



First GloBallast Regional Task Force Meeting  
Dubrovnik, Croatia, 11-12 September 2008

REMPEC/WG.29/11  
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**FINAL REPORT**  
**OF THE FIRST GLOBALLAST REGIONAL TASK FORCE MEETING**

**Dubrovnik, Croatia, 11 – 12 September 2008**





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## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The First GloBallast Regional Task Force Meeting was convened by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), in the framework of the GEF / UNDP / IMO Project “Building partnerships to assist developing countries to reduce the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms in ships’ ballast water (Globallast Partnerships)”, in Dubrovnik, Croatia, between 11 and 12 September 2008. The Meeting was organized in cooperation with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC / SPA) and with the support of the Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of Croatia, as a Lead Partner Country of the GloBallast Project. It was held at the Hotel Tirena in Dubrovnik.

2. The primary objectives of the First GloBallast Regional Task Force Meeting were:

- a) to discuss and agree upon the Terms of Reference for the Mediterranean Task Force; and,
- b) to discuss and agree upon the principles and main elements that should be included in a Mediterranean strategy on ships’ ballast water management.

3. All Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention were invited to participate in the Meeting. The invitation letters were sent to official REMPEC GloBallast Focal Points, which were expected to serve on the Regional Task Force or, for Contracting Parties that did not designate a GloBallast Focal Point, to REMPEC official Prevention Focal Points.

4. In view of the fact that the First GloBallast Regional Task Force Meeting is the first of a series of meetings aimed at developing a Mediterranean strategy on ships’ ballast water management, Contracting Parties were invited to nominate as representatives Government officials well versed in issues related to ships’ ballast water and invasive species, and be able to take decisions on behalf of their Governments.

5. The invitation to participate in the Meeting was also extended to relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as to the international professional organizations and associations whose activities are relevant for the work of the Meeting.

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

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| ALBANIA                  | LEBANON              |
| BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA   | MALTA                |
| CROATIA                  | MONACO               |
| CYPRUS                   | MONTENEGRO           |
| EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC) | SLOVENIA             |
| EGYPT                    | SPAIN                |
| FRANCE                   | SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC |
| GREECE                   | TUNISIA              |
| ISRAEL                   | TURKEY               |
| ITALY                    |                      |

7. Algeria, Libya and Morocco, due to unforeseen reasons, did not participate in the Meeting.

8. HELMEPA (Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association) and TURMEPA (Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association) were represented.

9. IMO-GloBallast and IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) participated in the Meeting, as well as SPA/RAC and the Regional Activity Centre for Priority Actions Programme (RAC/PAP).

10. The list of participants is given in **Annex I** to the present report.

## **AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING**

11. The Director of REMPEC, Mr. Frederic Hebert, welcomed the participants and thanked the Government of Croatia which as a Lead Partnering Country (LPC) hosted the first meeting of the GloBallast Regional Task Force, and for all the assistance provided which made it possible to organize the Meeting. He also thanked SPA/RAC, which supported the organization of the Meeting. He then gave the floor to the representative of the Mayor of Dubrovnik and the Prefect for the Dubrovnik County, who welcomed the participants.

12. Mrs. Maja Markovčić-Kostelac, Head of Legal and International Department, Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, on behalf of Mr. Branko Bačić, State Secretary of Sea at the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of the issue of ships' ballast water management for Croatia and the involvement of her country as Lead Partnering Country within the GloBallast Partnerships Project.

13. Mr. Andreas Chrysostomou, the IMO's MEPC Chairman, then addressed the participants on the adoption of the 2004 International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention) and the importance of its ratification and implementation. He also highlighted the fact that the GloBallast Programme provides an excellent way to help countries understand the problem, monitor the situation and prepare for the implementation of the Convention. Having recalled the work currently being carried out at the IMO's MEPC on the issue of ballast water management, he congratulated the participants, expressing his confidence that their work and efforts would be fruitful and the States bordering the Mediterranean Sea would soon be able to ratify the Convention.

