and submitted to the Compliance Committee. The representative from UNEP/MEDU further explained that reporting had to be carried out on a biennial basis by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to each Meeting of the MAP Focal Points since MAP encompassed more than just one particular protocol. One country stressed that, if needed from the Secretariat, further reports could stem from the aforementioned main source of information under MAP. The Meeting concluded that the matter would need to be further discussed at the 11th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC to be held in Malta on 15-17 June 2015 as well as the Meeting of MAP Focal Points scheduled in autumn 2015.

43. The Secretariat proposed to replace the wording “National Implementation Plan “by National Action Plan” as the latter terminology is being used in the UNEP/MAP Mid-term Strategy. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to amend the draft Regional strategy accordingly after the Meeting.

44. Others mentioned the need for organising more surveillance operations, whilst concern was raised with regard to towing capacity: considering the ever-growing ships, Contracting Parties could possibly be facing a gap between the available means and the reality of related pollution accidents.

45. Following a proposal from the Chairperson of the Meeting and, taking into consideration the limited time available as well as the workload of the two Working Groups, the Meeting agreed that the Working Groups would not prepare written reports of their deliberations but would directly amend the Specific Objectives assigned to them and that their respective Chairpersons would then present the outcomes orally to the plenary session. In this regard, the Chairperson invited the Meeting to elect the Chairpersons for both Working Groups. Captain Richard Gabriele (Malta) and Mr Ioannis Efstratiou (Cyprus), the Chairperson of the Meeting, volunteered to chair, respectively, the Working Group on OPRC and the Working Group on Prevention.

AGENDA ITEM 7: GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON THE DRAFT REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (2016-2021)

46. The Working Group on Prevention, chaired by Mr Ioannis Efstratiou (Cyprus), the Chairperson of the Meeting, discussed and amended, as necessary, Specific Objectives 1 through 15, including Specific Objectives 1bis and 11bis.

47. The Working Group on OPRC, chaired by Captain Richard Gabriele (Malta), discussed and amended, as necessary, Specific Objective 1 as well as Specific Objectives 16 through 21.

AGENDA ITEM 8: OUTCOME OF THE GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON THE DRAFT REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (2016-2021)

48. The Chairperson of the Working Group on Prevention presented the amendments proposed by his Working Group to the Specific Objectives 1 through 15, including Specific Objectives 1bis and 11bis, explaining the rationale behind each amendment. He outlined the proposed changes in each Specific Objective discussed by the Working Group on Prevention and encouraged the Meeting to consider and approve the suggested amendments.

49. The Chairperson of the Working Group on Prevention informed the Meeting that Specific Objective 13 – To examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as a SOx emission control area under MARPOL Annex VI and effectively implement the existing energy efficiency measures, led to long discussions in the Working Group on Prevention and required specific guidance from the Meeting.

50. Before that, he invited the representative of Israel to deliver his presentation on the vision of SOx ECA in his country, as agreed in the adoption of the Agenda. The representative of Israel emphasized the important and increasing traffic in the Mediterranean, resulting in ship-sourced air pollution. He stressed that, whilst noting that European Mediterranean countries were already implementing EU directives and regulations on the matter, he invited Southern Mediterranean countries to take advantage of this momentum, and underpinned that the common designation of the Mediterranean Sea as a SOx ECA could facilitate the process. He urged the Meeting to take actions, after presenting scientific data on the link between air pollution from ships and the prevalence of diseases such as the non-Hodgkin lymphoma. The Meeting took note of the presentation.

51. Following the presentation, the Meeting further addressed the issue under Specific Objective 13 as to whether it was appropriate to designate the whole of the Mediterranean Sea as a SOx ECA or, instead, to designate as a SOx ECA only certain areas of the Mediterranean identified for that purpose. Taking into account the fact that the Mediterranean Sea was a virtually closed body of water, and given its high level of pollution and heavy maritime traffic, the Meeting concurred with the

rewording of the Specific Objective 13 (i.e. “To examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as a SOx emission control area under MARPOL Annex VI and effectively implement the existing energy efficiency measures”). Besides, the Meeting agreed to the possibility of having the matter studied by a specialized group of experts. The Chairperson of the Working Group on Prevention mentioned that this specific issue would need to be further discussed and modified, as necessary, at the 11th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, as well as, at the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points scheduled in autumn 2015 before its adoption by COP 19.

52. The Meeting then addressed the terminology “major ports” referred to in Specific Objective 4 - Provision of reception facilities in ports. The Chairperson of the Working Group on Prevention informed the Meeting that no consensus could be reached in his Working Group despite the different suggestions made. Following some discussion, the Meeting agreed to leave the references to “major ports” in Specific Objective 4 and noted that a bibliographical review of other legal texts could help clarify the matter, whilst keeping in mind that this aspect still fell within a grey area and that there was a lack of accurate definition of “major ports”.

53. When turning to Specific Objective 11 - Identification of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs), Mr Palomares underlined the difference between Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and PSSAs. He mentioned that, whilst both MPAs and PSSAs were necessary, the designation as a PSSA would associate mandatory measures to the said area as regard to protection of damage from maritime traffic. He concluded that the designation of these PSSAs was thus of paramount importance, and that Contracting Parties should continue working towards such designation.

54. The representative of ITOPF pointed out that the assessment of capacity was not addressed in Specific Objective 14 - To ensure that adequate emergency towing capacity is available throughout the Mediterranean to assist vessels, including tankers, in distress. She further stated that the last assessment carried out to date went back to prior 2009, and suggested that, given the fact that the implementation period considered last until 2021, it would need to be updated with a view to remaining relevant. Upon a proposal from the Chairperson of the Working Group on Prevention, the Meeting agreed to mention in Specific Objective 14 that the Secretariat should assess the said capacity and decided to reflect this by adding the following Sub-Objective:

- c) to assess the capability of the Mediterranean coastal States in terms of emergency towing equipment, and provide support to those Contracting Parties, which so request.

55. The Meeting raised concerns regarding the non-existence of a Marine Pollution Safety Management System found in Specific Objective 15 – Prevention of accidents in commercial ports and oil terminals, making the fulfilment of its Sub-Objective a), with high priority, hardly feasible. Following some discussion, the Meeting agreed to delete this Specific Objective since it was considered premature for the period of time covered by the Draft Regional Strategy (2016-2021). Notwithstanding this, the Meeting agreed to bring it back up for further discussion when drafting the Regional Strategy following the one for the period 2016-2021.

56. The Chairperson of the Meeting invited then the Chairperson of the Working Group on OPRC to inform the Meeting of the deliberations of his Working Group and outlined the amendments made to Specific Objective 1 as well as Specific Objectives 16 through 21. The Chairperson of the Working Group on OPRC invited the Meeting to consider and approve the proposed amendments, specifically encouraging participants to comment on amendments suggested by his Working Group had they not participated therein.

57. He first informed the Meeting that the Group identified the need of addressing in plenary the different levels of priority. Following some discussions, the Meeting agreed to change the deadline associated with a high priority by shifting it from 2017 to 2018. However, no change was suggested by the Meeting with regard to the deadline associated with medium priority, which was thus retained as originally proposed.

58. After noting that the industry and private sector were not mentioned nor sufficiently involved throughout the document, following the suggestion of the Working Group on OPRC, the Meeting agreed upon the inclusion of paragraph 2.4 that mentioned “that the shipping industry and the relevant private sectors’ cooperation and participation should be enhanced through consultations, technical and financial contribution, whilst implementing the Regional Strategy”.

59. The Meeting agreed to the proposals aimed at rewording the paragraph concerning the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) with a view to clarifying its main goal and mission. The Meeting also agreed to further reinforce, where necessary, the distinction between the UCPM and funding mechanisms so as to prevent any assimilation.

60. The Meeting then discussed the use of the word “other marine vehicle and structure” throughout the document. With a view to encompassing every kind of structure (including fixed offshore platform), the Meeting agreed to delete the reference to “other marine vehicle and structure” and to add the footnote “as defined in article 2.4 of MARPOL Convention”, since the said article defines “ship” as a vessel of any type whatsoever operating in the marine environment and includes hydrofoil boats, air-cushion vehicles, submersibles, floating crafts and fixed or floating platforms.”

61. The representative of IMO referred to Specific Objective 1 - Ratification of relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment, and suggested adding the 1996 London Protocol on Prevention of Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter to the list, the inclusion of which was agreed by the Meeting with a footnote to further clarify the role of MEDPOL and the synergies with the activities related to the implementation of the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircrafts.

62. Whilst discussing Specific Objective 16 - To enhance the levels of pre-positioned spill response equipment under the direct control of Mediterranean States, the Meeting concurred on the high costs of such equipment, its maintenance and the required training of personnel. The Meeting concluded that constraints were numerous and that the industry had to be involved in the process. The Meeting agreed to refer to the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) and expressed some concerns about the availability of response equipment to face Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) events, whilst admitting the lack of knowledge and thus inability to respond effectively in most cases.

63. The Meeting agreed to retain Specific Objective 17 - To encourage the participation of the regional scientific and technical institutions in research and development activities and to facilitate transfer of technology as such to ensure that competent authorities are aware of the on-going research, without compelling any dissemination of findings and/or sensible data.

64. The Meeting acknowledged the beneficial process of having national institutes taking part in the Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Ocean Observing System (MONGOOS) under Specific Objective 18 – To improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of decision-making process in case of marine pollution incidents through the development and introduction of technical and decision support tools.

65. Partly linked to the costs of pre-positioned equipment, costs related to Specific Objective 19 – To increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances, were recognized as staggering by the Meeting. The Meeting also emphasised that cooperation between neighbouring States was essential. In this respect, the representative of Montenegro mentioned that the Mediterranean Decision Support System for Marine Safety (MEDESS-4MS) project funded by the European Regional Development Fund, and implemented in cooperation with REMPEC, was a cooperative project, whilst outlining the work achieved, including the platform which would allow the prediction of an oil spill trajectory based on an easy input by the user. The representative of the European Union raised awareness on a call for funding of exercises involving a minimum of three (3) countries which was released annually. She indicated that European neighbouring countries were eligible, should the exercise be led by a European country. Mr Gonzalez expressed the need to further facilitate cooperation between the Contracting Parties within these multilateral exercises, and stressed that within this project funding could be allocated to finance national officers in charge of organising such events. The Meeting

agreed to discuss the matter at the 11th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, stressing the important role REMPEC had to play as regional coordinator for such projects.

66. While addressing Specific Objective 20 - To revise the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines, and to develop new ones aimed at facilitating international co-operation and mutual assistance within the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, the Meeting agreed that REMPEC should look into the synergies of the different tools and existing procedures relating to the procurement of assistance with a view to simplifying the process and streamlining the assistance in case of major incident in the Mediterranean region.

67. The Meeting agreed that some aspects of Specific Objective 21 - To strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans would need to be addressed during the 11th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, with a view to understanding the lack of implementation of some sub-regional agreements and to further discussing the high priority level conferred.

68. The representative of IMO noted that, following the deletion of Specific Objective 15, which was suppressed as referred in paragraph 55 of the present report, the oil handling facilities would need to be referred in the final version of the Regional Strategy, to cover issues related to the contingency plans of such installations.

69. Finally, the Meeting requested the Secretariat to prepare the report of the Meeting, highlighting the main outcomes.

AGENDA ITEM 9 **CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REVISED DRAFT REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (2016-2021)**

70. The Meeting considered and adopted the text of the Revised Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the outcome of both Working Groups, as amended under Agenda Item 8, and requested the Secretariat to make the necessary editorial corrections, including the renumbering of the Specific Objectives as well as the formatting of the whole document following the Meeting.

71. The consolidated text of the Revised Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021), as adopted by the Meeting, is reproduced in **Appendix IV** to the present Report.

72. The Meeting concluded the discussion by stressing the fact that, taking into account the key role of REMPEC for the implementation of the Regional Strategy, there was a need to ensure the stability of the Centre in the long term, *inter alia*, through the provision of the required human and financial resources to the Centre with a view to enabling it to fulfil its mandate. The Meeting further underpinned the importance of mobilising external resources to assist Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in the implementation of the Regional Strategy and call for enhanced cooperation with the relevant industries in the region.

AGENDA ITEM 10 **OTHER BUSINESS AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

73. Before closing the Meeting, the Chairperson of the Meeting thanked the participants for their constructive deliberations, the Secretariat for the work carried out and the interpreters for their support. He highlighted the hard work that still lay ahead, but stated that he was looking forward to further cooperation in this respect.

74. The Head of Office of REMPEC thanked all participants, the Consultant, the interpreters and all REMPEC staff for their contribution and the Chairpersons of both Working Groups for the smooth running of the proceedings.

75. The Chairperson of the Meeting closed the Meeting at 17.00 hours on Thursday, 12 March 2015.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

CONTRACTING PARTIES / PARTIES CONTRACTANTES

ALBANIA/ ALBANIE

Mr Elson THANA

Specialist, Maritime Transport Polices
Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
Sheshi "Skenderbej Nr. 5
Tirana 1001

Tel No: +355 42 2380 744
Mobile: +355 6868 11 242
Fax No: +355 42 22 51 96
E-mail: elson.thana@transporti.gov.al

Captain Gazmir TAHIRI

General Maritime Directorate of Albania
Lagga Tregtare No. 1
Durrës 03101

Tel No: +355 52 222 868
Mobile: +355 6940 62 864
Fax No: +355 52 222 868
E-mail: gazmir.tahiri@dpdetare.gov.al
gazmirDPD@gmail.com

CROATIA / CROATIE

Mrs Dubravka LULIĆ-KRIVIĆ

Head of Sector Maritime Safety Directorate
Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure
Prisavlje 14
Zagreb 1000

Tel No: +385 1 616 90 26
Fax No: +385 616 90 69
E-mail: dubravka.krivic@pomorstvo.hr

Captain Darko GLAZAR

Harbour Master
Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure
Safety of Navigation, Marine Environment and Inland
Waters Protection Authority
Senjsko pristanište 3
51000 Rijeka

Tel No: +385 51 214 113
Mobile: +385 99 2111 247
Fax No: +385 51 211 660
E-mail: darko.glazar@pomorstvo.hr

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

Mr Ioannis EFSTRATIOU

Senior Marine Surveyor
Department of Merchant Shipping
Kyllinis Street
CY4007 Mesa Geitonia
Limassol

Tel No: +357 25 848 100
Mobile: +357 99 69 26 22
Fax No: +357 25 848 200
E-mail: jefstratiou@dms.mcw.gov.cy

Mr Marinos IOANNOU

Head of Naval Service – Pollution Controller
Department of Fisheries and Marine Research
Voukourestiou Kai Theodoktou Corner, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 51305
CY3505 – Limassol

Tel No: +357 25 817 312
Mobile: +357 99 48 96 51
Fax No: +357 25 305 543
E-mail: maioannou@dfmr.moa.gov.cy

EGYPT/ EGYPTE

Mr Waleed Mohamed HANAFY MAHMOUD

Second Researcher
Maritime Transport Sector
Head of Naval Service – Pollution Controller
Ministry of Transport
4, Ptolemy Street
Alexandria, Post Box 21414

Tel No: +20 3 48 43 631
Mobile: +201 22 67 55542
Fax No: +20 3 484 20 96
E-mail: waleedhanafy13@yahoo.com

Mr. Ahmed Kasem Kasem SHETA

General Manager of Environmental Crisis Management
NOSCP-NC
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)
30 Misr Helwan El Zyrae Road
Maadi Cairo
P.O. Box 11728

Tel No: +20 2 25 25 64 91
+20 2 25 25 64 92
Mobile: +20 100 3824 600
Fax No: +20 2 2525 64 94
E-mail: ahmed_sheta@hotmail.com

EUROPEAN UNION / UNION EUROPÉENNE

Ms. Asta MACKEVICIUTE

DG ECHO B - Directorate General for Humanitarian and Civil Protection Operations
A5 - Civil Protection Policy
European Commission - OFFICE: L 86 7 /021
1049 Brussels, BELGIUM

Tel No: +32 2 29 52 899
Mobile: +32 484 90 9922
Fax No: +32 2 29 51458
E-mail: Asta.MACKEVICIUTE@ec.europa.eu

Mr Victor DIAZ SECO

Senior project Officer
European Maritime Safety Agency/ European Commission Delegation
Praca Europa 4
Lisbon 1249-206
PORTUGAL

Tel No: +351 211 209 365
Mobile: +351 911 089 124
Fax No: +351 211 209 218
E-mail: Victor.DIAZSECO@emsa.europa.eu

FRANCE / FRANCE

Mme Marie-Sophie DUFAU-RICHET

Chargée de Mission
Secrétariat Général de la Mer
69, Rue de Varenne
75007 Paris

Tél No: +33 1 42 75 66 53
Portable: +33 6 61 53 95 01
Fax No: + 33 1 42 75 66 78
E-mail: marie-sophie.dufau-richet@pm.gouv.fr

Mr Xavier Paul Louis KREMER

Mediterranean Correspondent - Assistance Agreements
CEDRE
715 rue Alain Colas
CS 41836
29218 Brest Cedex 2

Tél No: +33 2 98 33 10 10
Portable: +33 6 89 19 14 74
Fax No: +33 2 98 44 91 38
E-mail: xavier.kremer@cedre.fr

GREECE / GRECE

Ms Anne SERRI

Ensign HCG
Hellenic Coast Guard
Akti Vasiliadi Gate E1-E2
Piraeus 18510

Tel No: +30 213 13 71 565
+30 210 41 91 304
Mobile: +30 69 42 460 558
Fax No: +30 210 422 04 40
E-mail: aserri@hcg.gr

ISRAEL / ISRAEL

Mr Nir LEVINSKI

Inspector
Marine and Coastal Environment Division
Ministry of Environmental Protection
Pal Yam Av. 15A
Haifa 31007

Tel No: +972 4 863 35 00
Mobile: +972 506 237 601
Fax No: +972 4 863 2 35 20
E-mail: NIRL@sviva.gov.il

Captain Aleksander GERSON

Deputy Director
Ministry of Transport
Administration of Shipping and Ports
Pal Yam Av. 15A
Haifa 31999

Tel No: +972 4 863 20 80
Mobile: +972 537 251 097
Fax No: +972 4 863 21 18
E-mail: alexg@mot.gov.il

ITALY / ITALIE

Dr Roberto GIANGRECO

Officer
Ministry of Environment, Territory and Sea
Via Cristoforo Colombo, 44
Rome 00147

Tel No: +39 06 57 22 84 06
Mobile: +39 347 331 31 91
Fax No: +39 06 57 22 84 24
E-mail: giangreco.roberto@minambiente.it

ITALY / ITALIE (cont.)

CF (CP) Fabrizio COKE

Officer
Ministry of Environment, Territory and Sea
Via Cristoforo Colombo, 44
Rome 00154

Tel No: +39 06 57 22 56 39
Mobile: +39 338 838 89 78
Fax No: +39 06 57 22 56 79
E-mail: Coke.Fabrizio@minambiente.it

LEBANON / LIBAN

Mr Abdel Hafiz EL KAISSI

Director General of Land and Maritime Transport
Ministry of Public Works and Transport
Directorate General of Land and Maritime Transport
Georges Picot Street
Beirut 20206301

Tel No: +961 1 371 644
Mobile : +961 3 312 385
Fax no: +961 1 371 647
E-mail : ministry@transportation.gov.lb

Ms Ilham Mansour Mansour EL KHABBAZ

Chief of Maritime Transport Section
Ministry of Public Works and Division
Directorate General of Land and Maritime Transport
Georges Picot Street
Beirut 20206301

Tel No: +961 1 372 762
Mobile: +961 3 930 858
Fax No: +961 1 371 647
E-mail: ministry@transportation.gov.lb

MALTA / MALTE

Captain Richard GABRIELE

Head, Pollution and Incident Response
Transport Malta
Ports & yachting Directorate
Malta Transport Centre
Marsa MRS 1917

Tel No: +356 22 91 44 20
Mobile: +356 9949 4312
Fax No: +356 22 91 44 29
E-mail: richard.gabriele@transport.gov.mt

MALTA / MALTE (cont.)

Dr Gordon CUTAJAR

Assistant Registrar of Ships
Merchant Shipping Directorate
Transport Malta
Marsa MRS 1917

Tel No: +356 21 25 03 60
Fax No: +356 24 14 60
E-mail: gordon.cutajar@transport.gov.mt

Mr Mevric ZAMMIT

Port Officer (Response)
Authority for transport in Malta
Xatt l'Ghassara ta l-Gheneb
Marsa MRS 1918

Tel No: +356 22 91 44 37
Mobile: +356 99 33 63 16
Fax No: +356 22 91 44 29
E-mail: mevric.zammit@transport.gov.mt

MONACO/ MONACO

M Pierre BOUCHET

Adjoint au Directeur des affaires maritimes
Direction des affaires maritimes
Département de l'équipement, de l'environnement et de l'urbanisme
Quai Jean Charles Rey
B.P. 468
MC-98012 Monaco Cedex

Tél: +377 98 98 22 80
Portable: +377 06 07 93 17 99
Fax No: +377 98 98 22 81
E-mail: pbouchet@gouv.mc

MONTENEGRO/ MONTENEGRO

Captain Predrag RATKOVIĆ

Head of Sector for the Prevention of Sea Pollution from
Sea-Going Objects
National "On-Scene" Commander in Case of Oil Pollution
Maritime Safety Department
Marsala Tita no, 7
Bar 85000

Tel No: +382 30 313 240
Mobile: +382 69 632 930
Fax No: +382 30 313 274
E-mail: predrag.ratkovic@pomorstvo.me

MONTENEGRO/ MONTENEGRO (cont.)

