



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

MEDEXPOL 2013,
Workshop on the Regional Response Capacity and Coordination
to Major Oil Spill in the Mediterranean Sea

Athens, Greece, 10-12 December 2013

Agenda Item 2

REMPEC/WG.34/2
Date: 14 November 2013

Original: English

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides brief information on the action to be taken by the Workshop .

Action to be taken: As indicated under each agenda item.

Related documents: -

Introduction

The Workshop on Regional Response Capacity and Co-ordination for Major Oil Spill in the Mediterranean Sea (MEDEXPOL 2013) will be held in Athens, Greece between the 10 and 12 December 2013. As announced at the 1st Meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on the Offshore Protocol, MEDEXPOL 2013 will also address contingency planning and response operations in case of an offshore incident as well as progress made in the implementation of Decision IG.20/12.

The principal objectives of the Workshop will be:

1. To review regional arrangements and policies related to response and cooperation to major oil spill incidents in the Mediterranean Region;
2. To examine the identified recognized international best practices and regulations relevant to the implementation of the Offshore Protocol;
3. To review the assessment and analysis of the existing practical measures in place in the Mediterranean countries with regard to Offshore activities; and
4. To provide recommendations to be considered when drafting the Action Plan requested by Decision IG.20/12

All Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Focal Points have been invited to nominate jointly and in consultation with all national authorities concerned their representatives in the Meeting. The invitation to attend the Meeting was also extended to the specialized agencies of the United Nations, other governmental and non-governmental organizations, the international professional organizations and associations whose activities are relevant for the objectives of the Workshop as well as to the oil industry.

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

Day I: 10th December 2013

08.30–09.00 Registration

09.00 - 09.15 Agenda item1 Opening

MEDEXPOL 2013 will be opened on Tuesday, 10th December 2013 at 09.00 hours and is expected to close on Thursday, 12th December 2013 at 17.00hrs.

Mr. Frederic Hebert, Director of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) will open the Meeting.

Agenda Item 2 Organization of the Meeting

The participant to the Meeting will be invited to agree on the annotated agenda presented in the current document as well as the timetable.

The working languages of the Meeting will be English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation will be provided during the Meeting. All working documents will be available in English and in French. Information documents will be available in their original language unless a translation has been provided in the second working language.

The Director of REMPEC will highlight the discussion scheme which will consist in expositions of relevant topics within the context of incident scenarios followed by immediate discussions through the active participation of the Meeting. The Workshop will identified gaps requiring future actions.

09.15 – 09.30 Agenda Item 3 Tier 3 Scenarios

The Programme Officer of REMPEC will introduce two scenarios of major incidents occurring in the Mediterranean region. One scenario will describe a blow out from offshore platform, whilst the other scenario will focus on a tanker incident. The scenarios will be used all along the thematic discussions to set the context and encourage a dynamic dialogue on practical and operational issues.

The Meeting will be invited to consider these scenarios for the discussions in the following thematic sessions.

SESSION 1: TIER 3 MONITORING

09.30 – 10.00 Agenda Item 4 Forecasting platform

Reliable forecasting models are critical to support decision makers in identifying the most efficient response and in defining the response strategies and the corresponding mobilisation of means and personnel. Forecasting model can be provided by private companies and through regional services.

The Multi-model forecasting platform currently developed within the framework of the Project Mediterranean decision support system for marine safety (MEDESS-4MS) as a follow-up to MEDEXPOL 2011 (Regional Workshop on Oil Spill Risk Assessment in the Mediterranean Sea (MEDEXPOL 2011), Barcelona, Spain, 29 November - 1 December 2011) will be introduced and discussed along other private services. The oil industry will also introduce forecasting model capacities.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to discuss forecasting models.

10.00 – 10.30 **Coffee Break**

10.30 – 11.15 **Agenda Item 5** **Satellite oil spill monitoring**

When a major incident occur, the prompt access to satellite images of the area concerned is crucial to obtain an overview of the extent of the pollution. The existing mechanisms (International Charter, CleanSeaNet, etc...) will be introduced and discussed.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to discuss any bottleneck or concern related to satellite image access.

SESSION 2: TIER 3 SPILL RESPONSE TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

In the midst of a catastrophic oil spill, having the right response equipment at the right time in the right location is crucial. Facility in acquiring essential equipment from one's own nation is not enough. There needs to be an efficient process to source critical resources worldwide. General experience has shown that in case of a request for assistance, the means to be rendered available by each country is determined on a case by case basis. However, having a clear overview on the existing stockpiles available in the region, can contribute to enhance the regional assistance mechanism and mobilization planning.

11.15 – 12.00 **Agenda Item 6** **Well Capping System**

Following the incident affecting the oil rig Deepwater Horizon (also known as Macondo/MC 125), some 80 km off the coast of Louisiana, on 20 April 2010, the oil industry took a number of measures to prevent such incident and to respond to any possible similar accident. Amongst these measures, the worldwide Subsea Well Intervention Service (SWIS) has been set-up. This service will be introduced, whilst its deployment will be considered within the context of the scenario proposed for the purpose of the workshop.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to discuss the matter in the context of their country.