14. Mr. José Matheickal, Chief Technical Adviser, IMO-GloBallast, presented the Meeting with the issue of ships' ballast water and the actions undertaken by the IMO, focusing on the GloBallast Partnerships Project and the activities to be carried out in the Mediterranean.

15. Mr. Frederic Hebert thanked the speakers and informed the Meeting of the message of Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), who highlighted the major threats of invasive alien species being faced worldwide, the targets set by the UNCBD to address these threats and the work carried out. He then wished the participants a successful session and declared the Meeting open.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

### ***2.1 Rules of procedure of the Meeting***

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

## **2.2 Election of officers of the Meeting**

17. The Meeting unanimously elected Mrs. Maja Markovčić-Kostelac (Croatia) as Chairperson, Mr. Mourad Ghorbel (Tunisia) as Vice-Chairperson and Mr. Pierre Bouchet (Monaco) as Rapporteur.

## **2.3 Working languages and documents**

18. The working languages of the Meeting were English and French. Simultaneous English/French interpretation was provided for all the sessions. All working documents prepared by REMPEC for the Meeting were made available prior to the Meeting in both languages. The list of documents is given in **Annex II**.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

19. The Meeting adopted the provisional agenda presented in document REMPEC/WG.29/3/2, which is reproduced in **Annex III** of the present report as well as the timetable of the Meeting presented in document REMPEC/WG/29/3/3.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4: BRIEFING ON GLOBALLAST PARTNERSHIPS AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

20. Prior to his presentation, the representative of IMO-GloBallast projected the IMO-BBC Documentary "Invaders of the Sea". He then introduced document REMPEC/WG.29/4, "Briefing on the GloBallast Partnerships Project and Project Implementation Plan", outlining the main progress achieved in developing the Project and in implementing the Project's activities at global level.

21. The Meeting took note of the information provided.

### **AGENDA ITEM 5: STATUS OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

22. REMPEC and RAC/SPA introduced document REMPEC/WG.29/5, "Status of Implementation of the GloBallast Partnership Project in the Mediterranean Region" which contained an outline of the reparatory activities carried out by REMPEC and RAC / SPA for the development of the Project and its implementation at regional level.

23. The Meeting took note of the information provided.

### **AGENDA ITEM 6: LEAD PARTNERING COUNTRIES (LCPs) STATUS REPORT**

24. The Chairperson invited the GloBallast Lead Partnering Countries (Croatia and Turkey) to inform the Meeting of the relevant activities carried out in their respective countries with respect to ships' ballast water management and invasive species, with particular reference to the GloBallast Partnerships Project.

25. In its presentation, Croatia informed the Task Force on the national activities related to the establishment of the national Task Force as well as the development of national legislation. Also, Croatia highlighted the importance of sub-regional cooperation of the Adriatic States with particular reference to the process of the designation of the Adriatic Sea as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) incorporating associated protective measures (APM) related to ships' ballast water management.

26. Turkey informed the Task Force of the completion of the its national two-year project on ballast water that contained several work packages. Particular reference was made to extensive risk assessment activities for Turkish ports and the development of related databases.

27. Following the presentations by Croatia and Turkey, several comments were made. It appears that some areas of the Mediterranean region were more at risk than others. With the prospect of further shipments of oil, the situation will worsen. It was acknowledged that for the present time, the only way to deal with the issue was to implement the ballast water exchange rules. In this regard, it was also acknowledged that there were few areas in the Mediterranean Sea complying with the 200 nm / 200 m rules and that the main shipping routes were within the 50 nm zone. Although some countries consider targeting control on ships coming from areas at risk, some others pointed out the risk of secondary contamination due to intra-Mediterranean voyages. These elements highlighted the need to adopt a common approach.

28. The methodology used for risk assessment as well as the issue of port reception facilities for ships' ballast water were discussed.

29. Cyprus reacted to some parts of the presentation by Turkey, reserving its right to raise further reservation, after a more thorough examination.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: PARTNERING COUNTRIES (PCs) STATUS REPORTS AND OTHER INITIATIVES**

30. The Meeting was informed by Egypt, France, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia about activities carried out in these countries with respect to ships' ballast water and invasive species.