Captain Vladan RADONJIĆ

Director of Maritime Safety Department
National Overall Commander in case of Oil Pollution
Marsala Tita no. 7
Bar 85000

Tel No: +382 30 313 240
Mobile: +382 69 333 252
Fax No: +382 30 313 274
E-mail: vladan.radonjic@pomorstvo.me

Mr Nexhat KAPIDANI

Deputy Director
Maritime Safety Department
Marsala Tita no. 7
Bar 85000

Tel No: +382 30 313 240
Mobile: +382 69 035 958
Fax No: +382 30 313 274
E-mail: nexhat.kapidani@pomorstvo.me

MOROCCO/ MAROC

M Mohammed Salim CHEIKH

Ingénieur
Direction de la Marine Marchande
Felix Houphouët Boigny
Casablanca

Tél: +212 5 29 02 86 00
Portable: +212 661 07 38 07
Fax No: +212 5 22 27 33 40
E-mail: salimcheikh@hotmail.com
s.cheikh@mtpnet.gov.ma

Mme Naoual ZOUBAIR

Chef de Service
Ministère délégué chargé de l'Environnement
9 Avenue Al Araar, Secteur 16
Hay Raid
Rabat

Tél: +212 537 57 06 01
Portable: +212 662 10 81 54
Fax No: +212 537 57 66 45
E-mail: n_zoubair@yahoo.fr

SLOVENIA/ SLOVENIE

Mr Zvezdan BOŽIČ

Regional Civil Protection Commander
Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief
Ferrarska 5B
6000 Koper

Tel No: +386 5 668 42 01
Mobile: +386 312 441 26
Fax No: +386 5 668 4322
E-mail: Zvezdan.Bozic@urszr.si

Mr Jadran KLINEC

Director
Slovenian Maritime Administration
Ukmarjev trg 2
6000 Koper

Tel No: +386 5 663 21 00
Mobile: +386 41 671 577
Fax No: +386 5 663 21 02
E-mail: jadran.klinec@gov.si

SPAIN/ ESPAGNE

Ms Maria Goretti DE LA FUENTE SANCHEZ

Head of Service Coordination and Studies
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
Ruiz de Alarcon
Madrid 28071

Tel No: +34 915 979 042
Mobile: +34 650 272 544
Fax No: +34 915 979 235
E-mail: mgdelafuente@fomento.es

Ms Cristina DANES CASTRO

Technical Advisor
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Plaza San Juan de la Cruz S/N
28071 Madrid

Tel No: +34 91 597 61 92
Mobile: +34 6494 74514
E-mail: cdanes@magrama.es

TUNISIA/ TUNISIE

M Samir KHEDHIRA

Sous-Directeur
Agence nationale de protection de l'environnement (ANPE)
Centre Urbain Nord
15 rue 7051 cité Essalem
2080 Tunis

Tel No: +216 71 233 600
Portable: +216 9797 5288
Fax No: +216 71 232 811
E-mail: samirkhedhira@yahoo.fr

M Moncef FRAJ

Directeur des Ports Maritime de Commerce
Ministère du Transport
Rue Elborgine Montplaisir
1073 Tunis

Tél: +216 71 906 412
Portable: +216 98 90 20 13
Fax No: +216 71 903 905
E-mail: monceffrey@yahoo.fr

TURKEY / TURQUIE

Mr Hakan AKYILDIZ

Ship Inspection Officer
Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications
Hakki Turaylic Cad. No. 5 Emek
Ankara 06100

Tel No: +90 312 203 1000 Ext 3449
Mobile: +90 505 260 5607
Fax No: +90 312 231 3306
E-mail: hakan.akyildiz@udhb.gov.tr

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS/ ORGANISATIONS DES NATIONS-UNIES

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

Ms Colleen O'HAGAN

Technical Officer
International Maritime Organization (IMO)
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
UNITED KINGDOM

Tel No: +44 207 463 40 23
Mobile: +44 791 505 9083
Fax No: +44 207 587 32 10
E-mail: COHagan@IMO.org

**UNEP / CO-ORDINATING UNIT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)/ PNUE /
UNITE DE COORDINATION DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE (PAM)**

Ms Tatjana HEMA

Programme Officer
Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MEDPOL)
UNEP/MAP
48, Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue
11635 Athens
GREECE

Tel No: +30 210 727 31 15
Mobile: +30 694 593 53 18
Fax No: +44 210 725 31 96
E-mail: tatjana.hema@unepmap.gr

**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN PARTNERS / NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS / PARTENAIRES DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE /
ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES**

**THE IPIECA GLOBAL OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
AND SOCIAL ISSUES / ASSOCIATION MONDIALE D'ETUDES DES QUESTIONS
ENVIRONNEMENTALES ET SOCIALES DU SECTEUR PETROLIER (IPIECA)**

Mr Philip RUCK

Manager – Oil Spill Working Group
IPIECA
5th Floor
209-215 Blackfriars Road
London
SE1 8NL
UNITED KINGDOM

Tel No: +44 207 633 23 74
Mobile: +44 777 533 76 94
Fax No: +44 207 633 2389
E-mail: philip.ruck@ipieca.org

THE INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION (ITOPF)

Mrs Kelly Suzanne REYNOLDS

Technical Advisor Senior
The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Ltd (ITOPF)
1 Oliver's Yard
55 City Road
London EC1Y 1HQ
UNITED KINGDOM

Tel No: +44 20 7566 6999
Mobile: +44 7525 95 05 92
Fax No: +44 20 7566 6950
E-mail: kellyreynolds@itopf.com

CONSULTANT/CONSULTANT

Mr Miguel PALOMARES
Consultant
Urbanización San Fernando
Casa 15
18600 Motril (Granada)
SPAIN

Tel No: +34 619693711
E-mail: miguelpalomares15@gmail.com

CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS / INTERPRETES DE LA CONFERENCE

ESTA LINGUA LTD

Ms. Carmen DE GAETANO
Ms. Marie WAGNER

Esta Lingua Ltd
Business Studio, Block 2
Ċensu Scerri Street
Tigné, Sliema SLM 3064
Malta

Tel No : +356 2133 5330
E-mail: info@estalingua.com

SECRETARIAT / SECRETARIAT

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

Mr. Gabino GONZALEZ

Head of Office

E-mail: ggonzalez@rempec.org

Mr. Franck LAUWERS

Programme Officer (Prevention)

E-mail: flauwers@rempec.org

Mr Clément CHAZOT

Junior Programme Officer (VIS)

E-mail: vis@rempec.org

Mr. Christopher SACCO

Administrative/Financial Assistant

E-mail: csacco@rempec.org

Ms. Amanda BONAVIA

Secretary/Administrative Assistant

E-mail: mbonavia@rempec.org

REMPEC

Maritime House

Lascaris Wharf

Valletta VLT 1921, MALTA

Tel: +356 21 33 72 96/7/8

Fax: +356 21 33 99 51

E-mail: rempec@rempec.org

APPENDIX II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.36/3/1	Provisional Agenda
REMPEC/WG.36/3/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
REMPEC/WG.36/3/3	Draft Timetable
REMPEC/WG.36/4	Synthetic report on the Assessment of the Implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from ships (2005-2015)
REMPEC/WG.36/5	Comparative report on on-going and existing Mediterranean, European and International Strategies/Sectorial Plans and Initiatives on Marine Environment Protection
REMPEC/WG.36/6	Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution form Ships (2016-2021)
REMPEC/WG.36/6/Corr.1	Corrigendum to Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution form Ships (2016-2021)
REMPEC/WG.36/7	Revised Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution form Ships (2016-2021)
REMPEC/WG.36/8	Report of the Meeting

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.36/INF.1	List of Documents
REMPEC/WG.36/J/1	Provisional List of Participants
REMPEC/WG.36/INF.2	List of Participants

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.16/10	Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships 2005-2015
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.21/9	Report of the 18 th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols, Istanbul (Turkey), 3-6 December 2013

APPENDIX III

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organization of the Meeting
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Synthetic report on the Assessment of the Implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2005-2015).
5. Comparative Report on on-going and existing Mediterranean, European and international strategies / sectorial action plans / initiatives on marine environment protection
6. Introduction to the Draft Revised Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021)
7. Group discussions on the Draft Revised Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021)
8. Outcome of the Group discussions on the Draft Revised Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021)
9. Consideration and adoption of the Draft Revised Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021)
10. Closure of the Meeting

APPENDIX IV

**Revision of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and
Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2005-2015)**

**Revised Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and
Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021)**

12 March 2015

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Following the adoption, in 2002, of the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol), and responding to a recommendation of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols adopted, in 2005, a Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (the 2005 Regional Strategy). The 2005 Regional Strategy, designed to facilitate the implementation of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, consists mainly of 21 objectives to be implemented by 2015.

1.2 In parallel to the preparation of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)'s Integrated Six Year Programme of Work for the period 2016 to 2021 (Mid-Term Strategy), the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2.0 and the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) during the biennium 2014-2015, the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) is carrying out a revision of the 2005 Regional Strategy, seen as an integral part of the MAP's Mid-Term Strategy.

1.3 A Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) (REMPEC/WG.36/6) was prepared, in consultation with REMPEC, by a Consultant engaged by the Centre, and was based on the 2005 Regional Strategy, the recommendations highlighted in the Synthetic Report (REMPEC/WG.36/4) and the Comparative report on ongoing and existing Mediterranean, European and international strategies/sectorial action plans/initiatives on marine environment protection (REMPEC/WG.36/5), which were published respectively on 4 and 6 February 2015.

1.4 The Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) (REMPEC/WG.36/6) was submitted to the Meeting of National Experts on the Revision of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships organised by REMPEC on 11 and 12 March 2015 pursuant to the Programme of Work for 2014-2015 adopted by the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013). The Meeting reviewed the document REMPEC/WG.36/6 and agreed upon the hereunder Revised Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) (REMPEC/WG/36/7) to be further examined by the 11th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC and the Meeting of MAP Focal Point Meetings scheduled in autumn 2015 prior to its adoption by the 19th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols to be tentatively held in February 2016 in Greece. Its final version will also be integrated in the UNEP/MAP's Mid-Term Strategy to be adopted by the same meeting.

2 REVISED DRAFT REGIONAL STRATEGY STRUCTURE AND CONTENTS

2.1 The present Revised Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) (REMPEC/WG/36/7) contains twenty-two objectives to be achieved by 2021, as well as a set of implementation goals (**Annex I**), a list of relevant international Conventions and European Union Legislation (**Annex II**) and a Draft estimated cost of implementation of the Revised Draft Regional Strategy (**Annex III**).

[REVISED DRAFT] STRATEGY FOR PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (2016-2021)

1 REMPEC

Objective and mission Statement

1.1 The objective of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) 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 in meeting their obligations under Articles 4(1), 6 and 9 of the Barcelona Convention; the 1976 Emergency Protocol; the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and implementing the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021), [adopted] by the Contracting Parties in 2016 which key objectives and targets are reflected in the overarching Mediterranean strategies (i.e. Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)'s Integrated Six Year Programme of Work for the period 2016 to 2021 (Mid-Term Strategy) and the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp)). The Centre will also assist the Contracting Parties which so request in mobilizing the regional and international assistance in case of an emergency under the Offshore Protocol.

Scope of action and key issues

1.2 According to the Centre's Mandate adopted by the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Marrakesh, Morocco, 3 – 5 November 2009), REMPEC's main fields of action for the prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships and the development of preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution and cooperation in case of emergency consist of:

- .1 strengthening the capacities of the coastal States in the region with a view to preventing pollution of the marine environment from ships and ensuring the effective implementation in the region of the rules that are generally recognized at the international level relating to the prevention of pollution from ships, and with a view to abating, combating and, to the fullest possible extent, eliminating pollution of the marine environment from shipping activities, including pleasure craft;
- .2 developing regional cooperation in the field of the prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships, and facilitating cooperation among Mediterranean coastal States in order to respond to pollution incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or other hazardous and noxious substances and which require emergency actions or other immediate response;
- .3 assisting coastal States of the Mediterranean region which so request in the development of their own national capabilities for response to pollution incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or other hazardous and noxious substances and facilitating the exchange of information, technological cooperation and training;
- .4 providing a framework for the exchange of information on operational, technical, scientific, legal and financial matters, and promoting dialogue aimed at conducting coordinated action at the national, regional and global levels for the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol; and
- .5 assisting coastal States of the region, which in cases of emergency so request, either directly or by obtaining assistance from the other Parties, or when possibilities for assistance do not exist within the region, in obtaining international assistance from outside the region.

2 PRESENT AND FUTURE SCENARIOS OF THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AND THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

2.1 The [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) (the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy) and its General and Specific Objectives have been developed on the basis of the original Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their 14th Ordinary Meeting in 2005. The revision exercise has been carried out in parallel to the preparation of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)'s Integrated Six Year Programme of Work for the period 2016 to 2021 (Mid-Term Strategy), the drafting of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2.0 (2016-2025) and the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) during the biennium 2014-2015, bearing in mind the legal, financial and institutional framework of the Barcelona system, including in particular the provisions of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, and the mandate of REMPEC as the regional Centre charged with the implementation of the said Protocol. The [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy (2016-2021) should, therefore, be seen as an integral part of the UNEP/MAP's Mid-Term Strategy.

2.2 The revision process has incorporated, as appropriate, the findings of a synthetic report on the Assessment of the Implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2005-2015) (REMPEC/WG.36/4), based on the Contracting Parties' response to a request for information sent by REMPEC during the summer of 2014, and of a comparative report on ongoing and existing Mediterranean, European and international strategies/sectorial action plans/initiatives on marine environment protection (REMPEC/WG.36/5), both prepared under REMPEC's direction.

2.3 Moreover, as it was the case with the original Strategy, the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy has been elaborated in the context of past, present and expected future scenarios characterizing the maritime industry and the Mediterranean region, in particular:

- .1 the ever increasing role of shipping services in a more interconnected globalized world and the consequent need to better ensure the observance of the highest shipping standards also by increased interaction at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels;
- .2 the expected developments related to maritime traffic in the Mediterranean, in particular through the future Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network (TMN-T);
- .3 the heightened concern of the general public at the impact of global shipping activities both on human life and on the marine environment; and
- .4 recent and expected developments at the global and regional levels related to the regulation of shipping that may necessitate new approaches to the protection of the Mediterranean marine environment and require a common approach to the issue of the protection of the marine environment in the region, spearheaded by REMPEC.

2.4 In view of the above, the shipping industry and the relevant private sectors' cooperation and participation should be enhanced through consultations, technical and financial contribution, whilst implementing the Regional Strategy.

3 GENERAL OBJECTIVES

Regional (UNEP/MAP) considerations

3.1 Taking into consideration the mission statement of REMPEC, the legal, financial and institutional framework of the Barcelona system, including in particular the provisions of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, and the present and expected future scenarios characterizing the maritime industry and the Mediterranean region, the overarching objectives of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy are threefold, namely:

- .1 prevention of pollution from ships¹;
- .2 prevention of maritime accidents; and
- .3 preparation for response to major pollution incidents.

3.2 Section 4 describes the Specific Objectives which, if achieved, will meet the general objectives as set out above. For each Specific Objective, certain goals are proposed which will also serve as criteria for indicating the success (or otherwise) of Contracting Parties in meeting the objectives. The implementation goals are set out in tabular form in **Annex I**. Although the role of REMPEC will, as it has been since its inception, be primarily one of assistance to the Contracting Parties in enhancing their national capacities and in facilitating the means for regional or sub-regional cooperation, most of the Specific Objectives include definite tasks which are entrusted to the Secretariat (REMPEC) as an integral part of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy.

3.3 Instead of indicating explicit deadlines for the accomplishment of the Specific Objectives, the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy establishes two levels of urgency: *high priority*, whereby all the Contracting Parties and REMPEC would be expected to accomplish the particular objective by end of 2018, and *medium priority*, for the cases where the implementation of the objectives in question would not realistically be expected less than five years after the adoption of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy, that is by end of 2020. Thus, the ultimate aim would be to have the whole of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy implemented by all the Contracting Parties and REMPEC well before the end of the period covered by the UNEP/MAP's Midterm Strategy 2016-2021. An indication of the priority assigned to each of the Specific Objectives is shown also in **Annex I**.

3.4 The comparative report referred to in paragraph 2.2 above has shown that several areas of activity within the Specific Objectives have strong synergies with the work of other components of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and related regional and international organizations. Where necessary, the undertakings required of REMPEC under the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy should create linkages with the work of such other entities and foster cooperation among them. In particular, account should be taken of the following initiatives and work [under progress]:

- .1 Mediterranean: the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean (MAP Phase II), [Draft] UNEP/MAP's Mid-Term Strategy (2016-2021), Ecosystem Approach (EcAp), Revised Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), Regional Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management, Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management, [Draft] Offshore Protocol Action Plan;
- .2 European: European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) Action Plans for pollution preparedness and response, Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), Marine Strategy Framework, Horizon 2020 Initiative (H2020 Initiative); and
- .3 International: the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) (including the IMO Instruments Implementation Code), IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) priorities.

¹ As defined in Article 2.4 of MARPOL Convention.

UNEP/MAP's Midterm Strategy 2016-2021

3.5 Of the business areas identified in the development process of the UNEP/MAP's Midterm Strategy 2016-2021, the following, **as they may refer to ships**, should be taken into account and be ever present as general objectives when implementing the relevant Specific Objectives of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy:

- .1 to prevent and control contaminant inputs, oil discharges and spills, as well as human-induced eutrophication;
- .2 to prevent marine litter generation and reduce its impact on coastal and marine environment;
- .3 to keep non-indigenous species introduced by human activities at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystem;
- .4 to maintain sea floor integrity, especially in priority benthic habitats; and
- .5 to enhance the resilience of the Mediterranean Region to impacts of climate change and variability on coastal and marine environment.

3.6 The implementation of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy's objectives will be expedited once the Contracting Parties have in place and apply updated national (see also paragraph 3.28 below) and regional governance mechanisms for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the adopted Strategies and Action Plans.

3.7 Also relevant are the outcomes of the MAP's five-year Strategic Programme of Work for the period 2010 to 2014, extended to 2015 by the 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. Of the Programme's priority themes, pollution prevention and control is the most relevant to the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy and should continue to serve as a primary term of reference for the future. So should the establishment of early warning of pollution (oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) spills) and the achievement of lower levels of pollution in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environments. These themes are covered under some of the Specific Objectives of the present [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy. The other pertinent priority theme is climate change, an issue that, under the perspective of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy, should be limited to the contribution that a more efficient and cleaner shipping would make to the general efforts that Contracting Parties should make, both in land and at sea, to stem the repercussions of climate change. This issue is covered under Specific Objectives 1 a) and 15 of the present Strategy.

Ecosystem Approach (EcAp)

3.8 Following the Contracting Parties commitment to progressively apply the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) to the management of human activities with the goal of effecting real change in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, the UNEP/MAP Secretariat was mandated to prepare an Ecosystem Approach Monitoring Programme, and to integrate EcAp in the overall work of UNEP-MAP/Barcelona Convention; the following ecological objectives, relevant to the present Strategy, were identified and are referred to in the relevant Specific Objectives thereof:

- .1 non-indigenous species introduced by human activities are at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystem;
- .2 contaminants cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health;
- .3 marine and coastal litter does not adversely affect coastal and marine environment; and
- .4 noise from human activities causes no significant impact on marine and coastal ecosystems.

3.9 From an initial gap analysis of existing measures under the Barcelona Convention relevant to achieving or maintaining a good environmental status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea, in line with the ecosystem approach, conducted by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat, the following areas were found in need of further work in the future, all of which are addressed one way or another within the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy:

- .1 public participation and science policy interface, which relates to Specific Objective 18 of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy (to encourage the participation of the regional scientific and technical institutions in research and development activities and to facilitate transfer of technology);
- .2 invasive alien species, specifically concerning the Marine Mediterranean Invasive Alien Species (MAMIAS) system, which relates directly to the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management (BWM Mediterranean Strategy) and Specific Objective 1 b) ii);
- .3 marine pollution, which relates to most of the Specific Objectives of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy;
- .4 marine litter, which relates directly to the implementation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex V – Regulations for the prevention of pollution by garbage from ships, the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes (Specific Objectives 1, 5 and 6 of the [Revised Draft] Draft Regional Strategy); and
- .5 marine noise caused by ships, which is covered under Specific Objective 13.

Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)

3.10 Following a decision of the Contracting Parties, at the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 18), to review the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSA), based on a wide stakeholder consultation, recommended that the revised MSSD be focused on six thematic areas in line with the global process to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, of which the following three are considered of relevance to the present [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy and have, therefore, been taken into account in the Strategy's general and some of the Specific Objectives, as appropriate:

Seas and coasts; including efforts towards reaching Good Environmental Status of Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems;

Climate; including the impacts of climate change on natural resources and socioeconomic sectors and possible responses; and

Governance; including financing, Aarhus Convention–related issues such as public participation, and cooperation.

3.11 Drawing from the ongoing review of the MSSD, which envisages the drafting of MSSD 2.0 (2016-2025), the following draft strategic directions have been identified as appropriate for reflection, *mutatis mutandis*, in the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy:

- .1 strengthen implementation and compliance to the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention and other regional policy instruments and initiatives (e.g. EcAp) supplemented by national approaches, which is implied in the Strategy's general and some of the Specific Objectives;

- .2 develop capacity and implement schemes for sharing integrated monitoring data of the marine and coast in a sub-national, national and regionally cooperative manner, which forms part of many of the Specific Objectives under various headings;
- .3 develop scientific knowledge and technical capacities to deal with climate change and ensure informed decision-making at all levels, which is covered under Specific Objective 1 a) as it concerns ships' energy efficiency under MARPOL Annex VI; and
- .4 enhance capacity of national and local governments and other stakeholders, including the private sector, which is relevant to Specific Objectives 3 and 18.

Other relevant initiatives under the MAP

3.12 Of the other regional initiatives and action plan listed in paragraph 3.4.1 above, the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management is referred to under Specific Objectives 1 b) and d); the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management is covered under Specific Objectives 5, 6 and 9; and the Offshore Protocol Action Plan should be taken into account when implementing most of the Specific Objectives, in particular those addressing prevention and control of marine pollution from ships. With regard to the Guidelines concerning Pleasure Craft Activities and the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean, Specific Objective 9 is exclusively dedicated to their implementation.

European (EU) considerations

EMSA

3.13 Drawing from the successful outcome of previous cooperation arrangements between the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and the EMSA, it would be advisable to maintain and, where needed, increase coordination between them, especially when implementing some of the Specific Objectives of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy, which should ideally be in full harmony, not only with the aims of UNEP/MAP's strategies and action plans but also with European Union (EU) policies affecting the protection of the Mediterranean environment currently being, or about to be, implemented by EMSA. Furthermore, Contracting Parties that are not Members of the EU should aspire to bring their maritime safety, maritime security and, especially, ship-generated pollution prevention and response legislation and practices, in line with that of their Mediterranean neighbouring States that are EU Members.

3.14 Currently, there are three Action Plans for pollution preparedness and response developed by EMSA: the first one, applicable to oil (hereinafter referred to as the EMSA Oil Action Plan), identifies the Mediterranean Sea, particularly the area along the tanker route from the Black Sea, as a priority area in European waters which requires additional action. The second one pertains to HNS matters (hereinafter referred to as the EMSA HNS Action Plan). The third one is EMSA'S Action Plan for Response to Marine Pollution from Oil and Gas Installations (hereinafter referred to as the EMSA Offshore Action Plan). The commonalities between some of the measures called for in EMSA's Action Plans and the objectives of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy are all too evident. Therefore, all the relevant Action Plans measures that are considered applicable to the Mediterranean, in particular those areas where EMSA's mandate is extended to cover third parties and regional agreements, should be reflected as appropriate in the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy. To that end, Specific Objectives 7, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 make reference to the above Action Plans.

Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)

3.15 UCPM facilitates cooperation in the field of Civil Protection to improve the effectiveness of systems for preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters, including marine environment emergencies. The Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) should make use of relevant aspects of the UCPM, and reflect them as appropriate actions to be addressed by REMPEC under Specific Objectives 19, 20, 21 and 22.

EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive

3.16 The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) establishes a framework for community action in the field of marine environment policy. In particular, it requires Member States sharing a marine region or sub-region to cooperate to ensure that the measures required to achieve the objectives of the Directive are coherent and coordinated across the marine region or sub-region concerned. To achieve this coordination, Member States are obliged to use existing regional institutional cooperation structures, including those under the Regional Sea Conventions, making every effort to coordinate their actions with third countries having sovereignty or jurisdiction over the waters concerned. Member States are also obliged, as far as possible, to build upon relevant existing programmes and activities developed in the framework of structures stemming from Regional Sea Conventions. It is, therefore, advisable that the applicable provisions of the above-mentioned Directive be borne in mind, as appropriate, when implementing the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy.