12.00 – 13.00 **Lunch**

13.00 – 14.00 **Agenda Item 7** **At sea recovery**

At sea recovery requires large capacity and specialized means available from different public and private sources. The availability of these means will be briefly introduced, whilst their access and the mobilisation conditions will be discussed. The efficiency of this means will heavily depend on the capacity of unloading and treating the recovered oil inland.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to share their views on response at sea and storage/treatment facilities.

14.00 – 14.45 **Agenda Item 8** **In-situ Burning**

During the Macondo response operations, in-situ burning was used as one of the response techniques during several weeks. These operations will be introduced to discuss the possible use of this technique in the Mediterranean region.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to share their views on the application of in-situ burning in the Mediterranean region.

14.45 – 15.30 Agenda Item 9 Lessons learnt on extended use of dispersant

More than three years after the extended use of dispersants to respond to the Macondo spill, a scientific review will be introduced to the participants of the Workshop.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to consider these elements in the Mediterranean context.

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 – 16.45 Agenda Item 10 Dispersant stockpiles and application means

The use of dispersant to combat an oil spill can be considered within a limited time frame. In the case of a major incident such as exposed in the scenarios, the quantity available in the affected country may not be sufficient, in particular in the case of continuous release from a blow-out, whilst the production of dispersant and its delivery may require several weeks. Hence, cooperation in rendering available existing dispersant stockpiles from neighboring countries or from the private sector is essential to secure the chain of supply. The same applies to the means of application of the dispersant, as the availability of these systems may not be commensurate to extended applications. An overview of known stockpiles and means in the Mediterranean will be provided.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to provide recommendations on the required conditions to render available dispersant stockpiles and application means.

16.45 – 17.30 Agenda Item 11 National versus Regional Dispersant Use Policy

The decision to use or not to use dispersant could create tensions and could also be source of compensation claims if it is deemed that damage resulted from the decision taken.

The Meeting will be invited to discuss and provide recommendations for the possible establishment of a regional dispersant use policy in the Mediterranean.

Day II: 11th December 2013

SESSION 3: TIER 3 COORDINATION

09.00 – 10.30 Agenda Item 12 Sub-regional, regional, European, international, industry mechanisms and databases

Large mobilisation can create difficulties and confusion due to the complexity of managing a multi-national and multi-organisation coordination and because of the quantity of information provided by different sources. The Macondo incident and the communication exercise carried out during the Marine Pollution Exercise TIFANI, held in Haifa, Israel, between 22 and 23 October 2012 have once again stressed the importance to establish, at the early stage of an incident, a coordination procedure in order to avoid duplication of efforts and increase the efficiency of international assistance.

An overview of the existing sub-regional, regional, European, international and industry mechanisms will be introduced for further discussion on possible improvements of multi-organisation coordination procedures/arrangements.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided, to discuss and provide recommendations on possible improvements of multi-organisation coordination procedures/arrangements.

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 11.30 **Agenda Item 13** Procedures (offers, processing, evaluation)

Once a nation and its appropriate authority determine the need for response resources beyond its existing capabilities, as well as those beyond which it can obtain through exiting bilateral and multilateral agreements, a clear procedure to process and evaluate offers shall be established. Best practices and proposed templates listed in the draft International Maritime Organization (IMO) International Offers of Assistance (IOA) Guidelines will be presented.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided, to discuss and provide recommendations on the possible future adoption of common Mediterranean practices and forms.

11.30 – 12.00 **Agenda Item 14** Customs, Legal, Financial issues

A Requesting Nation must decide that if the need for assistance from other nations exists, that Requesting Nation must determine how best it can facilitate the entry of the equipment, property or personnel from an Assisting Nation into its own territory. To that end, the Requesting Nation should facilitate the arrival of international environmental emergency assistance, including expeditious processing or complete waiver of customs and visa requirements. The Requesting Nation should also provide regular information to arriving experts or response teams with regard to entry points, customs and visa requirements and other arrival arrangements. Best practices and proposed templates listed in the IMO IOA Guidelines will be presented.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided, to discuss and provide recommendations on the possible future adoption of common Mediterranean practices and forms.

12.00 – 12.45 **Agenda Item 15** National and Offshore Contingency Planning and Exercises

According to Article 16 of the Offshore Protocol, Contracting Parties shall in case of emergency implement mutatis mutandis the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, require operators to have contingency plan coordinated with the national contingency plan and establish coordination for the development of contingency plan. Article 11 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol defines Parties obligations concerning emergency measures on board ships, on offshore installations and in ports.

The Meeting will be invited to discuss possible cooperation with the industry to ensure the integration of emergency measures on board ships, on offshore installations and in ports within the national contingency plan and their assessment through joint industry/government exercises.