31. Slovenia presented the existing cooperation taking place within the Trilateral Commission for the Adriatic, mentioning in particular the work of the sub-commission on ballast water management. Slovenia also referred to the work carried out within the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (AII).

32. The European Commission (EC) representative stated that the position of both the EC and European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) was to support the implementation by the European Union (EU) members States of strategies related to ships' ballast water management developed within regional agreements.

33. The Director of RAC/PAP highlighted the need to integrate policies related to ships' ballast water management with other regional policies such as those addressing protection of biodiversity and coastal zone management. He informed the Meeting of the recent adoption of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management and future activities which might be undertaken under this Protocol with respect to invasive species.

34. The representative of RAC/SPA presented briefly the main components of the Action Plan Concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea adopted in 2003 by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, as well as the main activities undertaken to implement this Action Plan. She further informed the Meeting that the Action Plan implementation calendar has been extended at the 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Almeria, Spain, 14-18 January 2008), until 2012.

35. The Meeting took note of activities and other initiatives undertaken by Contracting Parties and other organizations.



**AGENDA ITEM 8: DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE REGIONAL TASK FORCE**

36. The Director of REMPEC presented document REMPEC/WG.29/8 proposing Draft Terms of Reference for the Mediterranean Regional Task Force. He pointed out that the formation of the Mediterranean Regional Task Force was the first step towards developing a regional strategy on ships' ballast water management.
37. IMO-GloBallast representative provided some background information on some parts of the document related to the GloBallast Partnerships Project implementation.
38. The Meeting decided that Croatia shall chair the Task Force during its first term, i.e. until its second meeting scheduled in 2010, whilst Turkey shall chair the second term of the Task Force.
39. The Meeting also agreed to create focus groups on specialized topics, as appropriate.
40. The Meeting discussed, amended and adopted the document. The adopted version of the Terms of Reference agreed upon by the participants appears in **Annex IV** of the present report.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: ELEMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN A MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY ON BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT**

41. The Director of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.29/9 "Proposed Elements to be Included in a Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management", highlighting the need of having a regional strategy to efficiently deal with the matter.
42. The Chairperson invited IMO-GloBallast representative to share the experiences of other regions in developing the key elements of the regional strategy.
43. The Chairperson then invited the Meeting to consider, comment and agree upon key elements to be included in a regional strategy on ships' ballast water management and invasive species for the Mediterranean region.
44. The regional Task Force members, although acknowledging that the document presented was not a draft strategy itself, decided to use some of its parts, namely, the proposed principles, key elements and format in order to form the basis of the strategy document.
45. The Meeting also discussed the format of the Strategy and it was agreed that the Strategy should include an action plan with the mechanism for its revision.
46. After further discussion, the Meeting agreed upon the principles, key elements and format for the Strategy, attached in **Annex V** of the present report and instructed the Secretariat to restructure these elements in an orderly manner.
47. The Chairperson, referring to the decision to establish focus groups called for volunteer countries to lead such groups. She further reminded the members of the Task Force that these groups were not to implement the Strategy but to develop the draft text.
48. **Annex VI** of the present report lists countries that volunteered to lead the established focus groups.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES (ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT, 14-17 APRIL 2008)**

49. REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.29/10 containing the Recommendations of the Group of Participants in the Regional Workshop on Ships' Ballast Water Management Issues held in Alexandria, Egypt, between 14 and 17 April 2008, also making reference to the Report of the Training Course reproduced in document REMPEC/WG.29/INF. 7.

50. The Meeting recommended taking into account the Recommendations of the Group of Participants when developing the Strategy as well as for the work of the focus groups.