H2020 Initiative

3.17 The Horizon 2020 Initiative is an umbrella programme drawing together all the policies, strategies and action plans, placing emphasis on excellent science, industrial leadership and tackling societal challenges, such as enhancing maritime protection. As such, it aims to improve the quality of life of more than 420 million citizens living in the 25 countries bordering the Mediterranean sea, whose responsible ministers have agreed to strengthen the Initiative's pollution prevention dimension and to pay attention to emerging and related issues, such as hazardous waste and marine litter, and at the same time to further strengthen the synergies with the Barcelona Convention and take firm steps to ensure the full implementation and enforcement of policies supporting the H2020 Initiative goals, in line with the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp), with the support of the capacity building component when required.

3.18 Since the second phase of the H2020 Initiative (2015-2020) is clearly of great relevance to the aims and objectives of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy, full consideration should be given to the policies, strategies and action plans contemplated under the second phase of the H2020 Initiative when implementing the Strategy as a whole.

International (IMO) considerations

IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme priorities

3.19 The following thematic priorities relating to the protection of the marine environment, selected for inclusion in the Organization's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) for the biennium 2016-2017 and therefore earmarked for funding under the ITCP, are likely to remain main concerns of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) for years to come:

- .1 assisting countries in implementing the MARPOL Convention and, more specifically, in providing port reception facilities, establishing of Special Areas or Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs), introducing waste management and in the uniform application of Annex VI on energy efficiency measures for ships;
- .2 assisting countries in implementing the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC Convention) and the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000 (OPRC-HNS Protocol) and enhancing regional cooperation in marine pollution preparedness, response and cooperation as well as addressing aspects of the implementation of the relevant international regimes on liability and compensation for oil and HNS pollution damage;
- .3 strengthening national and regional capacity and fostering regional cooperation for the ratification and effective implementation of the Hong Kong Convention on Ship Recycling, the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention) and ships' biofouling guidelines; and
- .4 assisting countries in ratifying and implementing the London Protocol on Prevention of Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter.

3.20 All of the thematic priorities enumerated above have direct correspondence with several Specific Objectives and therefore, should be reflected in the relevant actions requested under the said objectives. The thematic priorities have thus been captured, as appropriate, under Specific Objectives 1, 5, 12, 15, 20, 21 and 22.

3.21 As mentioned in paragraph 3.19 above, it should be noted that IMO may be required by Member Governments to provide assistance for the implementation and delivery of the objectives referring to in the above IMO ITCP thematic priorities, once approved by the Technical Co-operation Committee of the Organization. As a general objective, the Secretariat is requested to explore ways and means that would secure such assistance for the implementation of the Specific Objectives in question.

IMO Member State Audit Scheme

3.22 Based on the experience gained through the implementation of the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme (VIMSAS), the IMO Assembly adopted, in 2009, the IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code), which would constitute the new audit standard and would be made mandatory under the relevant international conventions, together with revised Framework and Procedures for the implementation of the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS), adopted in 2013. The Assembly, at the same time, urged Governments to continue to volunteer and make themselves available for audits under the mandatory IMO instruments previously covered by the VIMSAS, leading up to the entry into force of the amendments to relevant conventions to make the III Code mandatory, when the new IMSAS would become fully effective, possibly in 2016. These important developments are captured in the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy, under Specific Objective 3.

Implementation of the Strategy

3.23 Full and effective implementation of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy depends, *inter alia*, on three main factors:

- .1 the political will of Contracting Parties;
- .2 the capacity of REMPEC to respond to the demands of Contracting Parties in the preparation of documents, such as guidelines and other enabling instruments, and in the coordination and organization of activities; and
- .3 the provision of adequate human and financial resources.

3.24 First of all, the political willingness of Contracting Parties to take action in the field of prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships has already been demonstrated by the adoption of several instruments emanating from the framework of the Barcelona Convention, especially the Prevention and Emergency Protocol. However, a sizeable number of Contracting Parties were not able to accomplish many of the Specific Objectives adopted through the original 2005 Regional Strategy. It is, therefore, evident that further concrete action is necessary in order to give meaningful effect to the political and legal commitments which the adoption of the Protocol and its associated strategies and action plans imply. Moreover, the continuous occurrence of pollution incidents in the region will surely help to focus governments' minds on the importance of addressing these issues.

3.25 Secondly, it is important to ensure that REMPEC is given adequate human resources and facilities in order to fulfil its responsibilities in assisting Contracting Parties to enhance their national capabilities and in facilitating regional co-operation. Specifically, additional dedicated staff will be required during the period covered by the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy to enable REMPEC to discharge its mandate. Considering that the financial situation is currently going through a delicate period, the provision of adequately trained officials seconded by Contracting Parties to work at REMPEC for limited periods of time (e.g. two years) would allow the Centre to carry out its mandate under the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy in a thorough and timely manner. Such secondments would also have the additional benefit of enabling the seconded officers to deepen their

understanding and knowledge of the UNEP/MAP's regime in general and of REMPEC's activities in particular.

3.26 Thirdly, it is recognized that, in many cases, the lack of implementation and enforcement of the actions involved is the result of inadequate human and financial resources being allocated within the Administrations to carry out the tasks required. Hence, in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy, it will be essential for all Contracting Parties to ensure that governments, including the national maritime and marine environment authorities, are aware of the importance of the issues addressed by the Prevention and Emergency Protocol and its associated strategies and action plans and allocate the necessary additional resources to fulfil the tasks in question. In this connection, it can be envisaged that some funds may become available from the specialized agencies of the UN system, e.g. IMO, to carry out tasks which would also help to fulfil the mandates of these organizations and agencies. Furthermore, financial support for clearly defined projects which also meet the EU's objectives might be obtained through the various funding mechanisms of the European Union.

3.27 Finally, within the structure of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, there is a clear role for REMPEC to play in the implementation of projects aimed at further introducing the EU legislative framework, adapted as necessary, to the national rules and regulations of Mediterranean States that are non-EU members, in order to ensure a coherent, effective and uniform implementation of the applicable international regulatory framework addressing maritime safety and the prevention of and response to pollution from ships in the Mediterranean. The relevant European Union legislation and the applicable international (IMO) conventions are listed in **Annex II**.

National Action Plan

3.28 In addition to the above remarks and observations, it may be argued that the main cause behind the perceived poor implementation at the national level of many of the Specific Objectives of the 2005 Regional Strategy has been the lack of a well-structured and specific National Action Plan which would have helped the responsible authorities to face their obligations in an organized and timely manner, with the support of adequate budgetary provisions. A new specific sub-objective has, therefore, been integrated into Specific Objective 3 – Ensuring effective maritime Administrations to request the establishment, with the support of REMPEC, of National Action Plans (NAP) which would define the required actions to enable each country to implement the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy and other obligations under regional and international instruments. Such initiative would also facilitate the linking of the NAP with IMO efforts concerning the definition of IMO instruments compliance gaps, the IMO Member State Scheme Audit Scheme (IMSAS), including the IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code), IMO's plans to assist developing countries with the preparation of national maritime policies focusing on IMO related issues and, ultimately, to define a plan of action to fill the identified gaps.

4 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

4.1 Ratification of relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment

In addition to the Barcelona Convention and its relevant Protocols there are a number of international conventions which address the prevention of and response to pollution from ships. The most important of these is the International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, commonly known as MARPOL Convention, and its six annexes. Other relevant conventions, mainly those adopted under the auspices of IMO, are listed in **Annex II** to the present [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy. There remain a number of gaps in Mediterranean States' ratification of the relevant international conventions. It is therefore essential that, in order to establish and maintain the comprehensive legal basis that would enable coastal States to take the necessary action to prevent and respond to cases of pollution by ships in the Mediterranean Sea, all Mediterranean States take action, where necessary, to ratify and simultaneously ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of these conventions according to the priorities indicated hereunder. As part of its mandate, REMPEC will also provide Mediterranean coastal States, which so request, with advice and assistance in this respect.

In particular, with the adoption of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management (the BWM Mediterranean Strategy), including its associated Action Plan and Timetable, the efforts of Contracting Parties engaged in the process of ratifying the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and sediments, 2004 should be coordinated with the implementation of the BWM Mediterranean Strategy. In this respect, REMPEC should be expected to play an essential role in the coordination of the implementation of the BWM Mediterranean Strategy's Action Plan and also in its role as the Regional Coordination Organization (RCO) for the implementation of the GloBallast Partnerships Project in the Mediterranean in collaboration with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA).

The Mediterranean Coastal States, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, agree:

- a) to ratify and implement, with *high priority*, the MARPOL Convention and its six annexes, to ensure their transposition into national law, placing special emphasis on revised Annex V (Regulations for the prevention of pollution by garbage from ships) and Annex VI (Regulations for the prevention of air pollution from ships) as amended, and to co-operate through REMPEC to ensure full compliance with its provisions;
- b) to ratify and implement, with *high priority*, other IMO relevant international conventions and to ensure their transposition into national law by the same time and full compliance with their provisions, in particular, but not limited to:
 - i) the 2001 International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships;
 - ii) the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and sediments, 2004, including its associated Guidelines and other related recommendations, in coordination with the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management;
 - iii) the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009;
 - iv) the 1992 International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage;
 - v) the 2001 International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage;
 - vi) the 1992 International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage;

- vii) the 2003 Protocol on the Establishment of a Supplementary Fund for Oil Pollution Damage;
- viii) the 2010 Protocol to the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996;
- ix) the 2007 Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks;
- x) the 1990 International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC 90 Convention) and its 2000 Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to pollution incidents by Hazardous Substances (2000 OPRC-HNS Protocol); and
- xi) the 1996 London Protocol on Prevention of Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter².

To request the Secretariat:

- c) to provide Mediterranean coastal States, which so request, with advice and assistance in order to meet the priorities set forth in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above;
- d) to assist Mediterranean coastal States, which so request, in their efforts to ratify and implement the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and sediments, 2004, in conjunction with the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management and of the GloBallast Partnerships Project in the Mediterranean in collaboration with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA); and
- e) to explore the possibility of drawing assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme.

² Any work carried out at IMO level on the London Protocol should be streamlined with the Barcelona Convention Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft under the responsibility of MEDPOL.

4.2 To control and manage ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species

In addition to the transfer of invasive aquatic species through ships' ballast water, addressed in the 2004 International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, studies have shown that biofouling can also be a significant vector for the transfer of such species. Biofouling on ships entering the waters of the Mediterranean may result in the establishment of invasive aquatic species which may pose serious threats to human, animal and plant life, economic and cultural activities and the aquatic environment as a whole. On the other hand, the 2001 International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships focuses on the prevention of adverse impacts from the use of anti-fouling systems and the biocides they may contain, but it is not meant to prevent the transfer of invasive aquatic species.

Cognizant that the potential for invasive aquatic species transferred through biofouling to cause harm had been recognized not only by IMO, but also by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), several UNEP Regional Seas Conventions (e.g., the Barcelona Convention), the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Region Environmental Program (SPREP), the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee adopted the 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species, while requesting Member States to take urgent action in applying the Guidelines when adopting measures to minimize the risk of introducing invasive aquatic species via biofouling.

These Guidelines are intended to provide a globally consistent approach to the management of biofouling. As scientific and technological advances are made, the Guidelines will be refined to enable the risk to be more adequately addressed. Port States, flag States, coastal States and other parties that can assist in mitigating the problems associated with biofouling should exercise due diligence to implement the Guidelines to the maximum extent possible. As part of its mandate, REMPEC will be expected to provide Mediterranean coastal States, which so request, with advice and assistance in this respect.

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to apply, with *medium priority*, the 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species when adopting measures to minimize the risk of introducing such species via biofouling, and report to IMO on any experience gained in their implementation;
- b) to disseminate the Guidelines to the shipping industry and other interested parties, and request them to cooperate in minimizing the risks involved; and

To request the Secretariat:

- c) to provide Mediterranean coastal States, which so request, with advice and assistance in order to fulfil the aims under sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above.

4.3 Ensuring effective maritime administrations

The successful implementation of relevant international instruments is very much dependant on ensuring that ships comply with internationally required standards at all times. This of course requires States to make sure that they have in place effective maritime administrations capable of discharging effectively their flag State, port State and coastal State obligations in line with the associated IMO recommendations and guidelines. In this connection, the IMO Assembly adopted in 2013 key resolutions and amendments relating to the Organization's mandatory audit scheme, paving the way for the scheme to come into effect by 2016. The mandatory audit scheme is seen as a key tool for assessing Member States' performance in meeting their obligations and responsibilities as flag, port and coastal States under the relevant IMO treaties and then offering the necessary assistance, where required, for them to meet their obligations fully and effectively.

At the same time, the Assembly adopted the IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code), which provides a global standard to enable States to meet their obligations as flag, port and/or coastal States; the Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme; the 2013 non-exhaustive list of obligations under instruments relevant to the III Code; and a resolution on transitional arrangements from the voluntary to the mandatory scheme. All of these are seen as essential documents which, if thoroughly applied, will guarantee an effective and efficient maritime administration.

One of the important obligations under the MARPOL Convention and other international treaties is the requirement that officers from the maritime administrations carry out regular inspections on ships flying their own flag and on foreign flag vessels visiting their ports to ensure that they comply with the relevant provisions of the MARPOL and other applicable conventions. The problem is that although checks may be carried out, the quality of the inspection can vary from port to port and from officer to officer. Although there is a need to increase the number of inspections in order to identify substandard ships, it is essential first to improve the quality of those inspections. It is suggested that this can be achieved by focusing more attention on the training of inspection officers from the Mediterranean coastal States. In this regard, REMPEC could play a crucial role in training ship inspectors to carry out ship inspections related to international marine environment protection conventions, in particular, the MARPOL convention.

The full implementation of the present [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy should also be a measure of the effectiveness of a maritime administration. A well-structured and specific National Action Plan clearly defining the procedures and required actions that will help each country to implement the Strategy will ensure, or at least facilitate, the attaining of the aims and objectives of the Strategy with the support of REMPEC. Such initiative would also facilitate the linking of the NAP with IMO efforts concerning the definition of IMO instruments compliance gaps, *inter alia* the IMO Member State Scheme Audit Scheme (IMSAS), including the IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code), IMO's plans to assist developing countries with the preparation of national maritime policies focusing on IMO related issues, and, ultimately, to define a plan of action to fill the identified gaps. In other words, the NAPs would provide a useful tool to assess progress in individual countries and guide them in their implementation efforts in a tailored manner, including the carrying out of a national assessment and the definition of the remedial action that may be deemed necessary.

In order to ensure the effectiveness of their maritime administrations,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to prepare, with *high priority* and seeking the assistance of REMPEC if necessary, National Action Plans (NAP) to enable them to assess progress made, to guide them in the full implementation of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy in a tailored manner, and to conduct a national assessment of their capabilities and define the necessary remedial action;
- b) that all Mediterranean coastal States that have not already done so, with *high priority*, endeavour to enhance, on the basis of the National Action Plan (NAP) mentioned above, the performance of their maritime administrations by conducting a self-assessment of their capabilities and performance in giving full and complete effect to MARPOL and other applicable conventions, by using the guidance set out in the relevant IMO Resolution dealing

with the self-assessment of flag State performance³ and other relevant IMO recommendations and guidelines⁴;

- c) that all Mediterranean coastal States that have not already done so, in their efforts to protect the marine environment and once the self-assessment mentioned in subparagraph a) above has been carried out successfully and any remedial action taken, endeavour to prepare, with *high priority*, for undertaking the IMO Member State Audit Scheme, using the III Code as the audit standard and following the Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme, once it is fully institutionalized when the said III Code becomes mandatory under MARPOL and other Conventions, expectedly in 2016;

To request the Secretariat:

- d) to assist the Mediterranean coastal States which so request in the development of the National Action Plan mentioned in sub-paragraph a) above, designed to enable them to assess progress made, to guide them in the full implementation of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy in a tailored manner, and to conduct a national assessment of their capabilities and define the necessary remedial action;
- e) to continue assisting the Mediterranean coastal States which so request in enhancing the performance of their maritime administrations in line with new IMO developments, in particular IMSAS;
- f) to provide support to the Mediterranean coastal States which so request to prepare for undertaking the IMO Member State Audit Scheme, having explored the possible technical assistance to which some of them may be entitled under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme and other sources; and
- g) to continue improving the knowledge and expertise of flag State inspection officers by establishing, through REMPEC, a programme of training activities related to relevant international instruments, in particular MARPOL, ensuring appropriate training for ship inspectors.

³ IMO Assembly resolution A.912 (22) – Self-assessment of flag State performance.

⁴ The 2013 edition of the IMO publication entitled “MARPOL-How to do it” contains useful information on this issue.

4.4 To strengthen the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on port State control (PSC) in the Mediterranean region (Mediterranean MoU)

In order to enhance the effectiveness of individual States in carrying out port State control inspections of ships under international maritime conventions, including in particular the MARPOL Convention, various regional Memoranda of Understanding have been agreed by the States concerned to enhance their regional co-operation on this issue. The Paris MoU was adopted in 1982 to strengthen co-operation on port State control primarily between European States and, in the mid-1990s, a MoU for the Mediterranean region was adopted with its headquarters in Alexandria and an Information Centre in Morocco.

The EU Directive 2009/16/EC sets out an inspection commitment for EU Member States which is based on a Ship Risk Profile. Ships may also be prioritized for inspection following complaints received from any person or entity with a legitimate interest. Furthermore, it includes the possibility to ban ships from the EU ports. The Mediterranean MoU sets out an inspection level of 15% inspections, but this target is not yet achieved and, moreover, a different detention policy is followed.

The enlargement of the EU, whereby three members of the Mediterranean MoU fall under the rules of the EU Directive, deserves full attention. During that time, REMPEC has played, and should continue playing, an enabling role in improving the effectiveness of the Mediterranean MoU and enhancing the co-operation between the Mediterranean MoU and the Paris MoU.

In order to achieve the Specific Objective of strengthening the Memorandum of Understanding on port State control in the Mediterranean region,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to maintain their mandate to REMPEC whereby the Centre should, if and when possible, offer its assistance to the Mediterranean MoU on port State control in order to improve its effectiveness and, if so requested, to facilitate co-operation between the Paris MoU and the Mediterranean MoU;
- b) to make available, *with high priority*, the necessary resources and means to enable the Mediterranean MoU to function efficiently;

To request the Secretariat:

- c) to continue seeking participation in the meetings of the MoU Committee;
- d) to associate itself with port State control training activities addressing environmental matters, including those related to Anti Fouling Systems, Ballast Water Management and biofouling, where appropriate, in collaboration with recognized training institutions within the region; and
- e) to work in association with the MoUs on port State control, in particular with the Paris MoU, on the organization and follow-up analysis of concentrated inspection campaigns on MARPOL-related deficiencies.

4.5 Provision of reception facilities in ports

The MARPOL Convention requires its Parties to ensure the provision of port reception facilities that can receive shipboard residues and mixtures covered under its various annexes. This is a requirement that is also reflected in the Prevention and Emergency Protocol and in relevant EU legislation. Therefore, failure to provide such facilities will mean a breach of international commitments and, furthermore, may give way to unscrupulous ship operators to illegally discharge prohibited matter into the sea. The need to avoid these discharges is crucial in the case of a virtually closed body of water, such as the Mediterranean Sea. Although this rationale is well known and has been underscored time and time again ever since MARPOL was adopted, some coastal States still find it difficult, possibly on account of perceived excessive cost, to provide even their major ports with the reception facilities they are obliged to under the MARPOL annexes they have ratified and the associated European and regional legislation.

Some Contracting Parties continue facing a number of problems associated with the lack of adequate port reception facilities in the Mediterranean region. Firstly, there is still a lack of sufficient guidance on the technical requirements for providing adequate reception facilities for the different types of ship-generated waste and cargo residues, although this issue was addressed in particular by the MEDA project⁵. Secondly, there is the problem of ultimate disposal of the wastes in environmentally satisfactory conditions. This is essentially a waste management problem and requires the establishment of appropriate procedures between the port authority (which generally is not a waste disposal authority) and the local waste management authorities for the different types of waste (e.g. garbage comparable to municipal waste; oily wastes and sludge which may be suitable for delivery to refineries for reprocessing or to appropriate users as fuel oils). Thirdly, there is the question of cost for the provision of reception facilities and the need to observe, *inter alia*, the polluter pays principle which implies that the ships using the facilities should pay for their services. The EU Directive 2000/59/EC⁶ regulates this and other related issues as far as the EU Member States are concerned, whereas at the international level, the latest edition of the IMO Comprehensive Manual on Port Reception Facilities⁷, the Guide to Good Practice for Port Reception Facility Providers and Users⁸, the Guidelines for Ensuring the Adequacy of Port Waste Reception Facilities⁹ and the new requirements incorporated in the relevant MARPOL Annexes since 2005, in particular the revision of MARPOL Annex V and developments in the categorisations of cargo-associated waste, should also be taken fully into account.

At the regional level, in conformity with the objectives and principles of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management adopted by the Contracting Parties in the Framework of Article 15 of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol), the Contracting Parties shall, according to Article 9 of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management and in accordance with Article 14 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, explore and implement to the extent possible by 2017, ways and means to charge reasonable cost for the use of port reception facilities or when applicable, apply a No-Special-Fee system. The Contracting Parties shall also take the necessary steps to provide ships using their ports with updated information relevant to the obligation arising from Annex V of the MARPOL Convention and from their legislation applicable in the field.

In conformity with article 10 of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management, the Contracting Parties undertake to explore and implement, by the year 2019, to the extent possible, measures to charge reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable apply No-Special-Fee system, in consultation with competent international and regional organizations, when using port reception facilities for implementing the measures provided for in Article 10.

The question of payment for port reception facilities is an important issue in order to ensure that

⁵ MEDA Project on port reception facilities for collecting ship-generated garbage, bilge waters and oily wastes (MED.B7.4100.97.0415.8).

⁶ Directive 2000/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2000 on port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues.

⁷ Expected to be approved by MEPC 68 in 2015 with the new title "Port Reception Facilities - How to do it".

⁸ Circular MEPC.1/Circ.671/Rev.1.

⁹ Resolution MEPC.83 (44).

charges are not prohibitively high so as to encourage ships' masters to contravene the Convention by discharging wastes at sea. On the other hand, differences in practice between one port and the next, including whether or not waste management fees are charged as an additional cost to users of the reception facilities or are incorporated within the port due, can lead to distortions in the use of reception facilities and could lead to significant waste management burdens on those providing such facilities at cheaper cost. In order to ensure that waste management fees are not a disincentive to the use of reception facilities in Mediterranean ports, Mediterranean coastal States should address this issue.

In order to meet the Specific Objective of providing adequate reception facilities in ports,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to provide, with *high priority*, unless specified otherwise and if appropriate action has not been already taken, adequate reception facilities in their ports and consider procedures related to the cost of the use of such facilities, enabling their use as soon as they are available at a fee which should be reasonable and should not serve as a disincentive for their use;
- b) For garbage, with *high priority*:
 - i. all major ports to install facilities for the collection of garbage and procedures for its disposal; and
 - ii. collection and disposal procedures for garbage to be in place for all major ports.
- c) For oily wastes, with *high priority*:
 - i. all major ports to establish collection, treatment and disposal procedures for bilge waters, oily residues and dirty ballast waters; and
 - ii. collection, treatment and disposal procedures for bilge waters, oily residues and dirty ballast waters to be in place for all major ports.
- d) For Noxious Liquid Substances (NLS) , with *high priority*:
 - i. all major ports handling NLS to establish collection, treatment and disposal procedures for NLS; and
 - ii. collection, treatment and disposal procedures for NLS to be in place for all major ports.
- e) For sewage, with *high priority*:
 - i. all major ports to establish collection and treatment procedures for sewage; and
 - ii. collection and treatment procedures for sewage to be in place for all major ports.
- f) For ozone-depleting substances and exhaust gas cleaning residues, with *medium priority*:
 - i. all major ports to establish collection and treatment procedures for ozone-depleting substances and exhaust cleaning residues; and
 - ii. collection and treatment procedures for such substances and residues to be in place for all major ports.