12.45 – 13.15 **Agenda Item 16** Conclusions and recommendations

The Meeting will be invited to review and adopt the recommendations made during the previous sessions.

13.15 – 14.15 Lunch

SESSION 5: THE OFFSHORE PROTOCOL

14.15 – 15.00 Agenda Item 17 **Progress in the implementation of Decision IG.20/12 and Decision of the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols**

The Director of REMPEC will provide an overview of progress made in the implementation of Decision IG.20/12 and of the Decision of the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to initiate discussion on the requirement for the implementation of the Decision of the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

15.00 – 15.30 **Coffee break**

15.30 – 16.30 Agenda Item 18 **Liability and compensation**

The representative of IMO will introduced on-going discussion at IMO on matters concerning liability and compensation for oil pollution damage resulting from offshore exploration and exploitation activities

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to discuss liability and compensation for oil pollution damage resulting from offshore exploration and exploitation activities.

Day III: 12^h December 2013

09.00 – 10.30 Agenda Item 19 **Offshore Best Practices Review**

According to Article 23 of the Offshore Protocol on International rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures, UNEP-MAP and REMPEC with the technical and legal support of a consultancy firm have identify and analyse existing recognized international best practices and regulations either from a legislative or an industry point of view, relevant to the implementation of the Offshore Protocol. Whenever a topic addressed under the Offshore Protocol was also addressed by a relevant international instrument, this instrument has been identified to ensure consistency between the Protocol and the regional and international legislations in place. The outcome of this review and the related recommendations will be introduced to the Meeting.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to share their view on the proposed recommendations.

10.30 – 11.00 **Coffee break**

11.00 – 12.30 Agenda Item 19 **Offshore Best Practices Review (cont.)**

12.30 – 13.30 **Lunch**

13.30 – 15.30 Agenda Item 20 **Offshore Protocol Questionnaire Analysis**

Based on the outcome of the questionnaire submitted to the Mediterranean coastal States and other source of information, UNEP-MAP and REMPEC have carry out a comparative analysis of existing legislative and administrative framework in the region in order to highlight potential gaps between the Offshore protocol requirements and the existing laws or practices. The outcome of this analysis and the related recommendations will be introduced to the Meeting.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information provided and to share their view on the proposed recommendations.

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 – 17.00 Agenda Item 21

Conclusion and recommendations

The Meeting will be invited to consider the elements provided in the previous discussions and to draw the final conclusions and recommendations for the preparation and implementation of the Offshore Protocol Action Plan.

PROPOSED TIMETABLE

Day I: Tuesday, 10 December 2013		
08.30 – 09.00	Registration of the participants.	
09.00 – 09.15	Agenda Item 1	Opening
	Agenda Item 2	Organization of the Meeting
09.15 – 09.30	Agenda Item 3	Tier 3 Scenarios
Session 1: Tier 3 Monitoring		
09.30 – 10.00	Agenda Item 4	Forecasting platform
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break	
10.30 – 11.15	Agenda Item 5	Satellite oil spill monitoring
Session 2: Tier 3 spill response techniques and equipment available		
11.15 – 12.00	Agenda Item 6	Well Capping System
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch	
13.00 – 14.00	Agenda Item 7	At sea recovery
14.00 – 14.45	Agenda Item 8	In-situ Burning
14.45 – 15.30	Agenda Item 9	Lessons learnt on extended use of dispersant
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break	
16.00 – 16.45	Agenda Item 10	Dispersant stockpiles and application means
16.45 – 17.30	Agenda Item 11	National versus Regional Dispersant Use Policy

Day II: Wednesday, 11 December 2013		
Session 3: Tier 3 Coordination		
09.00 - 10.30	Agenda Item 12	Sub-regional, regional, European, international & industry mechanisms and databases
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 - 11.30	Agenda Item 13	Procedures (offers, processing, evaluation)
11.30 - 12.00	Agenda Item 14	Customs, Legal, Financial issues
12.00 - 12.45	Agenda Item 15	National and Offshore Contingency Planning and Exercises
12.45 - 13.15	Agenda Item 16	Conclusions and recommendations
13.15 - 14.15	Lunch	

Session 4: The Offshore Protocol		
14.15 - 15.00	Agenda Item 17	Progress in the implementation of Decision IG.20/12 and Decision of the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols
15.00 - 15.30	Coffee break	
15.30 - 17.00	Agenda Item 18	Liability and compensation

Day III: Thursday, 12 December 2013		
09.00 - 10.30	Agenda Item 19	Offshore Best Practices Review
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 - 12.30	Agenda Item 19	Offshore Best Practices Review (cont.)
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 - 15.30	Agenda Item 20	Offshore Protocol Questionnaire Analysis
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee break	
16.00 - 17.00	Agenda Item 21	Conclusion and recommendations