51. IMO-GloBallast representative informed the Meeting that IMO-BBC Documentary "Invaders of the Sea" can be made available to the countries for broadcasting on national channels. He also informed the Meeting that the training package of the regional Workshop on ships' ballast water management has undergone a major revision since its development under GloBallast phase I. This package can be made available to the countries for national capacity building activities. He further recommended that a regional level risk assessment be undertaken as soon as possible using the experiences of countries in the region.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: OTHER BUSINESS**

52. Turkey offered to host the Second Regional Task Force Meeting which is scheduled in 2010. The Director of REMPEC proposed to take the opportunity of the next meeting of Focal Points of REMPEC, to be held in April 2009, to organize a back-to-back intersessional meeting of the Task Force, in consultation with the Chairperson and pending progress of the work of the established Focus Groups. He further informed the Task Force that the conclusions reached by the Task Force would be submitted to the Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points and subsequently to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

**AGENDA ITEM 12: ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

53. The Draft Minutes of the Meeting including its annexes, was adopted by the Meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 13: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

54. The Chairperson thanked the delegates for their active participation and expressed her confidence that the development of the Regional Strategy was now on the right track.

55. The representative of IMO-GloBallast congratulated the Chairperson for the excellent Chairmanship that made possible the achievements reached during this Meeting and conveyed his thanks to REMPEC, as a Regional Coordinator Organisation for the GloBallast Partnerships project, for the synergy created within the Mediterranean region on ships' ballast water management related issues. He also expressed his appreciation for the excellent collaboration developed between REMPEC and SPA/RAC.

56. The representative of Israel, on behalf of all participants, also congratulated the Chairperson as well as the Government of Croatia for the generous hospitality offered during their stay in Dubrovnik.

57. Finally, the Director of REMPEC urged the members of the Task Force to be proactive in providing their respective inputs in the process to ensure its progression. He congratulated the Meeting for the work accomplished and expressed the wish that the Regional Strategy would be developed and adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention as soon as

possible. In this regards, he specifically called on the Mediterranean Coastal States which have already ratified the Convention to share their experiences and knowledge.

58. The Chairperson closed the Meeting at 16.45 hrs on Friday, 12 September 2008.



**ANNEX(E) I**

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## **ANNEX II**

### **LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

#### **WORKING DOCUMENTS**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| REMPEC/WG.29/3/1 | Provisional Agenda (Submitted by REMPEC).   |
| REMPEC/WG.29/3/2 | Annotated Provisional Agenda (Submitted by REMPEC).   |
| REMPEC/WG.29/3/3 | Provisional Timetable (Submitted by REMPEC) .   |
| REMPEC/WG.29/3/4 | Template for Lead Partnering Countries (LPCs) and Partnering Countries (PCs) Status Reports (Submitted by REMPEC).  |
| REMPEC/WG.29/4   | Briefing on the GloBallast Partnerships Project and Project Implementation Plan (Submitted by IMO-GloBallast).  |
| REMPEC/WG.29/5   | Status of Implementation of the GloBallast Partnerships Project in the Mediterranean Region (Submitted by REMPEC and RAC/SPA).  |
| REMPEC/WG.29/6   | <i>(LPCs reports – Croatia and Turkey).</i>   |
| REMPEC/WG.29/7/1 | Mise en œuvre des dispositions relatives à la gestion des eaux de ballast (French only) (Submitted by France).  |
| REMPEC/WG.29/7/2 | Basic Information on the Coastal and Marine Environment in Egypt (English only) (Submitted by Egypt).   |
| REMPEC/WG.29/7/3 | Italian Activities in the Field of Ballast Water (English only) (Submitted by Italy).   |
| REMPEC/WG.29/8   | Proposed Draft Terms of Reference for a Regional Task Force (RTF) on Ships' Ballast Water Control and Management (Note by IMO-Globallast/REMPEC).   |
| REMPEC/WG.29/9   | Proposed Elements to be Included in a Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management (Note by IMO-GloBallast / REMPEC).  |
| REMPEC/WG.29/10  | Conclusions and Recommendations of the Group of Participants in the Introductory Training Course on Ballast Water Management Issues (Alexandria, Egypt, 14-17 April 2008) (Note by REMPEC). |
| REMPEC/WG.29/11  | Report of the Meeting.  |