- g) For ballast water and sediments, *with high priority*:
 - i. all major ports and terminals where cleaning or repair of ballast tanks occurs to endeavour to take action to be in a position to comply with the provisions of the 2004 Ballast Water Convention by its entry-into-force date or as soon as possible thereafter.

To request the Secretariat:

- h) to provide well-structured advice to Mediterranean coastal States, which so request, that may include, but not necessarily limited to, assessing the type, specifications, and capacity of the equipment necessary at major ports to efficiently and effectively handle shipboard residues and mixtures. Such assistance may also include preparation of guidelines or sample form of operation plans. All this should be based on previous work done on this matter and taking into account the latest edition of the IMO Comprehensive Manual on Port Reception Facilities, the IMO Guide to Good Practice for Port Reception Facility Providers and Users and the new requirements incorporated since 2005 in the relevant mandatory instruments, to assist Contracting Parties in the accomplishment of this objective; and
- i) in preparing the advice mentioned in subparagraph h) above, to also contribute to the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management, as deemed appropriate, in particular for the preparation of specific guidelines to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, where appropriate, the application of a No-Special-Fee system, in consultation with various relevant regional and global institutions and initiatives.

4.6 Delivery of ship-generated wastes

The provision of port reception facilities is not an end in itself but the means to achieve an end, namely the prevention of marine pollution by illegal discharges. However, some vessels may have sufficient dedicated storage capacity on board to deliver their wastes at another port of call without risking illegal discharge at sea. In such cases it is important to establish a system whereby a port notifies the authorities in the vessel's next port of call about the status of the ship's waste storage conditions in order that the authorities in the next port of call can inspect the vessel to ensure that there has been no illegal discharge in transit.

In some cases the port authorities may deem it essential that the ships concerned deliver their waste to port reception facilities before leaving the port. It is important, therefore, that the appropriate port authorities have adequate national powers to enforce such a decision.

In order to meet the Specific Objective of improved control of ship-generated wastes,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to establish, with *high priority* and if appropriate action has not been already taken, a system of notification to a vessel's next port of call of the status of its on board retention of bilge waters, oily wastes, HNS residues, sewage, garbage, ozone-depleting substances and exhaust gas cleaning residues;
- b) that all Mediterranean States implement, with *high priority*, national regulations empowering maritime authorities to require, if they deem it necessary, the Masters of vessels to discharge wastes into designated port reception facilities before sailing; and

To request the Secretariat:

- c) to provide advice on the subject as may be requested by Contracting Parties, possibly in association with the well-structured advice requested under the Specific Objective on the provision of reception facilities in ports, taking also into account, where appropriate, the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management.

4.7 Improved follow-up of pollution events as well as monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges

Although under the 2005 Regional Strategy this Specific Objective called for the establishment, by 2010, of systems and procedures for national monitoring and surveillance, with the exception of a few Mediterranean coastal States, which have already set up aerial surveillance of the waters under their jurisdiction, there continues to be a general lack of monitoring and surveillance of Mediterranean waters, necessary for the effective implementation of the MARPOL Convention. This lack of surveillance keeps inviting unscrupulous ship operators to discharge illicit wastes without fear of detection.

If the Prevention and Emergency Protocol is to have any meaning, it will be essential for all Contracting Parties to embark on a regular system of national aerial surveillance. The burden of surveillance may be shared by allowing the aircraft of a neighbouring State to overfly the waters under the jurisdiction of another State for the purposes of monitoring compliance with the MARPOL Convention. There are various regions of the Mediterranean, which lend themselves to such sub-regional co-operation. Nevertheless, the aerial surveillance should always be complemented by maritime patrols.

In addition to surveillance by aircraft and patrol boats, cooperation and exchange of information on satellite surveillance should be enhanced for improving the detection of illicit discharges in the entire Mediterranean region. The extension to all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention of the CleanSeaNet services offered by EMSA to EU Member States and recently made available to the beneficiary countries of the Project Euromed Co-Operation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships III (Safemed III) (e.g. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, and Tunisia) and to REMPEC, should be explored in cooperation with REMPEC.

REMPEC, on the other hand, implemented two projects regarding this issue, namely the Marine & Coastal Environmental Information Services Project (MARCOAST) Project and the Aerial & Satellite surveillance of Operational Pollution in the Adriatic Sea (AESOP) Project, between 2007 and 2009 and has organised a number of activities, for instance, the Coordinated Aerial Surveillance Operations for illicit ship pollution discharges (opération de surveillance coordonnée aérienne des rejets des navires en Méditerranée – OSCAR-MED) in October 2009 and June 2013. With the continuous support of REMPEC, such operations should be intensified and carried out on a regular basis in the entire region and should be coordinated with measures undertaken for the enforcement and the prosecution of discharge offenders as further detailed in the following Specific Objective 8.

In order to meet the Specific Objective of improved monitoring and surveillance of illegal discharges,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to establish, with *high priority* and if appropriate action has not been already taken, systems and procedures for national and sub-regional monitoring and surveillance including, where practicable, regular individual or coordinated aerial surveillance in the waters under the jurisdiction of Contracting Parties and to report the results to the regular meetings of REMPEC Focal Points;
- b) to endeavour to establish, with *high priority*, sub-regional systems, including procedures to over-fly the waters under the jurisdiction of a neighbouring State if the Parties so agree, for surveillance of environmentally sensitive and/or high risk zones of the Mediterranean Sea;

To request the Secretariat:

- c) to analyse, as far as practical, through direct correspondence with the Contracting Parties, the reasons behind the poor record of compliance with this objective by many Contracting Parties;

- d) to continue organizing and participating in, funding and human resources permitting, any new activities on this issue where the Centre is requested to play a role, building on the experience gathered from the activities carried out on national monitoring and surveillance;
- e) to facilitate the organization of regular coordinated or individual aerial surveillance operation for illicit ship pollution discharges;
- f) to explore the possible extension to all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and to REMPEC of the CleanSeaNet services offered by EMSA; and
- g) in carrying out the above requests, to cooperate with other Regional Agreements and EMSA.

4.8 To improve the level of enforcement and the prosecution of discharge offenders¹⁰

Even though many Mediterranean States have ratified the MARPOL Convention, not all countries have yet established a national legal framework to effectively implement the Convention and, in particular, a comprehensive framework to enforce the provisions and prosecute offenders, although it is understood that the remaining countries are in the process of adopting enabling national legislation.

Although the subject is complex, much progress has been made within the framework of the Agreement for Co-operation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances (Bonn Agreement) and Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) for dealing with such issues in the North and Baltic Seas, as well as in the part of the Mediterranean covered by Lion Plan and RAMOGE agreement, and there is considerable scope for other Mediterranean States to benefit from this experience.

REMPEC has assisted Mediterranean countries to establish an appropriate legal framework for the transposition into national legislation of the provisions of the MARPOL Convention relevant to illicit discharges. An assessment of the situation with respect to MARPOL Annex I implementation was carried out in Mediterranean countries which are not EU member States. Other efforts of the Centre have focused on enhancing the knowledge of legal personnel, prosecutors and magistrates and facilitating judicial co-operation and the establishment of possible common procedures, which ultimately led to the establishment of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS), whose terms of reference were adopted by the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention.

Although much effort has been made to accomplish this task under the 2005 Regional Strategy, there are still some Contracting Parties that need to take action on this issue. Therefore, in order to achieve the Specific Objective of improving the level of enforcement and the prosecution of discharge offenders within the Mediterranean region:

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) that, with *high priority*, all Mediterranean States ensure the existence of a national legal framework (regulations) as a basis for prosecuting discharge offenders for infringements of the MARPOL Convention or of any national legal framework implementing it;
- b) to actively participate, with *high priority*, in the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention in accordance with its terms of reference;

To request the Secretariat:

- c) to continue providing support to Contracting Parties, and act as the Secretariat of MENELAS and to report on its activities to the Contracting Parties at each of their Ordinary Meetings;
- d) to be responsible for the maintenance of the MENELAS information system; and
- e) to collaborate with UNEP/MAP Secretariat to further exploit possible synergies with the Regional Seas framework such as the North Sea Network of investigators and Prosecutors (NSN), the Baltic Sea Network of Environmental Crime Prosecutors (ENPRO) and EMSA in the framework of MENELAS.

¹⁰ Reference is made to IMO Assembly Resolution A.787 (19), as amended by Resolution A.882 (21). The IMO publication entitled "MARPOL-How to do it" contains useful information in relation to the issues of "Prosecuting offences" and "Pollution detection and response".

4.9 To reduce the pollution generated by pleasure craft activities

Following the outcome of preparatory work for the development of a legal regional instrument dealing with prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean in collaboration with Institut du Droit Economique de la Mer (INDEMER); the outcome of the Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention; and the decision of the Meeting of National Experts on the Feasibility of a Legal Regional Instrument on Prevention of Pollution from Pleasure Craft Activities in the Mediterranean held in Monaco in 2004, a set of Principles to serve as a framework for the further development by REMPEC of Guidelines on prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean was agreed.

Under the 2005 Regional Strategy, the Contracting Governments agreed that the above-mentioned Guidelines should be prepared and implemented together with the relevant provisions of the MARPOL Convention. Consequently, REMPEC, in close cooperation with IMO, developed the subject Guidelines, which were eventually adopted by the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, renamed as the Guidelines concerning Pleasure Craft Activities and the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean¹¹. The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist Governments when developing, improving and enacting domestic laws and taking appropriate measures, with a view to implementing international and regional regulations applicable to the prevention of pollution of the marine environment from pleasure craft activities. They are also intended to users of pleasure craft and managers of marinas to encourage them to apply proper environmental practices and to comply with the relevant requirements, and should also serve to assist in planning and developing the environmental performance of marinas.

Additionally, Contracting Parties implementing the Guidelines concerning Pleasure Craft Activities and the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean should also refer to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management, as appropriate.

Taking into consideration the Guidelines referred to above, and in order to meet the Specific Objective of reducing pollution problems generated by pleasure craft,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to implement, with *high priority*, the Guidelines concerning Pleasure Craft Activities and the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean, in conjunction with the relevant provisions of the MARPOL Convention and the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management;
- b) to report to the Secretariat on the measures they undertook to implement the said Guidelines;

To request the Secretariat:

- c) to assist Mediterranean States in the implementation of the Guidelines referred to in subparagraph a) above, taking into account the relevant provisions of the MARPOL Convention and the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management; and
- d) to keep a record of the reports sent by the Contracting Parties under sub-paragraph b) above and submit periodical synthetic reports to the relevant meetings of the Contracting Parties.

¹¹ UNEP/MAP Decision IG 17/9

4.10 Reduced risk of collisions by establishing Ship's Routeing Systems

The objective of ships' routeing is to improve the safety of navigation, and therefore the prevention of marine pollution by ships, in converging areas and in areas where the density of traffic is great or where freedom of movement of shipping is inhibited by restricted sea room, the existence of obstructions to navigation, limited depths or unfavourable meteorological conditions. Traffic separation schemes and other ship routeing systems have now been established in most of the major congested shipping areas of the world, and the number of collisions and groundings has often been dramatically reduced.

IMO's responsibility for ships' routeing is enshrined in Chapter V of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS), which recognizes the Organization as the only international body for establishing such systems. As well as traffic separation schemes, other routeing measures adopted by IMO to improve safety at sea include two-way routes, recommended tracks, deep water routes, precautionary areas, and areas to be avoided.

Some Ship's Routeing Systems have already been established in the Mediterranean. However, there may be scope for creating additional systems, at least in narrow passages and in the region of the most sensitive coastal areas.

The establishment of a network of Marine/Maritime Highways as a succession of the network of physically-defined navigation routes and Traffic Separation Schemes (TSS), could ultimately support different aspects of the integrated perspective of marine and maritime affairs in the Mediterranean sea-basin, in view of the establishment of maritime spatial planning including *inter alia* the necessity to avoid some areas such as MPAs (Marine Protected Areas) and SPAMI (Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance); the monitoring and investigating of illicit discharges from ships; better response to emergencies, including search and rescue operations, emergency towing and pollution response; and organization of the co-existence of multiple maritime activities. Considering the entry into force in July 2014 of the Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning, which should be transposed, by 2016, by EU Member States in view of the establishment of their Maritime Spatial Plans (MSP) by 2021, and noting that the Directive requires that EU Member States sharing a sea should cooperate to ensure that their MSPs are coherent and coordinated across the marine region, UNEP/MAP components including in particular the Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and REMPEC have a key role to play in the establishment of MSPs in the Mediterranean region, should all Contracting Parties decide to follow that path.

In order to meet the Specific Objective of reducing the risk of collisions by establishing additional Systems and to potentially establish Maritime Spatial Plans in the Mediterranean region,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to propose to IMO, where necessary, additional appropriate routeing systems in the Mediterranean for possible adoption in accordance with international law;
- b) to consider establishing, when and where possible, and without prejudice to the sovereign right of the States, MSPs under their jurisdiction in close collaboration with the relevant national competent authorities and in cooperation with other Mediterranean coastal States ensuring that their MSPs are coherent and coordinated across the Mediterranean region;

To request the Secretariat:

- c) to assist Contracting Parties that so request, either individually or collectively, in the identification of possible sea areas where a routeing system might be deemed necessary and in the preparation of the relevant documentation to initiate the process at IMO; and
- d) to support, in close cooperation with other MAP components, Contracting Parties which so require in their efforts toward the establishment of MSPs.

4.11 Improved control of maritime traffic

According to SOLAS chapter V on Safety of Navigation, specifically regulation 12, vessel traffic services (VTS) contribute to safety of life at sea, safety and efficiency of navigation and protection of the marine environment, adjacent shore areas, work sites and offshore installations from possible adverse effects of maritime traffic. SOLAS Contracting Governments undertake to arrange for the establishment of VTS where, in their opinion, the volume of traffic or the degree of risk justifies such services, following the guidelines developed by the Organization, without prejudice of the rights and duties of Governments under international law or the legal regimes of straits used for international navigation and archipelagic sea lanes.

Maritime Traffic Control Systems, including VTS, are already established in some areas of the Mediterranean. There have already been incidents where coastal States have lost track of vessels which may pose a threat of pollution and there may be a case for establishing additional Maritime Traffic Control Systems in the Mediterranean region in order to effectively implement the Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

Through the SafeMed II Project, considerable efforts were made to enhance the capacities of Mediterranean coastal States related to the prevention of maritime accidents, particularly in relation to Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) management. An extensive Training Programme for VTS operators certified by the International Association of marine Aids to navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), VTS supervisors and VTS on-the-job training instructors funded by the SafeMed II Project was carried out in 2012 which enabled over 120 officials from the Mediterranean region to be trained in vessel traffic management. A SafeMed II Project Regional Workshop on the Long-Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT) was also organised in 2012 in cooperation with EMSA and IMO to, *inter alia*, familiarise Mediterranean trainees with the LRIT legal and technical requirements. The SafeMed III Project, launched in June 2013 for a duration of 36 months, is built on and designed to consolidate the results achieved by SafeMed I and II.

At the European level, the need for permanent monitoring of ship movements led the European Union to adopt EU Directive 2002/59/EC¹² which provides for a comprehensive vessel traffic monitoring and information system based on IMO requirements. In view of the need to improve the monitoring of ships in the Mediterranean, particularly those posing a risk to the marine environment, the potential of the EU System, which also includes the SafeSeaNet vessel traffic monitoring and information system, should be fully exploited by the Mediterranean coastal States. In this regard, every effort should be made to identify the possibilities that might exist for the development and establishment of an ad hoc infrastructure.

On the other hand, with the phasing out of single hull tankers carrying oil and other hazardous and noxious substances now complete, the risk of severe pollution that existed when such ships were allowed to operate has diminished considerably.

In order to implement the Specific Objective of improving the control of maritime traffic in the Mediterranean,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to identify, with *high priority*, those areas of the Mediterranean where control of maritime traffic could be improved by the establishment of a regime based on the use of Automatic Identification System (AIS) in conjunction with Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) and mandatory ship reporting systems, and to complete approval procedures as soon as possible thereafter;
- b) to improve, on a continuous basis, technical cooperation among VTS Centres of neighbouring countries and, according to the need, to exchange information about ships by using AIS and other related systems in the common surveillance area; and

To request the Secretariat:

¹² Directive 2002/59/EC of the European Parliament and the Council 27 June 2002 establishing a community vessel traffic monitoring and information system and repealing Council Directive 93/75/EEC.

- c) to negotiate, with *high priority*, with appropriate organizations and agencies on behalf of the Contracting Parties which so request, the international financial assistance required to establish the regime referred to in sub-paragraph a) above, taking also into account, where appropriate, possible synergies with actions undertaken on the establishment of MSPs referred to under Specific Objective 10.

4.12 Identification of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs)

The MARPOL Convention assigns certain sea areas the denomination of "special areas" in which, for technical reasons relating to their oceanographically and ecological conditions and to their sea traffic circumstances, the adoption of special mandatory methods for the prevention of marine pollution is required. Under the Convention, these special areas are provided with a higher level of protection than other areas of the sea. The Mediterranean Sea has been designated as a Special Area under MARPOL Annexes I (oil) and V (garbage).

It is also possible for Contracting Parties to identify maritime zones that require additional protection from international shipping and request their designation as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA). This is done by applying the Revised guidelines for the identification and designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs)¹³. These guidelines include criteria to allow areas to be designated as PSSAs if they fulfil a number of criteria, including: ecological criteria, such as unique or rare ecosystem, diversity of the ecosystem or vulnerability to degradation by natural events or human activities; social, cultural and economic criteria, such as significance of the area for recreation or tourism; and scientific and educational criteria, such as biological research or historical value. When an area is designated as a PSSA, certain protective measures are used to control the maritime activities in that area, such as routeing measures, including traffic separation schemes and areas to be avoided; strict application of MARPOL discharge and equipment requirements for ships, such as oil tankers; installation of Vessel Traffic Services (VTS); and others. These associated protective measures become mandatory under the relevant international conventions (e.g. SOLAS, MARPOL, etc.) and, therefore, must be complied with by international shipping.

In order to meet the Specific Objective of identifying Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas, the Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to ascertain, with *medium priority* and the support of REMPEC and SPA/RAC, whether there are maritime areas within their jurisdiction which need the protection afforded by their designation as PSSAs and, if so ascertained, initiate the process of requesting IMO to enable such designation;

To request the Secretariat:

- b) to initiate, on the request of Contracting Parties and in conjunction with SPA/RAC, the process of identification of those areas which, after examination by the REMPEC Focal Points, could be proposed for designation as PSSAs taking also into account, where appropriate, possible synergies with actions undertaken on the establishment of MSPs referred to under Specific Objective 10;
- c) to assist, in co-operation with IMO, the Mediterranean coastal States which so request, to conduct the necessary studies and to prepare the relevant submissions to IMO for the designation of PSSAs, if any, in strict compliance with the applicable IMO Guidelines¹⁴; and
- d) to explore the possibility of obtaining assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme.

¹³ IMO resolution A.982(24).

¹⁴ *Idem*.

4.13 Reduction of marine noise caused by ships

Following the Contracting Parties commitment to progressively apply the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) to the management of human activities with the goal of effecting real change in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, the UNEP/MAP Secretariat was mandated to prepare an Ecosystem Approach Monitoring Programme, and to integrate EcAp in the overall work of UNEP-MAP/Barcelona Convention. The reduction of marine noise from human activities was one of the ecological objectives.

Meanwhile, IMO Member States have raised concern over the years that a significant portion of the underwater noise generated by human activity may be related to commercial shipping. The international community recognizes that underwater-radiated noise from commercial ships may have both short and long-term negative consequences on marine life, especially marine mammals. Subsequently, the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee, with a view to providing guidance on the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping, approved the Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life¹⁵ and invited Member Governments to use the Guidelines from 7 April 2014.

These non-mandatory Guidelines are intended to provide general advice about reduction of underwater noise to designers, shipbuilders and ship operators, and focus on primary sources of underwater noise associated with propellers, hull form, on board machinery, and operational aspects. Therefore, they do not require Governments to take any specific action other than bringing the advice to the attention of all parties concerned.

In order to meet this Specific Objective,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to raise awareness, with *medium priority*, through the dissemination of the advice contained in the IMO Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life among their national designers and shipbuilders, as well as operators of ships flying their flag, urging them to implement noise mitigation strategies on board their ships; and

To request the Secretariat:

- b) to provide Mediterranean coastal States, which so request, with advice and assistance in order to fulfil the objective under sub-paragraphs (a) above.

¹⁵ Circular MEPC.1/Circ.833.

4.14 To establish procedures for the designation of places of refuge in order to minimize the risks of widespread pollution

In 2003, the 23rd Assembly of IMO, conscious of the possibility that ships at sea may find themselves in need of assistance relating to the safety of life and the protection of the marine environment, and recognizing the importance of and need for providing guidance for the masters and/or salvors of ships in need of assistance, adopted the Guidelines on places of refuge for ships in need of assistance¹⁶. In doing so, the IMO Assembly recognized also the need to balance both the prerogative of a ship in need of assistance to seek a place of refuge and the prerogative of a coastal State to protect its coastline, and that the provision of a common framework to assist coastal States to determine places of refuge for ships in need of assistance and respond effectively to requests for such places of refuge would materially enhance maritime safety and the protection of the marine environment.

The purpose of the IMO guidelines is to provide ships' Masters, ship owners, salvors and Member Governments with a framework enabling them to respond effectively and in such a way that, in any given situation, the efforts of the Master and owner of the ship and the efforts of the government authorities are complementary. A second Assembly resolution on the establishment of Maritime Assistance Services¹⁷ to provide a focal point for the receipt of various reports and notifications required by various IMO instruments, was also adopted by the IMO Assembly in 2003. At the European level, directive 2009/17/EC amending Directive 2002/59/EC, which establishes a Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system, obliges EU Member States to draw up plans to accommodate, if the situation so requires, ships in need of assistance in their ports or in any other protected place in the best possible conditions, in order to limit the consequences of accidents at sea in the waters under their jurisdiction.

Considering that the designation of places of refuge associated with national plans to deal with ships in need of assistance are very valuable tools to protect the coastline against the devastating effects that a shipping accident occurring near the shore can have on the coastal environment of any State, it could be worthwhile for Mediterranean States to consider in greater depth the modalities for establishing places of refuge within the Mediterranean region, including the preparation of, for example, guidelines on additional equipment, which would be required in places of refuge to facilitate cargo transfers in environmentally safe conditions.

