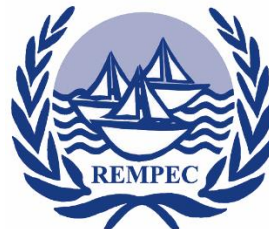# Establishment of a Common emergency communication system for the Mediterranean
The Way Forward

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Introduction

Emergency communication systems are established to facilitate and fasten the notification and exchange of information and the request and offer of assistance.

Two communication systems coexist in the Mediterranean:
- the SSN/CECIS MP (European Union)
- The emergency communication procedure (2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol).

In the absence of connection between the two systems, Contracting Parties encounter difficulties to communicate during real incidents and exercises.

Substantial changes are needed to the current emergency communication systems in the Mediterranean to address the difficulties.

The present document presents the possible solutions for the establishment of a Common emergency communication system for the Mediterranean

Backgound

Process of establishment a common emergency communication system for the Mediterranean :

- Recommendation/agreement /declaration:

- The Regional Strategy 2016-2021 (Specific Objective 21), adopted by COP 19 (Greece 2016)
- The Inter-Secretariat Meeting HELCOM, Bonn Agreement, REMPEC, EMSA and DG ECHO (UK 2017),
- The recommendation of the 13th Focal Points Meeting (Malta, June 2019)
- The declaration of EC during the 13th Focal Point Meeting (Malta, June 2019}
- The recommendations of the Regional CECIS Workshop (Belgium, October 2019)

- Outputs of :

- the Survey for the establishment of a Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean, June 2020
- the Synthesis of the Survey, September 2020

Survey for the establishment of the System main outcomes

REMPEC OPRC Focal Points and the members of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) completed the Survey composed of two sections;

- Section 1 provided background information on Emergency communication systems in the Mediterranean and suggestions for improvement

- Section 2 identified the Operational, Legal, Technical & Administrative needs and requirements for a Common Emergency Communication System

Suggested options for the establishment of a Common emergency communication system for the Mediterranean

Basics

- Recommendation of the 13th Meeting of the Focal Points (Malta, June 2019) on the use of CECIS MP;

- the possibility for third countries to use CECIS MP through direct expression of interest addressed to DG ECHO, and

- the option of enabling connection to CECIS MP via REMPEC

Main suggested options for the establishment of a Common emergency communication system for the Mediterranean

1. SSN and the emergency line and phone of REMPEC continue to be used for the notification of incidents

2. CECIS MP would allow completion/access to the R&O of assistance, third countries will directly integrate the system or continue using REMPEC's access to CECIS MP

3. POLREP and the Forms of R&O of assistance would be used under an electronic form

4. Data base of the EU on CECIS MP would be maintained, database of the Mediterranean countries on MEDGIS-MAR (equipment) would be linked through CECIS MP platform

5. The cost of development and maintenance of online information systems, would be free in case of using CECIS MP

Proposed actions to be implemented at the national level

1. Formalise and share the list of the administrators and users.

2. Agree on the user rights and data protection and management at national level.

3. Establish a training programme for the operators.

4. Ensure compatibility of the interconnection of the System to the national communication system

5. Consider supporting the set-up of the required logistics and training of additional staff

6. Define data protection, user assignment, access policy as well as its interaction with the national emergency communication systems.

Proposed actions to be implemented at the regional level

1. Maintain SSN and REMPEC emergency line (email and phone) for notification of incidents.

2. Avoid parallel communication systems and encourage non-EU countries to use CECIS MP, through a dedicated "Mediterranean" restricted area with the possibility to open communication with other EU Member States or "Regional Agreements".

3. No additional cost for Contracting Parties for the development, maintenance and use of a dedicated "Mediterranean" area under CECIS MP.

4. Alternatively, ensure compatibility of any other communication system with CECIS MP.

5. Integrate and ensure online completion of POLREP and R&O of assistance Forms.

6. Maintain database of the EU on CECIS MP and provide access to MEDGIS-MAR (equipment) through a link on CECIS MP platform.

Actions requested of the Meeting

The Meeting is invited to:

.1 **take note of** the information provided in the document REMPEC/WG.47/4,

.2 **review and comment** as appropriate on the suggested options and requirements for the establishment of a Common emergency communication system for the Mediterranean

.3 **propose recommendations** for their consideration by the 14th Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points
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THANK YOU

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