#### **INFORMATION DOCUMENTS**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| REMPEC/WG.29/INF.1/Rev.2 | Provisional List of Documents.   |
| REMPEC/WG.29/INF.2       | Provisional List of Participants.  |
| REMPEC/WG.29/INF.3       | Proceedings – Global Project Task Force (GPTF) First Meeting (Submitted by IMO-GloBallast) (English only). |

- REMPEC/WG.29/INF.4      GEF-UNDP-IMO Global Project: *"Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries to Reduce the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water"* (GloBallast Partnerships) - Project Implementation Plan (PIP) for the Mediterranean Region (Submitted by REMPEC).
- REMPEC/WG.29/INF.5      Action Plan Concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea (Submitted by RAC/SPA).
- REMPEC/WG.29/INF.6      Guidelines for Controlling the Vectors of Introduction into the Mediterranean of Non-indigenous Species and Invasive Marine Species (Submitted by RAC/SPA).
- REMPEC/WG.29/INF.7      Report of the Introductory Training Course on Ballast Water Management Issues, Alexandria, Egypt, 14-17 April 2008 (Submitted by REMPEC).
- REMPEC/WG.29/INF.8      International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 – Text adopted by the Conference (Submitted by IMO GloBallast).
- REMPEC/WG.29/INF.9      Study of Maritime Traffic Flows in the Mediterranean Sea (Submitted by REMPEC).
- REMPEC/WG.29/INF.10    Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Message of the Executive Secretary, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif on the occasion of the First GloBallast Regional Task Force Meeting, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 11-12 September 2008 (Submitted by CBD) English only).

## **REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

- UNEP      Rules of Procedures for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols.
- UNEP MAP      Decision IG 17/6: Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to the Management of Human Activities that may affect the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/10, Annex V, pp. 179-180).
- REMPEC      Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, 2002.
- REMPEC      Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships.

**ANNEX III**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Organization of the Meeting.
3. Adoption of the Agenda.
4. Briefing on the GloBallast Partnerships and Project Implementation Plan.
5. Status of Implementation of the Project Implementation Plan in the Mediterranean Region
6. Lead Partnering Countries (LPCs) Status Reports.
7. Partnering Countries (PCs) Status Report and Other Initiatives.
8. Draft Terms of Reference of the Regional Task Force.
9. Elements to be included in a Mediterranean Strategy on Ballast Water Management.
10. Recommendations of the Regional Workshop on Ships' Ballast Water Management Issues (Alexandria, Egypt, 14-17 April 2008).
11. Other Business
12. Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting.





## **ANNEX IV**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A REGIONAL TASK FORCE (RTF) ON SHIPS' BALLAST WATER CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT**

The text of the Proposed Draft Terms of Reference for a Regional Task Force (RTF) on Ships' Ballast Water Control and Management (REMPEC/WG.29/8) was amended as follows by the First GloBallast Regional Task Force Meeting.



## **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A REGIONAL TASK FORCE (RTF) ON SHIPS' BALLAST WATER CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT**

### **1. Purpose of the Regional Task Force**

The Task Force should be considered as a supporting regional mechanism established within the framework of the United Nations Environment Plan's Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), in order to facilitate:

- i) bringing into effect the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention), adopted in 2004;
- ii) ensuring coherent compliance with and enforcement of the said Convention and of its associated guidelines, recommendations and practices in the Mediterranean region;
- iii) implementing the activities designed under the GloBallast Partnerships Project, as well as activities and measures decided upon under the Regional Strategy to Minimize the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens in Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (hereunder referred to as the Strategy) and its Action Plan; and;
- iv) sharing of experience and contribution to the work carried out at a global level in the field of ships' ballast water and invasive species.