To that end, REMPEC has prepared the Guidelines on the Decision-Making Process for Granting Access to a Place of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance, which were adopted in 2008 by the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

In order to meet the Specific Objective of establishing places of refuge to minimize the risks of widespread pollution,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to identify, with *high priority*, at the national level, appropriate procedures as outlined in the relevant IMO Guidelines and relevant EU legislation and guidelines, supplemented by the associated Guidelines and Principles prepared by REMPEC, in order to facilitate the decision making when designating a place of refuge for ships in need of assistance;
- b) that all Mediterranean States draw up, with *medium priority*, plans to deal with ships in distress, including, appropriate equipment and means, as required, and define the modalities of the response according to its nature and to the risk incurred; and

To request the Secretariat:

- c) to continue providing assistance to countries, which so request, to define procedures and draw up plans as specified in sub-objectives a) and b) above, and to assist them in raising funds, *inter alia*, from the IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme.

¹⁶ IMO resolution A.949(23).

¹⁷ IMO resolution A.950 (23).

4.15 To examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as a SO_x emission control area under MARPOL Annex VI and effectively implement the existing energy efficiency measures

MARPOL Annex VI, adopted by the Protocol of 1997, as amended in 2011¹⁸, regulates the prevention of air pollution from ships in general and, in particular, establishes more stringent limits for emissions of sulphur oxides (SO_x), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and particulate matter from ship engine exhausts, and introduces a new chapter 4 with regulations on energy efficiency for ships. With respect to sulphur oxides (SO_x), regulation 14 provides that the sulphur content of fuel oil shall not exceed 3.50% m/m, until 1 January 2020 when the limit will be reduced to 0.50% m/m depending on the outcome of a review, to be concluded in 2018, as to the availability of the required fuel oil. However, within SO_x Emission Control Areas (ECA), where a higher level of protection is needed due, for instance, to the proximity of heavy shipping activity to populated areas or the susceptibility of a particular sea area to acidification, the limit is currently set at 0.10% m/m from 1 January 2015. To date, the North Sea, the Baltic Sea, the North American Area and the United States Caribbean Sea Area have been designated as ECA under MARPOL Annex VI. In addition to the requirements of MARPOL Annex VI as amended, the European Union has implemented sulphur limits under Directive 2005/33/EC and adopted the EU Sulphur Directive (2012/33/EU) according to which a 0.5% sulphur limit outside SO_x ECAs will be mandatory in EU waters by 2020 and hence in part of the Mediterranean Sea.

The implementation of the above provisions bring additional responsibilities but also human health benefits for Mediterranean countries and, therefore, the ratification of MARPOL in general and of its Annex VI in particular should be a priority for Contracting Parties, as pointed out under Specific Objective 1. However, considering that it may take some time for all the Contracting Parties to ratify MARPOL Annex VI and that to impose the new Annex VI strict regime within ECA in the whole of the Mediterranean Sea may not be a realistic goal if it is to be achieved within the period of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy 2016 – 2021, it would be advisable instead to start by examining the possibility of designating certain specific areas within the Mediterranean Sea as SO_x Emission Control Areas, drawing from the study already undertaken under the SafeMed I Project on the “Designation of the Mediterranean Sea as a SO_x Emission Control Area (SO_x ECA) under MARPOL Annex VI Guidelines & Procedures regarding the ratification process of Annex VI & the preparations required for the submission of an Application to IMO for the Mediterranean Sea to be designated as a SO_x ECA”.

Furthermore, measures to improve energy efficiency of international shipping were adopted by Parties to MARPOL Annex VI at MEPC 62 in July 2011 and entered into force on 1 January 2013. These Regulations for energy efficiency of ships apply to internationally trading ships of 400 gross tonnage and above, and make mandatory the Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) for new ships; and the Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP) for all ships.

IMO has adopted guidelines aimed at supporting implementation of the mandatory measures to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from international shipping, paving the way for the regulations on EEDI and SEEMP to be smoothly implemented by Administrations and industry.

Following the entry into force on 1 January 2013 of the new chapter 4 of MARPOL Annex VI, the 66th Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 66) (April 2014) considered further energy efficiency measures for ships and discussed various submissions relating to proposals to establish a framework for the collection and reporting of data on the fuel consumption of ships. Whilst MEPC 67 (October 2014) agreed, in principle, to develop a data collection system for ships, further work should be undertaken to develop full language for the data collection system for fuel consumption that can be readily used for voluntary or mandatory application of the system.

In order to meet the Specific Objective of considering the designation by IMO of the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as a SO_x Emission Control Area under MARPOL Annex VI, and effectively implement the existing energy efficiency measures,

¹⁸ Resolution MEPC.203(62).

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to examine, with *high priority*, if it is appropriate to designate as a SOx Emission Control Area (ECA) certain areas of the Mediterranean Sea identified for that purpose, as well as, to explore the possibility to designate the whole of the Mediterranean Sea as a SOx ECA;
- b) once a decision is made and having ratified MARPOL Annex VI, to submit to IMO, with *medium priority*, a proposal to designate as a SOx ECA the area or areas of the Mediterranean Sea identified under sub-paragraph a) above;
- c) to participate in relevant debates at the IMO on possible future further measures for enhancing the energy efficiency of international shipping, in particular, the development of a data collection system for fuel consumption of ships, *inter alia* by informing the Secretariat of the existence of data collection and reporting systems for fuel consumption of ships;

To request the Secretariat:

- d) to prepare, with *high priority*, a study based on the input of Contracting Parties, aimed at assessing the feasibility of the alternatives referred to in sub-paragraph a) above;
- e) to assist the Mediterranean coastal States which so request, either individually or collectively, to prepare a submission to IMO proposing the designation as a SOx ECA of the area or areas of the Mediterranean Sea identified under sub-paragraph a) above;
- f) to provide Contracting Parties, which so request, with relevant information on possible future further measures for enhancing the energy efficiency of international shipping;
- g) to assess existing data collection and reporting systems for fuel consumption of ships in the Mediterranean region and carry out pilot studies on voluntary "Data Collection and Reporting"; and
- h) to explore the possibility of obtaining assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme.

4.16 To ensure that adequate emergency towing capacity is available throughout the Mediterranean to assist vessels, including tankers, in distress

Once a vessel gets into difficulties, or threatens to become a hazard to other vessels, it is vitally important to take all necessary action as quickly as possible to save life, to prevent her going or creating a hazard, and to prevent her cargo or bunkers from spilling. In this connection, emergency towing may be used to remove the ship and cargo from a place of danger to one of safety, such as a sheltered anchorage or place of refuge. If a vessel breaks down completely, or is too far from a safe anchorage to be able to reach it under her own steam, one sure way to prevent grounding or becoming a hazard to other vessels is for a tug to provide appropriate assistance.

The International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties, 1969 and its Protocol of 1973 addressing marine pollution by substances other than oil, provide powers to States Parties to “intervene” to prevent a pollution incident, including imposing towing assistance if necessary. As regards the equipment that ships should have on board, SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-4, requires all vessels to have a ship-specific emergency towing procedure. The associated resolution MSC.35 (63) and circular MSC.1/Circ.1255, among others, also apply. Emergency towing procedures should also be considered as part of the emergency preparedness required by the International Safety Management (ISM) Code.

Notwithstanding the above, the provision of adequate emergency towing capacity to assist ships in distress in the Mediterranean, especially when there are sharing agreements among neighbouring coastal States, is of paramount importance when trying to avert major loss of life and/or serious pollution damage. Currently there are at least three regional agreements on search and rescue, one in the West Mediterranean and two in the North-West Mediterranean, which include the sharing of towing capacity. In this connection, REMPEC, responding to the mandate given under the 2005 Regional Strategy, prepared, under the SAFEMED Project¹⁹, Emergency Towing Arrangements in the Mediterranean Sea, which represent an indispensable tool for coastal States to fulfil their obligations when responding in distress situations.

In order to meet the Specific Objective of ensuring adequate emergency towing capacity throughout the Mediterranean,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to consider, with *high priority*, if appropriate action has not been already taken, entering into agreements with neighbouring coastal States which would enable them to share emergency towing equipment and arrangements to assist ships in distress in the Mediterranean, using as appropriate the Mediterranean guidelines on emergency towing;

To request the Secretariat:

- b) to assist Contracting Parties that so request in preparing and implementing the agreements referred to in sub-paragraph a) above; and
- c) to assess the capability of the Mediterranean coastal States in terms of emergency towing equipment, and provide support to those Contracting Parties, which so request.

¹⁹ MED.2005/109-573 financed by the European Commission under an IMO/EC contract.

4.17 To enhance the levels of pre-positioned spill response equipment under the direct control of Mediterranean States

A problem which faces many countries that are parties to the Barcelona Convention is where to find the financial resources to provide the State component of an overall minimum level of pollution-combating equipment. Obligations can be placed upon port authorities and oil handling facilities to provide sufficient equipment to meet the estimated spill risks associated with their activities. However, accidents in open waters are outside the jurisdiction of port authorities and oil handling facilities. Furthermore, accidents in open waters involving laden oil tankers are most likely to cause serious pollution incidents, even if they occur at a lower frequency than the smaller spills which arise in ports and terminals.

There are various possibilities for financing the acquisition by the State of the required pre-positioned oil spill response equipment and vessels. These include *inter alia*:

- State budget;
- partnerships with international institutions;
- partnerships with other States;
- partnerships with private sector, including in particular the oil industry;
- partnerships with specialized spill response companies; and
- specific national funds financed through targeted taxation of certain commercial activities, and/or through accumulation of fines imposed on offenders of applicable rules and regulations.

Sharing information on ways of financing spill response equipment is important, especially for coastal States which may lack the considerable funds needed to purchase and maintain adequate equipment of that nature. Since marine pollution preparedness and response should represent an unremitting concern for all coastal States and bearing in mind the difficulties encountered by some States when trying to finance expensive and at times perishable oil and HNS pollution response equipment, it is important that each Contracting Party, having decided upon the most appropriate way of financing the acquisition of required State controlled spill response equipment and vessels, shares the information, through REMPEC, with other Mediterranean States that have not been able to obtain it.

The lessons learnt from the “Deepwater Horizon” incident highlighted the importance of maintaining, at national and regional level, an inventory of available means in order to hasten the identification of equipment and human resources that could be made available to a third party in case of emergency. Whilst it was further recognized that the existing inventory of response capacity in the region was not detailed enough to provide immediate accurate information, REMPEC’s inventory has been reviewed by the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) in the context of the Project Mediterranean Decision Support System for Marine Safety (MEDESS-4MS) to improve the accessibility to information in the aftermath of an accident. At the European level, the structure of the European inventory of response equipment integrated in the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) was also reviewed and at the international level, the International Maritime Organization is developing the “International Offers of Assistance Guidelines”, which, *inter alia*, provide recommendations on equipment resources’ inventories. Whilst the maintenance of multiple inventories can be cumbersome to Contracting Parties, in particular to those that belong to various Regional Agreements, efforts should be made to facilitate their task in updating these inventories.

Whilst most efforts in this field have been focused on oil spill response equipment, little has been done in the field of HNS response equipment, which remains a challenge. Particular emphasis should be given in the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy to assess the HNS spill response capacity in line with EMSA efforts in this field.

In order to meet this Specific Objective,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to share or exchange, with *high priority*, information concerning their respective national practices for financing the acquisition of spill response equipment, with a view to assist Mediterranean Coastal States in determining all feasible methods to finance spill response equipment;
- b) to establish, with *medium priority*, national stockpiles of State controlled and private pre-positioned oil and HNS spill response equipment and keep updated the related inventory at national level and regional level through REMPEC;

To request the Secretariat:

- c) to provide assistance to the States which so request in identifying the minimum required level of pre-positioned State-controlled spill response equipment;
- d) to disseminate to the Contracting Parties the information concerning the applicable ways of financing the acquisition of such equipment and continue assisting them in this regard, as necessary;
- e) to maintain the regional information system and keep updated the related inventory of pre-positioned spill response equipment; and
- f) to envisage possible synergies to interconnect the Regional Information System (RIS) with CECIS to facilitate the access to the information at any time and in particular in case of emergency, and facilitate the update of these databases through an interconnected system.

4.18 To encourage the participation of the regional scientific and technical institutions in research and development activities and to facilitate transfer of technology

The Prevention and Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention emphasizes the need for exchange of information concerning research and development of new technologies. The OPRC 90 Convention and its 2000 OPRC-HNS Protocol explicitly call upon Parties to these international legal instruments to actively participate in research and development efforts.

It has been noted that, in general, Mediterranean coastal States, with a very few exceptions, rarely present the results of their R&D activities related to response to marine pollution incidents, or even participate in relevant international fora, such as IMO R&D Forum, Interspill, International Oil Spill Conference, etc.

On the other hand, from direct contacts with the persons attending meetings and training courses organized by REMPEC it appears that scientific, technical and educational institutions as well as the industry from the Mediterranean region are involved in R&D activities in various subjects related to prevention of, preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution. Encouraging national institutions and the industry to actively participate in OPRC and OPRC-HNS R&D activities and programmes and to present the results at international fora should not represent an undue burden to Administrations, while the States concerned would clearly accrue benefits from the outcome of such activities and programmes.

In discharging its mandate under the 2005 Regional Strategy and in order to make the results of R&D activities undertaken in the Mediterranean region better known, REMPEC has endeavoured to encourage the participation of regional research institutions and industry in relevant events. REMPEC has also facilitated, through the network of its Focal Points, the exchange of these results among the Contracting Parties. In particular, REMPEC was involved in the MEDESS-4MS Project, which is dedicated to the strengthening of maritime safety by mitigating the risks and impacts associated to oil spills. Besides, REMPEC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mediterranean Operational Oceanography Network (MOON) regarding Emergency Response Collaboration Agreement for the Mediterranean Region. The Centre has also participated in several regional workshops, giving an overview of the situation in the Mediterranean Sea.

With a view to meeting the Specific Objective of promoting the participation of the relevant Mediterranean institutions in R&D activities and to facilitate transfer of technology within the region,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to urge their respective scientific and technical institutions, as well as the industry, to actively participate in R&D activities and programmes related to accidental marine pollution prevention, preparedness and response;
- b) to encourage their respective national institutions and industry to present the results of their R&D activities and programmes at international fora;
- c) to present national R&D activities using the page created by REMPEC within the Country Profiles website;

To request the Secretariat:

- d) to continue assisting regional institutions and industry in identifying fields of research in which there is a need for enhancement of the state-of-the-art of spill preparedness and response technologies and techniques;
- e) to continue assisting in the dissemination and exchange of results of national R&D activities and programmes within and outside the Mediterranean region;

- f) to facilitate the participation of national and regional research institutions and industry in the relevant international fora with a view to making better known the results of R&D activities undertaken in the Mediterranean region; and
- g) in carrying out the above requests, to cooperate with other Regional Agreements and EMSA under its relevant Action Plans.

4.19 To improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of decision-making process in case of marine pollution incidents through the development and introduction of technical and decision support tools

The successful outcome or otherwise of measures taken in order to respond to oil spills and to spills or releases of other hazardous and noxious substances depends to a great extent on the quality of and the promptness with which decisions concerning the response are taken. Moreover, the failure of a coastal State in taking swift and effective action against the imminence of a serious marine pollution incident occurring in its territorial waters may result, not only in a national environmental disaster, but also in causing devastation along neighbouring countries' shores.

Although such decisions should be taken by the competent national authorities and their responsible officers taking into consideration specific circumstances of each particular marine pollution emergency and a number of technical, socio-economic and political factors, the process of taking decisions can be significantly accelerated, made more correct and simplified using certain decision support tools such as e.g. sensitivity maps, spill forecasting models and databases. There is a wide variety of such tools developed by either commercial organizations or scientific institutions; however these are only rarely developed for a specific geographical area.

In response to its mandate under the 2005 Regional Strategy, REMPEC has endeavoured to co-operate with scientific institutions in the region and with specific programmes and projects dedicated to relevant activities.

The MEDESS-4MS Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and implemented in cooperation with REMPEC provides a tool enabling all Mediterranean countries to compare the most appropriate oil spill forecasting models for a selected area in the region and to assess oil spill potential impact toward socio-economic and environmental assets gathered in a geographical information system, including *inter alia* updated data on national response capacity. In addition, oceano-meteorological centres from six Mediterranean countries have signed an agreement with REMPEC through the Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Ocean Observing System (MONGOOS - former MOON) providing, on request, oil spill forecast to all Mediterranean countries.

The Centre has also developed and/or updated the following tools in the framework of the MTWG, which has also contributed together with Plan Bleu and SPA/RAC to the data collection within the framework of the above mentioned MEDESS-4MS Project, or through other projects:

- a Geographic Information System (GIS) on Maritime Traffic in the Mediterranean Sea;
- a Maritime Integrated Decision Support Information System on Transport of Chemical Substances (MIDSIS-TROCS);
- a Waste Management Decision Support Tool; and
- Other long-implemented tools are being continually updated, such as the REMPEC Alerts and Accidents Database.

Regarding the latter, since its establishment the REMPEC Alerts and Accidents Database relied on various sources of information including *inter alia* REMPEC national Focal Points, the IMO Maritime Knowledge Centre, Cedre, local media, etc. Although REMPEC endeavoured to verify and harmonise the information collected, the development of a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection is required and should be established in line with the EcAp Monitoring Programme.

In order to meet the Specific Objective of improving the quality, speed and effectiveness of decision making process in case of emergency,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to stimulate, on a continuous basis, the development and improvement of specific regional decision support tools by promoting active participation of their national scientific institutions and programmes, and through providing REMPEC with relevant data-sets and other information that might be available in their respective countries;
- b) to actively participate, through a country lead approach in the implementation of the programme of work of the MTWG as defined by the Meetings of Focal Points of REMPEC;
- c) to encourage their national oceano-meteorological institutes to join the Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Ocean Observing System and to contribute to the maintenance of the above Mediterranean tools through regular data update;
- d) to contribute to the development of a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection in line with the EcAp Monitoring Programme;

To request the Secretariat:

- e) to continue revising and upgrading the existing, and to develop and make available to the competent national authorities of the Contracting Parties new, IT based decision support tools, taking into account national or regional initiatives in this field;
- f) to facilitate the coordination and the implementation of the programme of work of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group;
- g) in carrying out the above requests, to explore possible interaction and capitalisation of decision support tools available at Mediterranean and European levels, including those developed by other Regional Agreements or under other regional initiatives;
- h) to support the development of a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection in line with the EcAp Monitoring Programme; and
- i) to integrate any developments on decision support tools under Specific Objectives 20, 21 and 22.

4.20 To increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances

The existence in each country of a core group of experts specialized in oil and HNS spill preparedness and response is recognized to be, together with the existence of national organization, contingency plans, response strategy and response equipment, one of the key prerequisites for properly initiating, conducting and successfully completing response operations in case of marine pollution emergency.

It is considered that the necessary sustainability in the field of training at national level can be achieved through the creation of a small number of qualified trainers in each country who could in turn continue to provide the required training to their co-nationals. It refers in particular to training national spill response personnel at the level of operators and direct responders (Level 1) and at the level of supervisors and on-scene commanders (Level 2). On the other hand it is understood that Level 3 training (senior government administrators and managers) will have to remain at the regional level and should continue to be provided and co-ordinated by REMPEC. Similarly, highly specialized training in specific fields of marine pollution preparedness and response will also have to remain the responsibility of the Centre. The long-term aim of this Specific Objective should, therefore, be for each Contracting Party to achieve self-sufficiency in spill response training at the general level and to ensure continuous education of national spill responders.

Since the inception in the early 1980s of the REMPEC training programme, more than 3,500 persons have been trained through training activities at different levels which were included in the programme. Despite this noteworthy achievement a significant number of persons that had been trained is not any longer at the disposal of their respective national administrations due to job changes, retirement or other reasons, and the need for further training has been emphasized by REMPEC Focal Points on numerous occasions.

In response to the relevant mandate given in the 2005 Regional Strategy, REMPEC has regularly organised training courses covering different subjects and targeting the widest variety of participants to the greatest extent possible. The Centre has also organised information and other decision-making meetings, in particular concerning:

- the project for Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean up and Oiled Wildlife interventions (POSOW), including a train the trainer course and the development of the related pedagogic material;
- regional training courses on highly specialised issues such as the Regional Response Capacity and Co-ordination for Major Oil Spill in the Mediterranean Sea (MEDEXPOL) workshops; and
- training on specific issues such as the use of dispersants, waste management, oiled shoreline assessment, oiled wildlife response, oil spill forecast modelling, risk assessment, etc.

The Centre should, therefore, focus its training efforts on training of trainers and providing highly specialized training on specific issues, at the regional level.

Regular communication, table top and full scale exercises are crucial, not only to assess the knowledge acquired during training courses and to test local, national and regional response capacity, but also to enhance cooperation and mutualisation of resources amongst national competent authorities, REMPEC and European response mechanisms (i.e. EMSA and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism), and private sectors.

In order to accomplish this Specific Objective,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to establish, with *high priority*, if appropriate action has not been already taken, national training programmes for response to incidents involving oil and other HNS, based *inter alia* on IMO Model training courses Levels 1 and 2, for training national operating level and supervisory personnel respectively, with a view to ensuring a continuous education of such personnel;
- b) to disseminate the knowledge acquired through train the trainer courses and replicate the training courses at local and national level;
- c) to carry out regular exercises to test their response capacity in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders and to the possible extent involve neighbour coastal states to enhance bilateral and sub-regional cooperation;

To request the Secretariat:

- d) to assist Contracting Parties which so request in the development and implementation of their national training programme;
- e) to continue delivering "Training of Trainers" courses, based in particular on the work developed under POSOW Projects;
- f) to continue focusing regional training courses on specific, highly specialized issues, to be identified at regular basis by the Meetings of REMPEC Focal Points;
- g) to take into consideration, when preparing and supporting the implementation of national training programmes, the relevant model training courses updated by the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR); other Regional Agreements, and EMSA under its relevant Action Plans;
- h) to promote the organisation of regular exercises to test national and sub-regional response capacity in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders; and
- i) to explore the possibility of obtaining assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme and to mobilise external resources and means *inter alia* from external donors, the private sector and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

4.21 To revise the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines, and to develop new ones aimed at facilitating international co-operation and mutual assistance within the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol

Since 1987 various Ordinary Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have adopted a series of recommendations, principles and guidelines concerning accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance, as well as prevention of pollution from ships. All these documents aimed at facilitating the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

There have been numerous developments at both regional and global levels that necessitate revision, updating or amending, as appropriate, of the recommendations, principles and guidelines adopted in the past by the Contracting Parties. These developments include the introduction of new regional and global legal instruments, the development of technology, better understanding of issues related to accidental pollution by oil and other hazardous and noxious substances, and last but not least the experience gained through, and initiatives resulting from, major pollution accidents. Such recommendations, principles and guidelines should be put through continuous review in order to keep them up-to-date and fit for purpose.

In addition to keeping the above-mentioned material current, the facilitation of transboundary movement of specialized response personnel and equipment in cases of emergency may mark the difference between success and failure in responding to, and mitigating, the often disastrous consequences of a serious pollution incident. Contracting Parties should, therefore, undertake to streamline their respective national procedures for entry into, movement within and exit from their territory of specialized personnel and equipment that might be required in case of emergency.

As mandated by the 2005 Regional Strategy, REMPEC has endeavoured to list in its website Country Profile the existing transboundary arrangements on which some States have provided information. The information is still scarce and, therefore, Contracting Parties should, as a matter of urgency, furnish the Centre with the required information. Also, REMPEC has revised the relevant guidelines and produced new ones, which were adopted, and constantly works in developing and making information available as much as possible.

