

**Working Group on the Drafting of an Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 at the Ministry of Agriculture,**  
**Rural development and Environment, Nicosia, Cyprus**

The meeting was introduced by Mr. C. Hajipakkos, who presented the Agenda items:

- State of Play – Presentation by REMPEC.
- Discussion on the outstanding issues of the SCP.
- Discussion on the drill to be carried out next September,

and explained that this is the result of the Declaration of Intent signed by the three countries (Cyprus, Greece and Israel) in Israel April, 2016 and the decision taken for the preparation of a Sub-regional Marine Contingency Plan. Furthermore, he elaborated on the meeting of the leaders held in Israel in November, 2016 and their decision that before the next ministerial meeting, which currently is being planned for the beginning of May 2017, a meeting of the working groups on the three themes for cooperation, namely Climate Change, Wastewater Reuse and Marine Pollution, should take place.

The representative of REMPEC Mr Malek Smaoui, presented an update on the progress made until now on the preparation of the SCP. The plan is designed in three-phases. The short-term phase will be completed by the end of 2017 with the completion of the SCP to be signed by the three Ministers at the next COP of the Barcelona Convention. The mid-term phase will focus on the cooperation between the three countries and the long-term phase would concentrate on capacity building and exercises.

Further to the above he elaborated on the output of the meeting of last December in Malta, explaining that for the Consultant to be able to progress on his work he has to receive the additional comments and suggestions by the parties.

The representative of Greece reiterated the commitment of Greece for the preparation of the SCP on the basis of the Draft of the SCP prepared by REMPEC's Consultant. Regarding the Draft SCP circulated he provided some comments concerning:

- a) certain inconsistencies on the coverage and the scope of the Plan, giving particular examples,
- b) the need to avoid provisions that imply amendment of the Parties' National Contingency Plan,
- c) the inclusion of a definition for the Mediterranean Sea and d) the need to include a procedure for the amendment of the SCP and the Agreement, as well as provisions for the entry into force of these amendments. In relation to this it was identified that each country has different legal procedures to endorse the SCP. It was therefore decided that all parties should investigate the legal requirements applicable in their countries and inform REMPEC as well as each other.

Finally he informed the meeting that these comments shall be forwarded to REMPEC within the first week of March, while further comments will be provided as soon as possible, after consultation with relevant competent Greek Authorities.

All parties identified the fact that the preparation and implementation of the SCP requires the involvement of other ministries and Departments in their countries. This inevitably requires coordination within countries and hence providing the comments that the Consultant requires in order to proceed with the drafting of the SCP, will require more time from what was originally anticipated. After discussion it was agreed that all comments on the First Draft SCP (revised) should be sent by the parties to the Consultant by the end of March, at the latest, and completed Annexes mid May 2017 (before REMPEC's Focal Points Meeting), so that the consultant would be able to do all preparatory work before the next meeting of the competent national authorities which is planned to take place in Cyprus in July.

The agreed programme appears on the attached Table 1. Provided that the deadlines indicated in the last column of the table are observed by all Parties concerned, REMPEC will ensure that the Consultant prepares the Second draft SCP, draft completed Annexes to SCP and the Second draft Agreement by the beginning of the second week of June (week 23), with a view to consolidating and distributing these documents to the competent national authorities of the three countries concerned by 20 June 2017.

Following the discussions on the SCP, the parties discussed the possibility of a drill to take place next September. After a comprehensive exchange of views it was decided that although a full-scale drill is the most favourable option, a table-top drill will be more appropriate for the following reasons –

- (a) the SCP will only be finalized at the next COP.
- (b) such a drill requires a lot of preparation and there isn't enough time,
- (c) many Ministries and authorities from each country need to be involved and time is of the essence,
- (d) the necessary funds need to be secured through the budget procedures of the Countries,

Through the table-top drill the opportunity will be provided to identify possible improvements that may need to be made to the SCP. It was finally agreed that the scenario of the drill will be drafted by Israel.

Furthermore it was decided that although the drill would be better to be carried during the Contract period of the Consultant, organizing it for September was not considered appropriate, because all preparatory work would have to be carried out in August, which is the peak period of work of the relevant authorities. It was therefore decided for the drill to take place on the last week of October.

**Table 1 – Agreed Timetable**

<b>Reference Document</b>	<b>Disseminated</b>	<b>Remarks</b>	<b>Expected outputs for the preparation of the second Draft of the SCP and the Agreement for its implementation</b>	<b>Deadline agreed during the Trilateral meeting</b>
Questionnaire –CGI SCP	REMPEC's e-mail 27/10/2016	Refer to the Report of the first meeting, Agenda item 2 Paragraphs 16-28—35-42	Greece: To provide REMPEC with comments that were provided during the Meeting on the Draft of SCP and Agreement	First week of March 2017
CGI SCP draft text ver. 1.2 (2)	REMPEC's e-mail 17/01/2017	Refer to the Report of the second meeting, Agenda item 2 Paragraph 19, page 2 and 3	Cyprus, Greece and Israel: To provide REMPEC with comments on the text of the SCP (CGI SCP draft text ver 1.2 (2))	31 March 2017
WG 2-3 Appendix First Draft Agreement	REMPEC's e-mail 05/12/2016	Refer to the Report of the second meeting, Agenda item 3 Paragraph 22 and Paragraph 25	<p>- Cyprus, Greece and Israel: To provide REMPEC with comments on the First Draft Agreement (December 2016)</p> <p>- Cyprus and Greece: To provide REMPEC information on the precise requirements regarding the signing, ratification or approval of the future Agreement on the SCP</p>	Third week of May 2017 and not later than 18 May 2017
			- REMPEC and UNEP/MAP Secretariat: to inform the three Parties with the appropriate procedure of the Depositary of instruments of ratification or approval of the Agreement	End of March 2017

CGI SCP draft text ver 1.2 (2)	REMPEC's e- mail 17/01/2017	<p>Refer to the Report of the second meeting, Agenda item 2 Paragraph 19 page 3.</p> <p>The document referred to in the Report of the second meeting Paragraph 19 (Annex 5) as the 'Report EB Communication Systems CEI'</p>	Cyprus, Greece and Israel: to provide REMPEC with comments and completed Annexes as agreed during the second meeting (Refer to the report of the second meeting Agenda item 2 Paragraph 19 page 3).	As soon as possible, even on case by case basis, but not later than 18 May 2017
CGI Exercise Planning	Dr Hajipakkos e-mail 22/02/2017	"Note on planning the marine pollution response Exercise for testing the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel", was disseminated to the participants to the trilateral Expert Meeting, Nicosia 23 February 2017.	Israel: to provide the parties and REMPEC with the first draft Scenario of the Exercise.	As soon as possible, but not later than 14 April 2017

**Trilateral Expert Meeting for the Preparation of the SCP  
Nicosia, Cyprus 23 February 2017**

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