### **2. Mandate of the Regional Task Force in the context of implementing the GEF / UNDP / IMO GloBallast Partnerships Project**

In the context of implementing the GEF / UNDP / IMO GloBallast Partnerships Project, the Task Force should:

- i) develop and adopt a Strategy as well as an Action Plan for its implementation;
- ii) serve as a mechanism to expand interest and involvement in the GloBallast Partnerships Project of all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention as well as other interested Parties and stakeholders;
- iii) provide overall strategic policy and management direction to the Project implementation in Mediterranean region;
- iv) provide recommendations to the Regional Coordination Organisation (RCO) in coordinating and managing the Project activities in the region;
- v) seek additional funding to support the outputs and activities of the Project;
- vi) raise issues and concerns, and generate regional status reports, for consideration at the GloBallast Global Project Task Force (GPTF) Meetings;

- vii) review and assess the progress of the Project and its components;
- viii) create mechanisms for interaction with the private sector (shipping, ports), NGOs and other stakeholders (e.g. public health) during the Project implementation; and
- ix) identify mechanisms for national and regional sustainability on ballast water management issues after the conclusion of GloBallast Partnerships.

3. **Mandate of the Regional Task Force in the context of implementing the Strategy and its relative Action Plan**

In the context of implementing the Strategy and its relative Action Plan, the Task Force should oversee, coordinate, and facilitate the work on:

- i) regular revision and updating of the Strategy and Action Plan in accordance with latest developments on ballast water control and management at the regional and global level, bearing in mind existing sub-regional cooperation;
- ii) promotion of harmonized approach when developing national legislation and procedures and promote regional cooperation when appropriate on ballast water control and management with the view to ensuring a harmonised approach consistent with the BWM Convention;
- iii) provision of a clearing house mechanism for information exchange on invasive aquatic species in ballast water in the region as well as on technical and administrative control measures taken nationally, regionally and worldwide;
- iv) development and delivery of a training programme for personnel involved in ships' ballast water control and management activities;
- v) promotion of measures designed to enhance the public awareness of ships' ballast water and invasive aquatic species issues;
- vi) coordination of national and regional surveys and monitoring activities of invasive aquatic species;
- vii) coordination of national and regional risk assessment activities including selection of the appropriate follow up measures and management responses;
- viii) promotion of research and development in the field of ballast water treatment techniques and technological methods of controlling the transfer of invasive aquatic species;
- ix) achieving a regional agreement on harmonized Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement (CME) systems and providing guidance to countries for the adaptation and implementation of such systems at national level;
- x) identifying and securing adequate resources for implementing activities under the Strategy and its Action Plan from relevant Regional Organizations, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, regional and international

shipping and port industries, bilateral and multilateral donors and technical cooperation programmes;

- xi) ensuring the long-term sustainability and continuity of activities from self-financing sources within the region.

#### 4. **Establishment and functioning of the Regional Task Force**

##### 4.1 **Establishment of the Task Force**

- i) The Task Force is set up by the National Focal Points of the GloBallast Partnerships Project designated by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.
- ii) The Task Force is established as a Working Group.
- iii) Working Group could decide to establish focus groups on specialized matters.

##### 4.2 **Composition of the Task Force**

- i) The Task Force comprises the National Focal Points of GloBallast Partnerships Project or alternatively the designated representatives of a National Lead Agency identified by a Contracting Party.
- ii) The Task Force is also composed of and assisted by the relevant Organisations, namely the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) and the Regional Activity Centre /Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA).
- iii) Representatives of major stakeholders (e.g. other interested regional agreements, industries, scientific communities, academia, NGOs, etc.) will be invited to attend the meetings of the Task Force as appropriate.

##### 4.3 **Chair and Secretary of the Task Force**

- i) The representatives of countries members of the Task Force will chair the Task Force by rotation, starting with the GloBallast Lead Partnering Countries (LPCs) representatives during the first and second Chairmanship term.
- ii) The Regional Coordination Organization will serve as Secretary to the Task Force and to the Task Force meetings.

##### 4.4 **Modus operandi**

- i) The Task Force and focus groups carries out its work by correspondence and by organizing technical subject meetings as appropriate.
- ii) The chair of the Task Force coordinates also the work done by correspondence and when the Task Force establishes focus groups, the Task Force will appoint the chair for the focus groups.