However, the Mediterranean Principles and Guidelines should be reviewed in line with the latest international and European developments (i.e. International Offers of Assistance Guidelines (IMO) and the host nation support under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism). In the context of the review of the Mediterranean Principles and Guidelines, clear procedures, conditions and synergies should be established and agreed to ensure an effective coordination between the Mediterranean (Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU): Centre de documentation, de recherche et d'expérimentations sur les pollutions accidentelles des eaux (Cedre), Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA), Federazione Nazionale dell'Industria Chimica (Federchimica), Sea Alarm, Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Observing System(MONGOOS)), regional assistance, IMO support, etc.) and European response and assistance mechanism (i.e. Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), EMSA's pollution response services and CECIS).

With a view to meeting the Specific Objective of revising the existing and developing new regional recommendations, principles and guidelines aimed at facilitating international co-operation and mutual assistance in the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to review, with *high priority* if appropriate action has not been already taken, the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines concerning accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance, as well as prevention of pollution from ships, that were adopted since 1987, paying particular attention to those that aim at removing possible obstacles which might hinder mutual assistance;
- b) to identify, with *high priority* if appropriate action has not been already taken, all such recommendations, principles and guidelines that need to be revised, updated and/or amended;

- c) to indicate, with *high priority* if appropriate action has not been already taken, which additional recommendations, principles and guidelines should be adopted at the regional level with a view to facilitating the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol in the field of international co-operation and mutual assistance;
- d) to further facilitate mutual assistance by streamlining, with *high priority* if appropriate action has not been already taken, their respective national procedures for entry into, movement within and exit from their territory of specialized personnel and equipment that might be required in case of emergency, and to inform REMPEC accordingly;

To request the Secretariat:

- e) to conclude the compilation, as soon as the necessary information is in hand, of an inventory of their applicable national procedures governing the entry into, movement within and exit from their territory of specialized personnel and equipment that might be provided as mutual assistance in case of emergency, and to prepare recommendations for improving those national procedures that could seriously hamper providing such assistance;
- f) to prepare, with *high priority*, in co-operation with REMPEC national Focal Points, and to propose for adoption to the Meetings of the Contracting Parties revised, updated and/or amended texts of the relevant regional recommendations, principles and guidelines;
- g) to develop, as the need arises and in co-operation with REMPEC national Focal Points, and to propose for adoption to the Meetings of the Contracting Parties, new recommendations, principles and guidelines, as necessary;
- h) in carrying out the above requests, to cooperate with IMO, other Regional Agreements, EMSA under its relevant Action Plans and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, taking into account any new developments on international co-operation and mutual assistance as indicated in the penultimate paragraph of the introduction of the present Specific Objective; and
- i) to explore the possibility of obtaining assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme and to mobilise external resources and means *inter alia* from external donors, the private sector and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

4.22 To strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans

The Prevention and Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention, as well as the OPRC 90 Convention and its 2000 OPRC-HNS Protocol, recognize the importance of sub-regional, bilateral and multilateral, agreements for co-operation in accidental marine pollution preparedness and response, as important tools for enhancing national capacities of States participating in such agreements.

In the Mediterranean region, sub-regional contingency plans and agreements on their implementation constitute mechanisms for mutual assistance, based on the framework provided by the Prevention and Emergency Protocol. These mechanisms, which facilitate the implementation of the Protocol, enable competent national authorities of the Contracting Parties to closely co-operate by co-ordinating and integrating their respective national capacities, with a view to effectively responding to incidents surpassing their individual capacities.

In order to create the necessary conditions leading to the development of sub-regional agreements it is necessary that individual States have in place a national contingency plan and/or a preparedness and response system as fundamental protection requirements against the potentially disastrous consequences of a serious pollution incident. It is, therefore, imperative that all the Contracting Parties have such plans and systems in operation. In this connection, REMPEC, in fulfilling its mandate under the 2005 Regional Strategy, has assisted a number of countries in the development of their national contingency plans and has offered its support to the three countries remaining without any operational national contingency plan.

At the sub-regional level, REMPEC has continuously and actively assisted the Contracting Parties in preparing and implementing sub-regional contingency plans and agreements such as South-Eastern Mediterranean (Cyprus, Egypt and Israel), South-Western Mediterranean (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia), and the Adriatic Sea (Croatia, Italy and Slovenia), and has participated to activities in the framework of the RAMOGEPOL (France, Monaco and Italy) and the Lion plan (France and Spain). The existing sub-regional contingency plans and agreements contain provisions for co-operation in prevention of maritime incidents, which is expected to further reduce the risk of accidental marine pollution, and which may be also included in future sub-regional agreements. The Centre has also assisted in the implementation of the POSOW Project, involving Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia and Spain and aiming at establishing a regional cooperation synergy through the enhancement of knowledge and capacities of operators, professionals and volunteers in the field of marine pollution and is involved in the second phase of the project extended to Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

Once all the remaining Mediterranean coastal States have set-up their national systems for preparedness and response, including adoption of national contingency plans, the way will be paved for concluding sub-regional arrangements among all the countries in the region. Active participation of each country in one or more of such bilateral or multilateral agreements is expected to significantly increase the level of preparedness for responding to major marine pollution incidents in the region. However, an assessment may be required to evaluate the gaps between the plans which will ultimately be linked to others through bilateral and/or sub-regional agreements.

Whilst most national contingency plans were developed with oil spill incidents from ships in mind, an update may be required to integrate the response to HNS spills. Furthermore, with the ongoing development in the field of exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the seabed and its subsoil, and in accordance with article 16 of the Offshore Protocol which applies, *mutatis mutandis*, the provisions of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, National Contingency Plans of Mediterranean coastal States involved in oil and gas exploration and exploitation should be reviewed to integrate offshore activities.

With a view to meeting the Specific Objective of further strengthening response capacities of individual coastal States through development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to assess, prepare, or review and adopt, with *high priority* if appropriate action has not been already taken, national contingency plans and to establish national systems for preparedness for and response to oil and HNS spills from ships, with a view to creating the necessary conditions for the development of sub-regional agreements;
- b) to negotiate, endeavour to conclude and to implement with *high priority* sub-regional agreements covering the entire Mediterranean region which would include the relevant sub-regional contingency plans;

To request the Secretariat:

- c) to continue assisting the Contracting Parties that have not yet adopted their national contingency plans or need to review their national contingency plans to integrate HNS and/or offshore components, in the development or update and implementation of national preparedness and response systems;
- d) to facilitate the assessment of national contingency plans and national response systems, through self-assessment or peer reviews to commensurate their response capacities with the existing oil and HNS spill risks from ships and to evaluate gaps between national plans in order to define appropriate actions to ensure the compatibility of operational arrangements in view of the conclusion of bilateral and/or sub-regional agreements;
- e) to continue assisting Contracting Parties, which so request, in preparing or reviewing sub-regional contingency plans and in drafting agreements on their implementation;
- f) in carrying out the above requests, to utilize advice and material which may be made available by other Regional Agreements, by EMSA under its relevant Action Plans and by the Union Civil Protection Mechanism; and
- g) to explore the possibility of obtaining assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme and to mobilise external resources and means *inter alia* from external donors, the private sector and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS

ANNEX I: IMPLEMENTATION GOALS

Note: “High priority” implies that the task in question should be completed by end of 2018, whereas “Medium priority” implies that the task should be concluded as soon as possible, but not later than end of 2020.

A) Commitments of the Contracting Parties

Specific Objective	Goal (Success Criteria)	Priority
1 Ratification of relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment (see Annex 2).	a) All Mediterranean States to have ratified MARPOL and all its Annexes and ensured their transposition into national law and to have cooperated through REMPEC to ensure full compliance with its provisions; b) All Mediterranean States to have ratified other relevant IMO international conventions and ensured their transposition into national law to ensure full compliance with their provisions.	High High
2 To control and manage ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species	a) All Contracting Parties to have applied the 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species and report to IMO accordingly; b) All Contracting Parties to have disseminated the Guidelines to the shipping industry and other interested parties.	Medium Continuous
3 Ensuring effective maritime administrations.	a) All Mediterranean coastal States to have developed a National Action Plan (NAP) to enable them to fully implement the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy in a timely and thorough manner; b) All Mediterranean States to have endeavoured to enhance, on the basis of their NAP, the performance of their maritime administration in accordance with the applicable IMO recommendations and guidelines; c) All Mediterranean coastal States to prepare for undertaking the IMO Member State Audit Scheme, using the III Code as the audit standard and following the Framework and Procedures for the Scheme	High High High
4 To strengthen the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on port State control (PSC) in the Mediterranean region (Mediterranean MoU).	a) All Mediterranean States to have maintained their mandate to REMPEC whereby the Centre should, if and when possible, offer its assistance to the Mediterranean MoU on port State control in order to improve its effectiveness and, if so requested, to facilitate co-operation between the Paris MoU and the Mediterranean MoU; b) All Mediterranean States to have made available the necessary resources and means for efficient functioning of the Mediterranean MoU.	Continuous High
5 Provision of reception facilities in ports.	a) All Contracting Parties to have considered procedures related to the cost of the use of port reception facilities, enabling their use as soon as they are available at a fee which should be reasonable and should not serve as a disincentive for their use; b) Garbage: c) Oily wastes d) Noxious Liquid Substances (NLS): e) Sewage: f) For ozone-depleting substances and exhaust gas cleaning residues g) For ballast water and sediments	High High High High High Medium High

6 Delivery of ship-generated wastes.	a) All Contracting Parties to have established a system of notification to a vessel's next port of call of the status of its on board retention of bilge waters, oily wastes, HNS residues, sewage, garbage, ozone-depleting substances and exhaust gas cleaning residues; b) All Mediterranean coastal States to have implemented national regulations empowering maritime authorities to require, if deemed necessary, Masters of vessels to discharge wastes into designated port reception facilities before sailing.	High High
7 Improved follow-up of pollution events as well as monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges.	a) All Contracting Parties to have established systems and procedures for national and sub-regional monitoring and surveillance including, where practicable, regular individual or coordinated aerial surveillance in the waters under their jurisdiction and to have reported the results to the regular Meetings of REMPEC Focal Points; b) All Contracting Parties to have established sub-regional systems, including procedures to over-fly the waters under the jurisdiction of a neighbouring State if the Parties so agree, for surveillance of environmentally sensitive and/or high risk zones.	High High
8 To improve the level of enforcement and of the prosecution of discharge offenders.	a) All Mediterranean States to have ensured the existence of a national legal framework (regulations) as a basis for prosecuting discharge offenders for infringements of MARPOL or of any national legal framework implementing it; b) All Contracting Parties to have actively participated in the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, in accordance with its terms of reference.	High High
9 To reduce the pollution generated by pleasure craft activities.	a) The Contracting Parties to have implemented the Guidelines concerning Pleasure Craft Activities and the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean, in conjunction with the relevant provisions of the MARPOL Convention and the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management; b) All Contracting Parties to have reported to the Secretariat on the measures they undertook to implement the said Guidelines.	High As appropriate
10 Reduced risk of collisions by establishing Ship's Routeing Systems.	a) All Contracting Parties to have proposed to IMO, where necessary, additional appropriate Routeing Systems in the Mediterranean for possible adoption in accordance with international law; b) All Contracting Parties to have considered establishing, when and where possible and without prejudice to the sovereign right of the States, Marine Spatial Plans under their jurisdiction, ensuring that they are coherent and coordinated across the Mediterranean region.	Where necessary Where and when possible
11 Improved control of maritime traffic.	a) All Contracting Parties to have identified those areas of the Mediterranean where control of maritime traffic could be improved by the establishment of a regime based on the use of Automatic Identification System (AIS) in conjunction with Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) and mandatory ship reporting systems, and to have completed approval procedures as soon as possible thereafter; b) All Contracting Parties to continuously improve technical cooperation among VTS Centres of the neighbouring countries and, according to the need, to exchange information about ships by using AIS in the common surveillance area;	High Continuous

12 Identification of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs).	a) All Contracting Parties to have ascertained, with the support of REMPEC and SPA/RAC, whether there are maritime areas within their jurisdiction which need the protection afforded by their designation as PSSAs and, if so ascertained, to have initiated the process of requesting IMO to enable such designation.	Medium
13 Reduction of marine noise caused by ships.	a) All Contracting Parties, on the basis of the IMO Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life, to have urged their national designers and shipbuilders, as well as operators of ships flying their flag to implement noise mitigation strategies on board their ships.	Medium
14 To establish procedures for designation of places of refuge in order to minimize the risk of widespread pollution.	a) All Contracting Parties to have identified appropriate procedures as outlined in the relevant IMO Guidelines and relevant EU legislation and guidelines, supplemented by the associated Guidelines and Principles prepared by REMPEC, in order to facilitate the decision making when designating a place of refuge for a ship in need of assistance; b) All Mediterranean States to have drawn up plans to deal with ships in need of assistance and have defined the modalities of the response according to its nature and to the risk incurred.	High Medium
15 To examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as a SOx emission control area, under MARPOL Annex VI and effectively implement the existing energy efficiency measures.	a) All Contracting Parties to have examined if it is appropriate to designate as a SOx ECA certain areas of the Mediterranean identified for that purpose, as well as, to have explored the possibility to designate the whole of the Mediterranean Sea as a SOx ECA; b) Contracting Parties, having made a decision and having ratified MARPOL Annex VI, to have submitted to IMO a proposal to designate as a SOx ECA the appropriate area or areas of the Mediterranean Sea; c) All Contracting Parties to participate in relevant debates at the IMO on possible future further measures for enhancing the energy efficiency of international shipping;	High Medium As required
16 To ensure that adequate emergency towing capacity is available throughout the Mediterranean to assist vessels, including tankers, in distress.	a) All Contracting Parties to have adopted the Mediterranean guidelines on emergency towing and, if appropriate, to have concluded agreements on sharing towing capacity between neighbouring States.	High
17 To enhance the levels of pre-positioned spill response equipment under the direct control of Mediterranean States.	a) All Contracting Parties to have shared or exchanged information concerning their respective national practices for financing the acquisition of spill response equipment with a view to assist Mediterranean Coastal States in determining all feasible methods to finance spill response equipment; b) All Contracting Parties to have established national stockpiles of State controlled pre-positioned oil and HNS spill response equipment and have kept updated the related inventory at national level and regional level through REMPEC.	High Medium

<p>18 To encourage the participation of the regional scientific and technical institutions in research and development activities and to facilitate transfer of technology.</p>	<p>a) All Contracting Parties to urge their respective scientific and technical institutions, as well as the industry, to actively participate in R&D activities and programmes related to accidental marine pollution prevention, preparedness and response;</p> <p>b) All Contracting Parties to encourage their respective national institutions and industry to present the results of their R&D activities and programmes in international fora;</p> <p>c) All Contracting Parties to present national R&D activities using the page created by REMPEC within the Country Profiles website.</p>	<p>Continuous</p> <p>Continuous</p> <p>Continuous</p>
<p>19 To improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of decision-making process in case of marine pollution incidents through the development and introduction of technical and decision support tools.</p>	<p>a) All Contracting Parties to continuously stimulate the development and improvement of specific regional decision support tools by promoting active participation of their national scientific institutions and programmes and to provide REMPEC with relevant data-sets and other information that might be available in their respective countries;</p> <p>b) All Contracting Parties to actively participate through a country lead approach in the implementation of the programme of work of the MTWG as defined by the Meetings of Focal Points of REMPEC;</p> <p>c) All Contracting Parties to encourage their national oceano-meteorological institutes to join the Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Ocean Observing System and to contribute to the maintenance of the above Mediterranean tools through regular data update;</p> <p>d) All Contracting Parties to contribute to the development of a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection in line with the EcAp Monitoring Programme.</p>	<p>Continuous</p> <p>As required</p> <p>Continuous</p> <p>As required</p>
<p>20 To increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances.</p>	<p>a) All Contracting Parties to have established national training programmes for response to incidents involving oil and other HNS, based <i>inter alia</i> on IMO Model training courses Levels 1 and 2, for training national operating level and supervisory personnel respectively, with a view to ensuring a continuous education of such personnel;</p> <p>b) All Contracting Parties to disseminate the knowledge acquired through train the trainer courses and replicate the training courses at local and national level;</p> <p>c) All Contracting Parties to carry out regular exercises to test their response capacity in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders and to the possible extent involve neighbour coastal states to enhance bilateral and sub-regional cooperation.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Continuous</p> <p>Continuous</p>
<p>21 To revise the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines, and to develop new ones aimed at facilitating international co-operation and mutual assistance within the framework of Prevention and Emergency Protocol.</p>	<p>a) All Contracting Parties to have reviewed all the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines concerning accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance, as well as prevention of pollution from ships;</p> <p>b) All Contracting Parties to have identified all such recommendations, principles and guidelines that need to be revised, updated and/or amended;</p> <p>c) All Contracting Parties to have indicated which additional recommendations, principles and guidelines should be adopted at the regional level with a view to facilitating the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol in the field of international co-operation and mutual assistance;</p> <p>d) All Contracting Parties to have streamlined their respective national procedures for entry into, movement within and exit from their territory of specialized personnel and equipment that might be required in case of emergency.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p>

22 To strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans.	a) All Contracting Parties to have prepared and adopted national contingency plans and to have established national systems for preparedness for and response to oil and HNS spills from ships; b) All Contracting Parties to have negotiated and endeavoured to conclude and implement sub-regional agreements covering the entire Mediterranean region which would include the relevant sub-regional contingency plans.	High High
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B) Requests addressed to the Secretariat (REMPEC)

Note: The requests addressed to the Secretariat (REMPEC) have not been assigned a priority in as much as most of them can only be carried out once the corresponding demand has been received from the Contracting Parties and, therefore, have the same priority as per the Parties. In general, it is assumed that the tasks entrusted to the Secretariat will be tackled as soon as possible, provided the necessary human and financial resources are available.

Specific Objective	Goal (Success Criteria)
1 Ratification of relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment (see Annex 2).	c) & d) REMPEC to have provided Mediterranean coastal States with advice and assistance in the process of ratifying and implementing the international conventions set forth in subparagraphs a) and b) [see under Contracting Parties]; e) REMPEC to have explored the possibility of drawing assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme.
2 To control and manage ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species	c) REMPEC to have provided Mediterranean coastal States with advice and assistance in order to fulfil the aims under subparagraphs (a) and (b) [see under Contracting Parties].
3 Ensuring effective maritime administrations.	d) REMPEC to have assisted Mediterranean coastal States in the development of a National Action Plan, designed to enable them to assess progress made, to guide them in the full implementation of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy in a tailored manner, and to conduct a national assessment of their capabilities and define the necessary remedial action; e) REMPEC to have assisted Mediterranean coastal States in enhancing the performance of their maritime administrations in line with new IMO developments, in particular the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS); f) REMPEC to have provided support to Mediterranean coastal States to prepare for undertaking the IMO Member State Audit Scheme, having explored the possible technical assistance to which some of them may be entitled under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme and other sources g) REMPEC to have contributed to improve the knowledge and expertise of flag State inspection officers by running a programme of training activities related to relevant international instruments, in particular MARPOL, ensuring appropriate training for ship inspectors.
4 To strengthen the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on port State control (PSC) in the Mediterranean region (Mediterranean MoU).	c) REMPEC to have proposed to the Mediterranean MoU Committee to participate in its meetings as observer; d) REMPEC to have associated itself with port State control training activities addressing environmental matters, including those related to Anti Fouling Systems, Ballast Water Management and biofouling, where appropriate, in collaboration with recognized training institutions within the region; e) REMPEC to have worked in association with other MoUs on port State control in the organization and follow up analysis of concentrated inspection campaigns on MARPOL related deficiencies.

<p>5 Provision of reception facilities in ports.</p>	<p>h) REMPEC to have provided well-structured advice assessing the type, specifications and capacity of the equipment necessary at major ports to efficiently and effectively handle shipboard residues and mixtures, as well as guidelines or sample form of operational plans, taking into account the latest edition of the IMO Comprehensive Manual on Port Reception Facilities, the IMO Guide to Good Practice for Port Reception Facility Providers and Users and the new requirements incorporated since 2005 in the relevant mandatory instruments, to assist Contracting Parties in the accomplishment of this objective;</p> <p>i) REMPEC to have contributed to the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management, as deemed appropriate, in particular for the preparation of specific guidelines to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, where appropriate, the application of a No-Special-Fee system, in consultation with various relevant regional and global institutions and initiatives.</p>
<p>6 Delivery of ship generated wastes.</p>	<p>c) REMPEC to have provided advice on the subject.</p>
<p>7 Improved follow-up of pollution events as well as monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges.</p>	<p>c) REMPEC to have analysed, as far as practical, through direct correspondence with the Contracting Parties, the reasons behind the past poor record of compliance with this objective by many Contracting Parties;</p> <p>d) REMPEC to have organized and participated in any new activities on this issue where the Centre is requested to play a role;</p> <p>e) REMPEC to have facilitated the organization of regular coordinated or individual aerial surveillance operation for illicit ship pollution discharges;</p> <p>f) REMPEC to have explored the possible extension to all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and to REMPEC of the CleanSeaNet services offered by EMSA;</p> <p>g) REMPEC to have to cooperate with other Regional Agreements and EMSA.</p>
<p>8 To improve the level of enforcement and of the prosecution of discharge offenders.</p>	<p>c) REMPEC to have provided support to Contracting Parties, and to have acted as the Secretariat of MENELAS and reported on its activities to the Contracting Parties at each of their Ordinary Meetings;</p> <p>d) REMPEC to have maintained the MENELAS information system;</p> <p>e) REMPEC to have collaborated with the UNEP/MAP Secretariat to further explore possible synergies with the Regional Seas framework.</p>
<p>9 To reduce the pollution generated by pleasure craft activities.</p>	<p>c) REMPEC to have assisted Mediterranean States in the implementation of the Guidelines concerning Pleasure Craft Activities and the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean;</p> <p>d) REMPEC to have to keep a record of the relevant reports sent by the Contracting Parties and to have submitted periodical synthetic reports to the relevant meetings of the Contracting Parties.</p>
<p>10 Reduced risk of collisions by establishing Ship's Routeing Systems.</p>	<p>c) REMPEC to have assisted Contracting Parties, either individually or collectively, in the identification of possible sea areas where a routeing system might be deemed necessary and in the preparation of the relevant documentation to initiate the process at IMO</p> <p>d) REMPEC to have supported Contracting Parties in their efforts toward the establishment of Marine Spatial Plans.</p>
<p>11 Improved control of maritime traffic</p>	<p>c) REMPEC to have negotiated, on behalf of Contracting Parties, with appropriate organizations and agencies the international financial assistance required to establish the regime referred to in sub-paragraph a) of this specific objective;</p>

<p>12 Identification of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs).</p>	<p>b) REMPEC to have initiated the process of identification of those areas which, after examination by the REMPEC Focal Points, could be proposed for designation as PSSAs taking also into account, where appropriate, possible synergies with actions undertaken on the establishment of MSPs referred to under Specific Objective 10;</p> <p>c) REMPEC to have assisted Mediterranean coastal States to conduct the necessary studies and to prepare the relevant submissions to IMO for the designation of PSSAs;</p> <p>d) REMPEC to have explored the possibility of obtaining assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme.</p>
<p>13 Reduction of marine noise caused by ships.</p>	<p>b) REMPEC to have provided Mediterranean coastal States with advice and assistance in order to fulfil this specific objective.</p>
<p>14 To establish procedures for designation of places of refuge in order to minimize the risk of widespread pollution.</p>	<p>c) REMPEC to have provided assistance to countries to define procedures and draw up plans as specified in this specific objective and to have assisted them in raising funds for that purpose, <i>inter alia</i>, from the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme</p>
<p>15 To examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as a SOx emission control area, under MARPOL Annex VI and effectively implement the existing energy efficiency measures.</p>	<p>d) REMPEC to have prepared a study based on the input of Contracting Parties, aimed at assessing the feasibility of the alternatives referred to in sub-paragraph a) of this specific objective;</p> <p>e) REMPEC to have assisted Mediterranean coastal States, either individually or collectively, to prepare a submission to IMO proposing the designation as a SOx ECA of an area or areas of the Mediterranean Sea;</p> <p>f) REMPEC to have provided Contracting Parties with relevant information on possible future further measures for enhancing the energy efficiency of international shipping;</p> <p>g) REMPEC to have assessed existing data collection and reporting systems for fuel consumption of ships in the Mediterranean region and carried out pilot studies on voluntary "Data Collection and Reporting";</p> <p>h) REMPEC to have explored the possibility of obtaining assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme.</p>
<p>16 To ensure that adequate emergency towing capacity is available throughout the Mediterranean to assist vessels, including tankers, in distress.</p>	<p>b) REMPEC to have assisted Contracting Parties that so request in preparing and implementing the agreements referred to in sub-paragraph a) of this specific objective.</p> <p>c) REMPEC to have assessed the capability of Mediterranean coastal States in terms of emergency towing equipment and to have provided support as requested.</p>
<p>17 To enhance the levels of pre-positioned spill response equipment under the direct control of Mediterranean States.</p>	<p>c) REMPEC to have provided assistance to the States which so request in identifying the minimum required level of pre-positioned State-controlled spill response equipment;</p> <p>d) REMPEC to have disseminated to the Contracting Parties the information concerning the applicable ways of financing the acquisition of such equipment and have assisted them in this regard, as necessary;</p> <p>e) REMPEC to have maintained the regional information system and have kept updated the related inventory of the above equipment;</p> <p>f) REMPEC to have envisaged possible synergies to interconnect the Regional Information System (RIS) with CECIS and to have facilitated the updating of these databases through an interconnected system.</p>

<p>18. To encourage the participation of the regional scientific and technical institutions in research and development activities and to facilitate transfer of technology.</p>	<p>d) REMPEC to have assisted regional institutions and industry in identifying fields of research in which there is a need for enhancement of the state-of-the-art of spill preparedness and response technologies and techniques; e) REMPEC to have assisted in the dissemination and exchange of results of national R&D activities and programmes; f) REMPEC to have facilitated the participation of national and regional research institutions and industry in the relevant international fora; g) REMPEC to have cooperated with other Regional Agreements and EMSA under its relevant Action Plans.</p>
<p>19 To improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of decision-making process in case of marine pollution incidents through the development and introduction of technical and decision support tools.</p>	<p>e) REMPEC to have revised and upgraded the existing, and to have developed and made available to the competent national authorities of the Contracting Parties new, IT based decision support tools; f) REMPEC to have facilitated the coordination and the implementation of the programme of work of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group; g) REMPEC to have explored possible interaction and capitalisation of decision support tools available at Mediterranean and European levels; h) REMPEC to have supported the development of a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection in line with the EcAp Monitoring Programme; i) REMPEC to have integrated any developments on decision support tools under specific objectives 20, 21 and 22.</p>
<p>20 To increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances.</p>	<p>d) REMPEC to have assisted Contracting Parties in the development and implementation of their national training programme; e) REMPEC to have delivered "Training of Trainers" courses, based in particular on the work developed under POSOW Projects; f) REMPEC to have focused regional training courses on specific, highly specialized issues; g) REMPEC to have taken into consideration the relevant model training courses updated by the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR); other Regional Agreements, and EMSA under its relevant Action Plans; h) REMPEC to have promoted the organisation of regular exercises to test national and sub-regional response capacity; i) REMPEC to have explored the possibility of obtaining assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme and to have mobilised other external resources and means.</p>
<p>21 To revise the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines, and to develop new ones aimed at facilitating international co-operation and mutual assistance within the framework of Prevention and Emergency Protocol.</p>	<p>e) REMPEC to have compiled an inventory of the applicable national procedures governing the entry into, movement within and exit from their territory of specialized personnel and equipment that might be provided as mutual assistance in case of emergency, and to have prepared recommendations for improving those national procedures that could seriously hamper providing such assistance; f) REMPEC to have proposed for adoption to the Meetings of the Contracting Parties revised, updated and/or amended texts of the relevant regional recommendations, principles and guidelines; g) REMPEC to have proposed for adoption to the Meetings of the Contracting Parties new recommendations, principles and guidelines, as necessary; h) REMPEC to have cooperated with IMO, other Regional Agreements, EMSA under its relevant Action Plans and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, taking into account any new developments on international co-operation and mutual assistance; i) REMPEC to have explored the possibility of obtaining assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme, and to have mobilised other external resources and means.</p>

<p>22 To strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">c) REMPEC to have assisted Contracting Parties that have not yet adopted their national contingency plans or need to review them to integrate HNS and/or offshore components, in the development or updating and implementation of national preparedness and response systems;d) REMPEC to have facilitated the assessment of national contingency plans and national response systems, through self-assessment or peer reviews to commensurate their response capacities with the existing oil and HNS spill risks from ships and to have evaluated gaps between national plans in order to define appropriate actions to ensure the compatibility of operational arrangements in view of the conclusion of bilateral and/or sub-regional agreements;e) REMPEC to have assisted Contracting Parties in preparing sub-regional contingency plans and in drafting agreements on their implementation;f) REMPEC to have utilized advice and material which may be made available by other Regional Agreements, by EMSA under its relevant Action Plans and by the Union Civil Protection Mechanism;g) REMPEC to have explored the possibility of obtaining assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme, and to have mobilised other external resources and means.
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ANNEX II

LIST OF RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND EUROPEAN UNION LEGISLATION

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND OTHER MANDATORY INSTRUMENTS

Note: The status of the Conventions and other mandatory instruments listed below corresponds to March 2015. In implementing the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy, Contracting Parties and REMPEC should endeavour to apply the relevant instruments **as amended** at the time of implementation.

1. **International Conventions dealing with maritime safety and prevention of pollution from ships:**

- the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (LL 1966);
- the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966;
- the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS 1974),
- the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as amended by the Protocols of 1978 and 1997 relating thereto (MARPOL) and its Annexes;
- the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 as amended in 1995 (STCW 1995);
- the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (COLREG 1972), as amended;
- the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969 (TONNAGE 1969);
- the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Antifouling Systems on Ships, 2001;
- the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004;
- the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009;
- the 1996 London Protocol on Prevention of Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter; and
- the ILO Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 147), and the Protocol of 1996 relating thereto.

2. **International Conventions dealing with combating pollution:**

- the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC);
- the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances 2000 (OPRC-HNS Protocol);
- the International Convention relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties, 1969 (INTERVENTION 1969) and its Protocol relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Pollution by Substances other than Oil, 1973 (INTERVENTION PROTOCOL 1973);
- the International Convention on Salvage, 1989 (SALVAGE 1989); and
- the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007.

3. **International Conventions dealing with liability and compensation for pollution damage:**

- the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992 (CLC 1992);
- the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992 (FUND 1992);
- the Protocol on the Establishment of a Supplementary Fund for Oil Pollution Damage, 2003;

- the Protocol of 1996 to amend the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976;
- the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001; and
- the 2010 Protocol to the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996.

RELEVANT EUROPEAN UNION LEGISLATION

Directive 2005/33/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2005 amending Council Directive 1999/32/EC of 26 April 1999 relating to a reduction in the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels (*OJ L 191 of 22.7.2005*)

Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) (*OJ L 164 of 25.06.2008*)

Directive 2009/15/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on common rules and standards for ship inspection and survey organisations and for the relevant activities of maritime administrations (Text with EEA relevance) (*OJ L 131 of 28.5.2009*)

Directive 2009/16/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on port State control (*OJ L 131 of 28.5.2009*) amended by:

- *Directive 2013/38/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 12 August 2013 (OJ L 218 of 14.8.2013); and*
- *Regulation (EU) n° 1257/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 20 November 2013 (OJ L 330 of 10.12.2013).*

Directive 2009/17/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 amending Directive 2002/59/EC establishing a Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system (*OJ L 131 of 28.5.2009*)

Commission Directive 96/40/EC, of 25 June 1996, establishing a common model for an identity card for inspectors carrying out port State control (*OJ L 196 of 7.8.1996*)

Regulation (EC) n° 336/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 February 2006 on the implementation of the International Safety Management Code within the Community and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 3051/95 (*OJ L 64 of 4.3.2006*)

Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning, which should be transposed, by 2016, by EU Member States in view of the establishment of their Maritime Spatial Plans (MSP) by 2021 (*OJ L 257 of 28.8.2014*)

Directive 2014/90/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on marine equipment and repealing Council Directive 96/98/EC (*OJ L 257 of 28.8.2014*)

Directive 99/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 1999 concerning the enforcement of provisions in respect of seafarers' hours of work on board ships calling at Community ports (*OJ L 14 of 20.1.2000*)

Directive 2000/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2000 on port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues (*OJ L 332 of 28.12.2000*), amended by:

- *Commission Directive 2002/84/EC, of 5 November 2001 (OJ L 324 of 29.11.2002);*
- *Commission Directive 2007/71/EC, of 13 December 2007 (OJ L 329 of 14.12.2007);*
- and*
- *Regulation (EC) n° 1137/2008, of 22 October 2008 (OJ L 311 of 21.11.2008).*

Directive 2008/106/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on the minimum level of training of seafarers (recast) (*OJ L 323, 3.12.2008*)

Directive 2001/96/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 4 December 2001 establishing harmonised requirements and procedures for the safe loading and unloading of bulk carriers (OJ L 13 of 16.1.2002), amended by:

- Commission Directive 2002/84/EC, of 5 November 2001 (OJ L 324 of 29.11.2002); and
- Regulation (EC) n° 1137/2008, of 22 October 2008 (OJ L 311 of 21.11.2008).

Regulation (EU) n° 530/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2012 on the accelerated phasing-in of double-hull or equivalent design requirements for single-hull oil tankers (OJ L 172 of 30.6.2012)

Directive 2002/59/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 27 June 2002 establishing a Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system and repealing Council Directive 93/75/EEC (OJ L 208 of 5.8.2002), amended by:

- Directive 2009/17/EC, of 23 April 2009 (OJ L 131 of 28.5.2009);
- Directive 2009/18/EC, of 23 April 2009 (OJ L 131 of 28.5.2009);
- Commission Directive 2011/15/EU, of 23 February 2011 (OJ L 49 of 24.2.2011); and
- Commission Directive 2014/100/EU, of 28 October 2014 (OJ L 308 of 29.10.2014).

Regulation (EC) n° 1406/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2002 establishing a European Maritime Safety Agency (OJ L 208, 05.08.2002), amended by:

- Regulation (EC) n° 1644/2003, of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2003 (OJ L 245 of 29.09.2003);
- Regulation (EC) n° 724/2004, of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 amending Regulation (EC) No 1406/2002 (OJ L 123 of 29.04.2004);
- Regulation (EC) n° 1891/2006, of 18 December 2006 (OJ L 394 of 30.12.2006); and
- Regulation (EU) n° 100/2013 of 15 January 2013 (OJ L 39 of 09.2.2013).

Council Decision (2002/762/EC) of 19 September 2002 authorising the Member States, in the interest of the Community, to sign, ratify or accede to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 (the Bunkers Convention) (OJ L 256 of 25.09.2002)

Regulation (EC) n° 2099/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 November 2002 establishing a Committee on Safe Seas and Prevention of Pollution from Ships (COSS) and amending the Regulations on maritime safety and prevention of pollution from ships (OJ L 324 of 29.11.2002), amended by:

- Commission Regulation (EC) n° 415/2004, of 5 March 2004 (OJ L 68 of 06.03.2004);
- Commission Regulation (EC) n° 93/2007, of 30 January 2007 (OJ L 22 of 31.1.2007);
- Regulation (EC) n° 596/2009, of 18 June 2009 (OJ L 188 of 18.7.2009); and
- Regulation (EU) n° 530/2012, of 13 June 2012 (OJ L 172 of 30.6.2012).

Directive 2002/84/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 November 2002 amending the Directives on maritime safety and the prevention of pollution from ships (OJ L 324 of 29.11.2002), amended by:

- Directive 2008/106/EC, of 19 November 2008 (OJ L 323 of 3.12.2008);
- Directive 2009/45/EC, of 6 May 2009 (OJ L 163 of 25.6.2009); and
- Directive 2014/90/EU, of 23 July 2014 (OJ L 257 of 28.8.2014).

Council Decision (2002/971/EC) of 18 November 2002 authorising the Member States, in the interest of the Community, to ratify or accede to the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996 (the HNS Convention) (OJ L 337 of 13.12.2002)

Regulation (EC) n° 782/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 April 2003 on the prohibition of organotin compounds on ships (OJ L 115 of 9.5.2003), amended by:

- Commission Regulation (EC) n° 536/2008, of 13 June 2008 (OJ L 156 of 14.06.2008) and
- Regulation (EC) n° 219/2009, of 11 March 2009 (OJ L 87 of 31.3.2009).

Council Decision (2004/246/EC) of 2 March 2004 authorising the Member States to sign, ratify or accede to, in the interest of the European Community, the Protocol of 2003 to the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992, and authorising Austria and Luxembourg, in the interest of the European Community, to accede to the underlying instruments (*OJ L 78 of 16.3.2004*), amended by:

- *Council Decision (2004/664/EC), of 24 September 2004 (OJ L 303 of 30.9.2004)*

Directive 2012/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 November 2012 amending Council Directive 1999/32/EC as regards the sulphur content of marine fuels (L 327/1 of 27.11.2012)

ANNEX III

[REVISED DRAFT] REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS 2016-2021

Draft estimated cost of implementation of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy

Notes:

1. The cost estimations tabulated below have been assessed on the basis of the Draft estimation of required means for the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan and drawing from data and assumptions made in the 2005 Study Concerning the Estimate of Costs of the Implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships in the Mediterranean. The estimated costs represent **rough estimates** and, therefore, should not be taken as representing a proper implementation budget which, if required, should be undertaken as a separate exercise.
2. The estimated means required by the Secretariat (REMPEC) assume that the Centre is adequately staffed. The implementation of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy should require additional dedicated staff, preferably funded through a project or external donors, or a succession of officers seconded by the States. The present estimated cost of implementation of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy does not include the cost related to any additional staff.
3. Where the activity concerned is deemed to be part of the Administration's or REMPEC's habitual responsibilities, once the additional staff have been engaged, the estimated cost is given as **nil**.
4. No attempt has been made to quantify the cost of providing adequate port reception facilities as this will vary greatly from country to country and depends on many variables (reference may be made to the Study concerning the estimate of costs of the implementation of the regional strategy for prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships in the Mediterranean - REMPEC/WG.25/6).
5. The services of external expert consultants and the holding of regional seminars and training activities have been considered necessary for the timely and thorough implementation of specific objectives 3, 5, 6, 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20 and 21.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
1 Ratification of relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment.	a) Contracting Parties to ratify and implement, with <i>high priority</i> , the MARPOL Convention and its six annexes, to ensure their transposition into national law, placing special emphasis on revised Annex V (Regulations for the prevention of pollution by garbage from ships) and Annex VI (Regulations for the prevention of air pollution from ships) as amended, and to co-operate through REMPEC to ensure full compliance with its provisions	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil
	b) Contracting Parties to ratify and implement, with <i>high priority</i> , other IMO relevant international conventions and to ensure their transposition into national law by the same time and full compliance with their provisions	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil
	c) The Secretariat to provide Mediterranean coastal States, which so request, with advice and assistance in order to meet the priorities set forth in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above	Staff time.	Nil
	d) The Secretariat to assist Mediterranean coastal States, which so request, in their efforts to ratify and implement the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and sediments, 2004, in conjunction with the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management and of the GloBallast Partnerships Project in the Mediterranean in collaboration with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)	Staff time	Nil
	e) The Secretariat to explore the possibility of drawing assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme	Staff time	Nil
2 To control and manage ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species.	a) Contracting Parties to apply, with <i>medium priority</i> , the 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species when adopting measures to minimize the risk of introducing such species via biofouling, and report to IMO on any experience gained in their implementation	Appropriate action by the maritime administration, with additional support	Nil

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
	b) Contracting Parties to disseminate the Guidelines to the shipping industry and other interested parties, and request them to cooperate in minimizing the risks involved	Ditto.	Nil
	c) the Secretariat to provide Mediterranean coastal States, which so request, with advice and assistance in order to fulfil the aims under sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above	Staff time	Nil
3 Ensuring effective maritime administrations.	a) Contracting Parties to prepare, with <i>high priority</i> and seeking the assistance of REMPEC if necessary, National Action Plans (NAP) to enable them to assess progress made, to guide them in the full implementation of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy in a tailored manner, and to conduct a national assessment of their capabilities and define the necessary remedial action	Appropriate action by the maritime administration Regional seminar	Nil 75,000 ²⁰
	b) Mediterranean coastal States, with <i>high priority</i> , to enhance, on the basis of the National Action Plan (NAP) mentioned above, the performance of their maritime administrations by conducting a self-assessment of their capabilities and performance in giving full and complete effect to MARPOL and other applicable conventions, by using the guidance set out in the relevant IMO Resolution dealing with the self-assessment of flag State performance and other relevant IMO recommendations and guidelines	Ditto.	Nil

²⁰ Estimated cost of a two-day seminar held in Malta, with two participants per country in attendance plus the help of an external expert consultant.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
	c) Mediterranean coastal States, in their efforts to protect the marine environment and once the self-assessment mentioned in subparagraph a) above has been carried out successfully and any remedial action taken, endeavour to prepare, with <i>high priority</i> , for undertaking the IMO Member State Audit Scheme, using the III Code as the audit standard and following the Framework and Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme, once it is fully institutionalized when the said III Code becomes mandatory under MARPOL and other Conventions	Ditto.	Nil
	d) the Secretariat to assist the Mediterranean coastal States which so request in the development of the National Action Plan mentioned in sub-paragraph a) above, designed to enable them to assess progress made, to guide them in the full implementation of the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy in a tailored manner, and to conduct a national assessment of their capabilities and define the necessary remedial action	Staff time and travel ²¹ External consultancy assistance	See footnote 2 210,000 ²²
	e) the Secretariat to continue assisting the Mediterranean coastal States which so request in enhancing the performance of their maritime administrations in line with new IMO developments, in particular IMSAS	Ditto.	Ditto.
	f) the Secretariat to provide support to the Mediterranean coastal States which so request to prepare for undertaking the IMO Member State Audit Scheme, having explored the possible technical assistance to which some of them may be entitled under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme and other sources	Ditto.	Ditto.

²¹ A travel budget for the Secretariat amounting to 15,000 euro for six years (2016-2021) has been estimated, as reflected at the end of the table.

²² A technical support budget amounting to 10,000 euro per country has been estimated.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
	g) the Secretariat to continue improving the knowledge and expertise of flag State inspection officers by establishing, through REMPEC, a programme of training activities related to relevant international instruments, in particular MARPOL, ensuring appropriate training for ship inspectors	Staff time External consultancy assistance	Nil 15,000
4 To strengthen the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on port State control (PSC) in the Mediterranean region (Mediterranean MoU).	a) Contracting Parties to maintain their mandate to REMPEC whereby the Centre should, if and when possible, offer its assistance to the Mediterranean MoU on port State control in order to improve its effectiveness and, if so requested, to facilitate co-operation between the Paris MoU and the Mediterranean MoU	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil
	b) Contracting Parties to make available, with <i>high priority</i> , the necessary resources and means to enable the Mediterranean MoU to function efficiently	Ditto.	Nil
	c) the Secretariat to continue seeking participation in the meetings of the MoU Committee	Staff time and travel ²³	See footnote 4
	d) the Secretariat to associate itself with port State control training activities addressing environmental matters, including those related to Anti Fouling Systems, Ballast Water Management and biofouling, where appropriate, in collaboration with recognized training institutions within the region	Ditto.	Ditto.
	e) the Secretariat to work in association with the MoUs on port State control, in particular with the Paris MoU, on the organization and follow-up analysis of concentrated inspection campaigns on MARPOL-related deficiencies	Ditto.	Ditto.

²³ A travel budget for the Secretariat amounting to 15,000 euro per year for six years (2016-2021) has been estimated, as reflected at the end of the table.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
5 Provision of reception facilities in ports	a) Contracting Parties (including activities b) to g)) to provide, with <i>high priority</i> except for f) related to ozone-depleting substances and exhaust gas cleaning residues which has <i>medium priority</i> , unless specified otherwise and if appropriate action has not been already taken, adequate reception facilities in their ports and consider procedures related to the cost of the use of such facilities, enabling their use as soon as they are available at a fee which should be reasonable and should not serve as a disincentive for their use	Appropriate action by the maritime administration, in conjunction with other agencies	See note 4 above
	h) the Secretariat to provide well-structured advice, that may include assessing the type, specifications and capacity of the equipment necessary at major ports to efficiently and effectively handle shipboard residues and mixtures, based on previous work done on this matter and taking into account the latest edition of the IMO Comprehensive Manual on Port Reception Facilities, the IMO Guide to Good Practice for Port Reception Facility Providers and Users and the new requirements incorporated since 2005 in the relevant mandatory instruments, to assist Contracting Parties in the accomplishment of this objective	Staff time External consultancy assistance Regional seminar	Nil 15,000 ²⁴ 60,000 ²⁵
	i) the Secretariat, in preparing the advice mentioned in subparagraph h) above, to also contribute to the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management, as deemed appropriate, in particular for the preparation of specific guidelines to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, where appropriate, the application of a No-Special-Fee system, in consultation with various relevant regional and global institutions and initiatives	Staff time External consultancy assistance	Nil 75,000 ²⁶

²⁴ External consultant to prepare required advice and assist with the holding of the regional seminar.

²⁵ Estimated cost of a two-day seminar held in Malta, with two participants per country in attendance.