- iii) During the preparation and adoption of the Strategy and its Action Plan, the Task Force will meet three times (2008, 2010 and 2012) within the framework of GloBallast Partnerships Project.
- iv) In the longer term, meetings to evaluate the progress made in implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan should be organized at least once a year,
- v) The Task Force should periodically examine and review as necessary the present Terms of Reference.

#### 4.5 **Reporting**

- i) The Secretariat, on behalf of the Task Force, should report to the meetings of REMPEC Focal Points. The report should include appropriate recommendations and proposals on the progress of the project and on the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan.
- ii) The Secretariat, on behalf of the Task Force, should also report this progress at meetings of international bodies and fora.

## **ANNEX V**

### **PRINCIPLES AND ELEMENTS FOR A MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY ON SHIPS' BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT**

#### **I. Principles for a Regional Strategy**

In general, the following key principles may be adopted for developing a Regional Strategy:

- a) It must be consistent with international customary law, IMO provisions, i.e. requirements interpretations and recommendations, and other relevant provisions, proven systems, knowledge and, if possible, demonstrated 'best practices'. Where there still remain gaps in knowledge or work is still underway, this should be noted.
- b) It should be formed under the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, taking into account relevant Mediterranean action plans, policies and decisions, in particular decision IG 17/6 related to the implementation of the ecosystem approach.
- c) It should be developed in partnership with, and with the participation of all countries in the region, involving all key stakeholders.
- d) The individual National Strategies of the countries in the region (either already developed or in the process of being developed) should be consistent with the Strategy related activities.
- e) It should be compiled by using proven and 'best practices' that have been learned from worldwide experience to date on this issue combined with the specific circumstances and needs of the Mediterranean region and its sub-regions.
- f) It should take into account of the national interests of each country in the region, as stated in their National Strategies for BWM, including the legitimate requirements and concerns of all stakeholders directly or indirectly involved.
- g) It should take into account the specific environmental, shipping and other unique circumstances of the Mediterranean region.
- h) BWM should be recognised as part of the wider invasive species and oceans/coastal policies of the Mediterranean region and an integral element of effective environmental policy regimes in the region.
- i) At all stages of the design, the Strategy should recognise the essentiality of shipping to international trade and economic well being of the region.
- j) In all phases of developing and implementing the Strategy, Parties should be conscious of the need for all BWM practices being safe, practical, cost effective and environmentally sound.
- k) The Strategy should be subject to periodic review (at least annually) to take into account emerging issues, outcomes of research and development (R&D) activities and experience gained from its operation and management.
- l) Periodic gatherings of representatives of the regional co-ordinating mechanism should be arranged to assess progress with implementation and ensure consistency of what is required by international customary law, IMO provisions, i.e. requirements interpretations and recommendations and to attempt to achieve a standardised approach at the global level.

- m) It should take into account the objectives of other neighbouring regional strategies.

## **II. Proposed Key Elements of the Mediterranean Strategy**

1. The RTF may consider including, *inter alia*, the following key elements in the regional Strategy for the Mediterranean:

- a) thorough assessment of issues related to the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens through ships' ballast water and sediments, and their effects on the Mediterranean region;
- b) review of all relevant international, regional and sub-regional instruments and mechanisms, and any other initiatives;
- c) review of experience and research relevant to ships' ballast water management in the Mediterranean region;
- d) harmonised BWM regime, i.e. a set of policies and accompanying operational arrangements for the management of ships' ballast water in the region, based on IMO and other relevant requirements and detailing responsibilities of all key stakeholders;
- e) public awareness;
- f) establishment of a common mechanism ('clearing house') for exchanging information on the status of the marine environment as well as prevention and control measures taken by countries in the region;
- g) uniform regional monitoring system for the species profile at port level to ensure inter-compatibility at the regional level;
- h) regional system for capacity building, knowledge transfer and training of personnel involved in ballast water management and related issues;
- i) harmonised procedures incorporated in a compliance monitoring and enforcement system that could be readily implemented by all countries of the region;
- j) review/evaluation mechanism to ensure efficient and effective operation of the Strategy;
- k) an Action Plan for its implementation should form part of the Strategy.

2. In summary, it is generally agreed that any regional institutional arrangements for BWM should provide:

- a) A consultative mechanism involving key stakeholders from the countries of the region.
- b) Policy liaison amongst the countries of the region.
- c) Harmonisation of operational arrangements.
- d) Ongoing effective communication and information-sharing mechanisms to avoid duplication through parallel structures.



### III. Proposed format

1. There is no specific way in which a Strategy should be presented, but the experience of regional seas that have developed regional agreements suggests that the following is an appropriate format:

**Introduction and background:** describes the problem, outlines the importance of BWM in the minimization of the introduction of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens, and presents a summary of efforts up to date at the international, regional or sub-regional level, including legislative and technical issues.

**Objectives:** states what the strategy consist of and what goals are envisaged through the strategy (e.g. to provide a framework for ships' ballast water related activities in the region; to facilitate the preparatory process for the introduction of new international regulations procedures and technology, and to enhance regional co-operation for the protection of the marine environment).

**Environmental conditions of the region:** describes the geographic, environmental and economic conditions of the region as well as the past, present and expected threats from the introduction of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens.

**Existing regional mechanisms and instruments:** describes the existing policies, structures and mechanisms for regional co-operation in the area, with respect to coastal and marine resource management and environmental protection. These may be regional legal instruments (Conventions and Protocols), or other regional programmes that include elements relating to ship-based marine pollution and invasive aquatic species. As far as the Mediterranean region is concerned, due consideration should be given to the Action plan Concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea, adopted in 2003 at the 13<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting for the Barcelona Convention. The Action Plan is provided in document REMPEC/WG.29.INF.5. RAC / SPA further developed a set of guidelines on dealing with invasive species, with direct significance for ballast water management, namely the "Guidelines for Controlling the Vectors of Introduction into the Mediterranean of NIS and invasive marine species", provided in document REMPEC/WG.29.INF.6, as well as a "Guide for NIS risk analysis". Due consideration should also be given to the Regional Strategy on Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, addressing the issue of port reception facilities for ship's ballast water and sediments (objective 1.4 Provision of Reception Facilities in Ports). This Strategy was developed by REMPEC and adopted at the 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Portoroz, Slovenia, 8-11 November 2005).

**Main activities:** provides a listing of planned and on-going activities for the implementation of the regional Strategy, including 'key elements' outlined above.

**Strategy financing:** outlines funding options (international, regional, national) for the implementation of the Strategy.

**Arrangements for future co-operation:** describes inter-institutional arrangements for implementation of the Strategy and outline the review/evaluation mechanism.

2. The Regional Strategy and the relative Action Plan for its implementation is expected to be adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.



**ANNEX VI**

**Leading Countries and Focus Groups**

| <b>Lead countries</b> | <b>Focus Groups</b>                  | <b>Related key elements</b>   |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Turkey</b>         | <b>Assessment Group</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) thorough assessment of issues related to the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens through ships' ballast water and sediments, and their effects on the Mediterranean region.</li> <li>c) review of experience and research relevant to ships' ballast water management in the Mediterranean region.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Croatia</b>        | <b>Legal Aspects Group</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) review of all relevant international, regional and sub-regional instruments and mechanisms, and any other initiatives.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Cyprus</b>         | <b>Capacity Building Group</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>h) regional system for capacity building, knowledge transfer and training of personnel involved in ballast water management and related issues.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Italy</b>          | <b>Policies and Monitoring Group</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d) harmonised BWM regime, i.e. a set of policies and accompanying operational arrangements for the management of ships' ballast water in the region, based on IMO and other relevant requirements and detailing responsibilities of all key stakeholders.</li> <li>g) uniform regional monitoring system for the species profile at port level to ensure inter-compatibility at the regional level.</li> </ul> |