²⁶ External consultant to support the preparation of specific guidelines and to provide technical support to up to 10 main ports in the region.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
6 Delivery of ship-generated wastes	a) Contracting Parties to establish, with <i>high priority</i> and if appropriate action has not been already taken, a system of notification to a vessel's next port of call of the status of its on board retention of bilge waters, oily wastes, HNS residues, sewage, garbage, ozone-depleting substances and exhaust gas cleaning residues	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil
	b) Mediterranean States to implement, with <i>high priority</i> , national regulations empowering maritime authorities to require, if they deem it necessary, the Masters of vessels to discharge wastes into designated port reception facilities before sailing	Ditto.	Nil
	c) the Secretariat to provide advice on the subject as may be requested by Contracting Parties, possibly in association with the well-structured advice requested under the specific objective on the provision of reception facilities in ports, taking also into account, where appropriate, the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management	Staff time and external consultancy assistance under activity 5 h) above	Nil
7 Improved follow-up of pollution events as well as monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges	a) Contracting Parties to establish, with <i>high priority</i> and if appropriate action has not been already taken, systems and procedures for national and sub-regional monitoring and surveillance including, where practicable, regular individual or coordinated aerial surveillance in the waters under the jurisdiction of Contracting Parties and to report the results to the regular meetings of REMPEC Focal Points	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil
	b) Contracting Parties to endeavour to establish, with <i>high priority</i> , sub-regional systems, including procedures to over-fly the waters under the jurisdiction of a neighbouring State if the Parties so agree, for surveillance of environmentally sensitive and/or high risk zones of the Mediterranean Sea	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil
	c) the Secretariat to analyse, as far as practical, through direct correspondence with the Contracting Parties, the reasons behind the poor record of compliance with this objective by many Contracting Parties	Staff time	Nil

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
	d) the Secretariat to continue organizing and participating in, funding and human resources permitting, any new activities on this issue where the Centre is requested to play a role, building on the experience gathered from the activities carried out on national monitoring and surveillance	Staff time and travel ²⁷	See footnote 8
	e) the Secretariat to facilitate the organization of regular coordinated or individual aerial surveillance operations for illicit ship pollution discharges	Staff time	Nil
	f) the Secretariat to explore the possible extension to all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and to REMPEC of the CleanSeaNet services offered by EMSA	Staff time	Nil
	g) the Secretariat, in carrying out the above requests, to cooperate with other Regional Agreements and EMSA	Staff time	Nil
8 To improve the level of enforcement and the prosecution of discharge offenders	a) Mediterranean States, with <i>high priority</i> , to ensure the existence of a national legal framework (regulations) as a basis for prosecuting discharge offenders for infringements of the MARPOL Convention or of any national legal framework implementing it	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil
	b) Mediterranean States to actively participate, with <i>high priority</i> , in the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention in accordance with its terms of reference	Ditto.	Nil
	c) the Secretariat to continue providing support to Contracting Parties, and act as the Secretariat of MENELAS and to report on its activities to the Contracting Parties at each of their Ordinary Meetings	Staff time	Nil
	d) the Secretariat to be responsible for the maintenance of the MENELAS information system	Staff time and IT maintenance	6,000 ²⁸

²⁷ A travel budget for the Secretariat amounting to 15,000 euro per year for six years (2016-2021) has been estimated, as reflected at the end of the table.

²⁸ A website maintenance budget of 2,000 euro per year for six years (2016-2021) has been estimated.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
	e) the Secretariat to collaborate with UNEP/MAP Secretariat to further exploit possible synergies with the Regional Seas framework such as the North Sea Network of investigators and Prosecutors (NSN), the Baltic Sea Network of Environmental Crime Prosecutors (ENPRO) and EMSA in the framework of MENELAS	Staff time and travel ²⁹	See footnote 10
9 To reduce the pollution generated by pleasure craft activities	a) Contracting Parties to implement, with <i>high priority</i> , the Guidelines concerning Pleasure Craft Activities and the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean, in conjunction with the relevant provisions of the MARPOL Convention and the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil
	b) Contracting Parties to report to the Secretariat on the measures they undertook to implement the said Guidelines	Ditto.	Nil
	c) the Secretariat to assist Mediterranean States in the implementation of the Guidelines referred to in subparagraph a) above, taking into account the relevant provisions of the MARPOL Convention and the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management	Staff time Regional seminar plus external consultancy	Nil 75,000 ³⁰
	d) the Secretariat to keep a record of the reports sent by the Contracting Parties under sub-paragraph b) above and submit periodical synthetic reports to the relevant meetings of the Contracting Parties	Staff time	Nil
10 Reduced risk of collisions by establishing Ship's Routeing Systems	a) Contracting Parties to propose to IMO, where and when necessary, additional appropriate routeing systems in the Mediterranean for possible adoption in accordance with international law	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil
	b) Contracting Parties to consider establishing, when and where possible, and without prejudice to the sovereign right of the States, Maritime Spatial Plans (MSPs) under their jurisdiction in close collaboration with the relevant national competent authorities and in cooperation with other Mediterranean coastal States ensuring that their MSPs are coherent and coordinated across the Mediterranean region	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil

²⁹ A travel budget for the Secretariat amounting to 15,000 euro per year for six years (2016-2021) has been estimated, as reflected at the end of the table.

³⁰ Estimated cost of a two-day seminar held in Malta, with two participants per country in attendance plus the help of an external expert consultant.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
	c) the Secretariat to assist Contracting Parties that so request, either individually or collectively, in the identification of possible sea areas where a routing system might be deemed necessary and in the preparation of the relevant documentation to initiate the process at IMO	Staff time	Nil
	d) the Secretariat to support, in close cooperation with other MAP components, Contracting Parties which so require in their efforts toward the establishment of MSPs	Staff time and travel ³¹	See footnote 12
11 Improved control of maritime traffic	a) Contracting Parties to identify, with <i>high priority</i> , those areas of the Mediterranean where control of maritime traffic could be improved by the establishment of a regime based on the use of Automatic Identification System (AIS) in conjunction with Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) and mandatory ship reporting systems, and to complete approval procedures as soon as possible thereafter	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil
	b) Contracting Parties to improve, on a continuous basis, technical cooperation among VTS Centres of neighbouring countries and, according to the need, to exchange information about ships by using AIS and other related systems in the common surveillance area	Ditto.	Nil
	c) the Secretariat to negotiate, with <i>high priority</i> , with appropriate organizations and agencies on behalf of the Contracting Parties which so request, the international financial assistance required to establish the regime referred to in sub-paragraph a) above, taking also into account, where appropriate, possible synergies with actions undertaken on the establishment of MSPs referred to under Specific Objective 10	Staff time	Nil
12 Identification of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs)	a) Contracting Parties to ascertain, with <i>medium priority</i> and the support of REMPEC and SPA/RAC, whether there are maritime areas within their jurisdiction which need the protection afforded by their designation as PSSAs and, if so ascertained, initiate the process of requesting IMO to enable such designation	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil

³¹ A travel budget for the Secretariat amounting to 15,000 euro per year for six years (2016-2021) has been estimated, as reflected at the end of the table.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
	b) the Secretariat to initiate, on the request of Contracting Parties and in conjunction with SPA/RAC, the process of identification of those areas which, after examination by the REMPEC Focal Points, could be proposed for designation as PSSAs taking also into account, where appropriate, possible synergies with actions undertaken on the establishment of MSPs referred to under Specific Objective 10	Staff time	Nil
	c) the Secretariat to assist, in co-operation with IMO, the Mediterranean coastal States which so request, to conduct the necessary studies and to prepare the relevant submissions to IMO for the designation of PSSAs, if any, in strict compliance with the applicable IMO Guidelines	Staff time External consultancy assistance	Nil 15,000
	d) the Secretariat to explore the possibility of obtaining assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme	Staff time	Nil
13 Reduction of marine noise caused by ships	a) Contracting Parties to raise awareness, with <i>medium priority</i> , through the dissemination of the advice contained in the IMO Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life among their national designers and shipbuilders, as well as operators of ships flying their flag, urging them to implement noise mitigation strategies on board their ships	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil
	b) the Secretariat to provide Mediterranean coastal States, which so request, with advice and assistance in order to fulfil the objective under sub-paragraph (a) above	Staff time	Nil
14 To establish procedures for the designation of places of refuge in order to minimize the risks of widespread pollution	a) Contracting Parties to identify, with <i>high priority</i> , at the national level, appropriate procedures as outlined in the relevant IMO Guidelines and EU legislation and guidelines, supplemented by the associated Guidelines and Principles prepared by REMPEC, in order to facilitate the decision making when designating a place of refuge for ships in need of assistance	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
	b) All Mediterranean States, with <i>medium priority</i> , to draw up plans to deal with ships in distress, including appropriate equipment and means, as required, and define the modalities of the response according to its nature and to the risk incurred	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil
	c) the Secretariat to continue providing assistance to countries, which so request, to define procedures and draw up plans as specified in sub-objectives a) and b) above and to raise funds, <i>inter alia</i> , from the IMO ITCP	Staff time External consultancy assistance	Nil 15,000
15 To examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as a SOx emission control area under MARPOL Annex VI and effectively implement the existing energy efficiency measures	a) Contracting Parties to examine, with <i>high priority</i> , if it is appropriate to designate as a SOx Emission Control Area (ECA) certain areas of the Mediterranean identified for that purpose, as well as, to explore the possibility to designate the whole of the Mediterranean Sea as a SOx ECA	Appropriate action by the maritime administration and the Secretariat	Nil
	b) Contracting Parties, once a decision is made and having ratified MARPOL Annex VI, to submit to IMO, with <i>medium priority</i> , a proposal to designate as a SOx ECA the area or areas of the Mediterranean Sea identified under sub-paragraph a) above	Ditto.	Nil
	c) Contracting Parties to participate in relevant debates at the IMO on possible future further measures for enhancing the energy efficiency of international shipping, in particular, the development of a data collection system for fuel consumption of ships, <i>inter alia</i> by informing the Secretariat of the existence of data collection and reporting systems for fuel consumption of ships;	Ditto.	Nil
	d) the Secretariat to prepare, with <i>high priority</i> , a study based on the input of Contracting Parties, aimed at assessing the feasibility of the alternatives referred to in sub-paragraph a) above	Staff time External consultancy assistance	Nil 15,000

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
	e) the Secretariat to assist the Mediterranean coastal States which so request, either individually or collectively, to prepare a submission to IMO proposing the designation as a SOx ECA of the area o areas of the Mediterranean Sea identified under sub-paragraph a) above	Staff time Regional seminar	Nil 60,000 ³²
	f) the Secretariat to provide Contracting Parties, which so request, with relevant information on possible future further measures for enhancing the energy efficiency of international shipping	Staff time	Nil
	g) the Secretariat to assess existing data collection and reporting systems for fuel consumption of ships in the Mediterranean region and carry out pilot studies on voluntary “Data Collection and Reporting	Staff time	Nil
	h) the Secretariat to explore the possibility of obtaining assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme	Staff time	Nil
16 To ensure that adequate emergency towing capacity is available throughout the Mediterranean to assist vessels, including tankers, in distress	a) Contracting Parties to consider, with <i>high priority</i> , if appropriate action has not been already taken, entering into agreements with neighbouring coastal States which would enable them to share emergency towing equipment and arrangements to assist ships in distress in the Mediterranean, using as appropriate the Mediterranean guidelines on emergency towing	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil
	b) the Secretariat to assist Contracting Parties that so request in preparing and implementing the agreements referred to in sub-paragraph a) above	Staff time	Nil
	c) the Secretariat to assess the capability of the Mediterranean coastal States in terms of emergency towing equipment, and provide support to those Contracting Parties which so request	Staff time	Nil
17 To enhance the levels of pre-positioned spill response equipment under the direct control of Mediterranean States	a) Contracting Parties to share or exchange, with <i>high priority</i> , information concerning their respective national practices for financing the acquisition of spill response equipment with a view to assist Mediterranean Coastal States in determining all feasible methods to finance spill response equipment,	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil

³² Estimated cost of a two-day seminar held in Malta, with two participants per country in attendance.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
	b) Contracting Parties to establish, with <i>medium priority</i> , national stockpiles of State controlled and private pre-positioned oil and HNS spill response equipment and keep updated the related inventory at national level and regional level through REMPEC	Ditto	Nil
	c) the Secretariat to provide assistance to the States which so request in identifying the minimum required level of pre-positioned State-controlled spill response equipment	Staff time and external consultancy	210,000 ³³
	d) the Secretariat to disseminate to the Contracting Parties the information concerning the applicable ways of financing the acquisition of such equipment and continue assisting them in this regard, as necessary	Staff time	Nil
	e) the Secretariat to maintain the regional information system and keep updated the related inventory of pre-positioned spill response equipment	Staff time and external consultancy	6,000 ³⁴
	f) the Secretariat to envisage possible synergies to interconnect the Regional Information System (RIS) with CESIS to facilitate the access to the information at any time and in particular in case of emergency, and facilitate the update of these databases through an interconnected system	Staff time	Nil
18 To encourage the participation of the regional scientific and technical institutions in research and development activities and to facilitate transfer of technology	a) Contracting Parties to urge their respective scientific and technical institutions, as well as the industry, to actively participate in R&D activities and programmes related to accidental marine pollution prevention, preparedness and response	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil
	b) Contracting Parties to encourage their respective national institutions and industry to present the results of their R&D activities and programmes at international fora	Ditto.	Nil
	c) Contracting Parties to present national R&D activities using the page created by REMPEC within the Country Profiles website	Ditto.	Nil

³³ A technical support budget amounting to 10,000 euro per country has been estimated.

³⁴ An IT maintenance budget of 2,000 euro per year for six years (2016-2021) has been estimated.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
	d) the Secretariat to continue assisting regional institutions and industry in identifying fields of research in which there is a need for enhancement of the state-of-the-art of spill preparedness and response technologies and techniques	Staff time	Nil
	e) the Secretariat to continue assisting in the dissemination and exchange of results of national R&D activities and programmes within and outside the Mediterranean region	Staff time	Nil
	f) the Secretariat to facilitate the participation of national and regional research institutions and industry in the relevant international fora with a view to making better known the results of R&D activities undertaken in the Mediterranean region	Staff time and travel ³⁵	See footnote 16
	g) the Secretariat, in carrying out the above requests, to cooperate with other Regional Agreements and EMSA under its relevant Action Plans	Staff time	Nil
19 To improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of decision-making process in case of marine pollution incidents through the development and introduction of technical and decision support tools	a) Contracting Parties to stimulate, on a continuous basis, the development and improvement of specific regional decision support tools by promoting active participation of their national scientific institutions and programmes, and through providing REMPEC with relevant data-sets and other information that might be available in their respective countries	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Nil
	b) Contracting Parties to actively participate through a country lead approach in the implementation of the programme of work of the MTWG as defined by the Meetings of Focal Points of REMPEC	Ditto.	Nil
	c) Contracting Parties to encourage their national oceanographic institutes to join the Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Ocean Observing System and to contribute to the maintenance of the above Mediterranean tools through regular data update	Ditto.	Nil

³⁵ A travel budget for the Secretariat to implement the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy amounting to 15,000 euro per year for six years (2016-2021) has been estimated, as reflected at the end of the table.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
	d) Contracting Parties to contribute to the development of a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection in line with the EcAp Monitoring Programme	Ditto.	Nil
	e) the Secretariat to continue revising and upgrading the existing, and to develop and make available to the competent national authorities of the Contracting Parties new, IT based decision support tools, taking into account national or regional initiatives in this field	Staff time Regional seminar plus external consultancy IT development	Nil 75,000 ³⁶ 150,000 ³⁷
	f) the Secretariat to facilitate the coordination and the implementation of the programme of work of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group	Staff time	
	g) the Secretariat, in carrying out the above requests, to explore possible interaction and capitalisation of decision support tools available at Mediterranean and European levels, including those developed by other Regional Agreements or under other regional initiatives	Staff time	Nil
	h) the Secretariat to support the development of a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection in line with the EcAp Monitoring Programme	Staff time in connection with activity e) above	Nil
	i) the Secretariat to integrate any developments on decision support tools under specific objectives 20, 21 and 22	Staff time	Nil
20 To increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances	a) Contracting Parties to establish, with <i>high priority</i> , if appropriate action has not been already taken, national training programmes for response to incidents involving oil and other HNS, based <i>inter alia</i> on IMO Model training courses Levels 1 and 2, for training national operating level and supervisory personnel respectively, with a view to ensuring a continuous education of such personnel	Appropriate action by the maritime administration, including training	Nil
	b) Contracting Parties to disseminate the knowledge acquired through train the trainer courses and replicate the training courses at local and national level	Ditto.	Nil

³⁶ Estimated cost of a two-day seminar held in Malta, with two participants per country in attendance plus the help of an external expert consultant.

³⁷ Estimated cost of IT developments

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
	c) Contracting Parties to carry out regular exercises to test their response capacity in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders and to the possible extent involve neighbour coastal states to enhance bilateral and sub-regional cooperation	Appropriate action by the maritime administration	Cost of regular exercises ³⁸
	d) the Secretariat to assist Contracting Parties which so request in the development and implementation of their national training programmes	Staff time	Nil
	e) the Secretariat to continue delivering “Training of Trainers” courses, based in particular on the work developed under POSOW Projects	Two regional training courses plus external consultancy support	150,000 ³⁹
	f) the Secretariat to continue focusing regional training courses on specific, highly specialized issues, to be identified at regular basis by the Meetings of REMPEC Focal Points	Three regional training courses	180,000 ⁴⁰
	g) the Secretariat to take into consideration, when preparing and supporting the implementation of national training programmes, the relevant model training courses updated by the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR); other Regional Agreements, and EMSA under its relevant Action Plans	Staff time	Nil
	h) the Secretariat to promote the organisation of regular exercises to test national and sub-regional response capacity in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders	Staff time and travel ⁴¹	See footnote 22
	i) the Secretariat to explore the possibility of obtaining assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme and to mobilise external resources and means, <i>inter alia</i> , from external donors, the private sector and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism	Staff time	Nil

³⁸ The cost of regular exercises to test response capacity could not be quantified, as they involve several State departments and administrations.

³⁹ Estimated cost of two two-day training courses held in Malta, with two participants per country in attendance plus the help of an external expert consultant.

⁴⁰ Estimated cost of three two-day Regional training held in Malta, with two participants per country in attendance

⁴¹ A travel budget for the Secretariat to implement the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy amounting to 15,000 euro per year for six years (2016-2021) has been estimated, as reflected at the end of the table

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
21 To revise the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines, and to develop new ones aimed at facilitating international co-operation and mutual assistance within the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol	a) Contracting Parties to review, with <i>high priority</i> if appropriate action has not been already taken, the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines concerning accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance, as well as prevention of pollution from ships, that were adopted since 1987, paying particular attention to those that aim at removing possible obstacles which might hinder mutual assistance	Appropriate action by the maritime administration and the Secretariat	Nil
	b) Contracting Parties to identify, with <i>high priority</i> if appropriate action has not been already taken, all such recommendations, principles and guidelines that need to be revised, updated and/or amended	Ditto.	Nil
	c) Contracting Parties to indicate, with <i>high priority</i> if appropriate action has not been already taken, which additional recommendations, principles and guidelines should be adopted at the regional level with a view to facilitating the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol in the field of international co-operation and mutual assistance	Ditto.	Nil
	d) Contracting Parties to further facilitate mutual assistance by streamlining, with <i>high priority</i> if appropriate action has not been already taken, their respective national procedures for entry into, movement within and exit from their territory of specialized personnel and equipment that might be required in case of emergency, and to inform REMPEC accordingly	Ditto.	Nil
	e) the Secretariat to conclude the compilation, as soon as the necessary information is in hand, of an inventory of their applicable national procedures governing the entry into, movement within and exit from their territory of specialized personnel and equipment that might be provided as mutual assistance in case of emergency, and to prepare recommendations for improving those national procedures that could seriously hamper providing such assistance	Staff time External consultancy assistance, to cover activities e), f), g) in two separate but related missions	Nil 30,000

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
	f) the Secretariat to prepare, with <i>high</i> priority, in co-operation with REMPEC national Focal Points, and to propose for adoption to the Meetings of the Contracting Parties revised, updated and/or amended texts of the relevant regional recommendations, principles and guidelines	Ditto.	See above
	g) the Secretariat to develop, as the need arises and in co-operation with REMPEC national Focal Points, and to propose for adoption to the Meetings of the Contracting Parties, new recommendations, principles and guidelines, as necessary	Ditto.	See above
	h) the Secretariat, in carrying out the above requests, to cooperate with IMO, other Regional Agreements, EMSA under its relevant Action Plans and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, taking into account any new developments on international co-operation and mutual assistance	Staff time	Nil
	i) the Secretariat to explore the possibility of obtaining assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme, and to mobilise external resources and means <i>inter alia</i> from external donors, the private sector and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism	Staff time	Nil
22 To strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans	a) Contracting Parties to assess, prepare, or review and adopt, with <i>high priority</i> if appropriate action has not been already taken, national contingency plans and to establish national systems for preparedness for and response to oil and HNS spills from ships and other marine vehicles and structures, with a view to creating the necessary conditions for the development of sub-regional agreements	Appropriate action by the maritime administration and the Secretariat	Nil
	b) Contracting Parties to negotiate and endeavour to conclude and implement, with <i>high priority</i> , sub-regional agreements covering the entire Mediterranean region which would include the relevant sub-regional contingency plans	Ditto.	Nil

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	MEANS REQUIRED	ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST (EURO)
	c) the Secretariat to continue assisting the Contracting Parties that have not yet adopted their national contingency plans or need to review their national contingency plans to integrate HNS and/or offshore components, in the development or update and implementation of national preparedness and response systems	Staff time	Nil
	d) the Secretariat to facilitate the assessment of national contingency plans and national response systems, through self-assessment or peer reviews to commensurate their response capacities with the existing oil and HNS spill risks from ships and other marine vehicles and structures and to evaluate gaps between national plans in order to define appropriate actions to ensure the compatibility of operational arrangements in view of the conclusion of bilateral and/or sub-regional agreements	Staff time and travel ⁴²	See footnote 23
	e) the Secretariat to continue assisting Contracting Parties, which so request, in preparing or reviewing sub-regional contingency plans and in drafting agreements on their implementation	Ditto.	Ditto.
	f) the Secretariat, in carrying out the above requests, to utilize advice and material which may be made available by other Regional Agreements, by EMSA under its relevant Action Plans and by the Union Civil Protection Mechanism	Staff time	Nil
	g) the Secretariat to explore the possibility of obtaining assistance for the above purposes under the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme and to mobilise external resources and means <i>inter alia</i> from external donors, the private sector and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism	Staff time	Nil

⁴² A travel budget for the Secretariat to implement the [Revised Draft] Regional Strategy amounting to 15,000 euro per year for six years (2016-2021) has been estimated, as reflected at the end of the table.

SUMMARY OF COSTS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE [REVISED DRAFT] REGIONAL STRATEGY 2016-2021, ADDITIONAL TO THE COST OF ENGAGING ONE DEDICATED OFFICER FOR EACH ADMINISTRATION			
Travel budget for the Secretariat 2016-2021	Travel required, <i>inter alia</i> , under activities 3 d) to f); 4 c) to e); 7 d); 8 e); 10 d); 18 f); 20 h) and 22 d) and e)		90,000
External consultancy support	Approximate cost of external consultants engaged under activities 3 d) to g); 5 h) and i); 6 c); 9 c); 12 c); 14 c); 15 d); 17 c) and e); 19 e); 20 e) and 21 e) to g)		600,000
Seminars and training activities	Approximate cost of holding regional seminars and training under activities 3 a) to c); 5 h); 9 c); 15 e); 19 e); and 20 a) and b) and e) to f), including external support where appropriate		675,000
IT Maintenance	Approximate cost for IT development and maintenance under activities 8 d) and 19 e).		162,000
TOTAL			1,527,000