



IMO-OMI



UNEP-PNUE

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



**NATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
TO MARINE POLLUTION
FOR GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATORS
AND SENIOR MANAGERS**

**Bar, Republic of Montenegro
21 – 23 November 2006**

REPORT

NOVEMBER 2006

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INTRODUCTION

This Training Course on Preparedness and Response to Accidental Marine Pollution was held in Bar, Montenegro, from the 21st to the 23rd of November 2006. It was organised by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport of the Republic of Montenegro (Maritime Safety Department) and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning in collaboration with REMPEC (the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea, based in Malta, www.rempec.org) and with the assistance of OTRA (a French company specialized in oil spill consultancy, www.antipol.com). The course was held in the “Luka” main office in Bar in the conference room on the first floor.

This training course is a part of REMPEC’s activities organised in the framework of the “Development of National Capacities of Serbia and Montenegro for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships” programme.

The training course started the day after a meeting (held Monday 20th of November in Bar) with the Montenegrin Authorities involved in the development process of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan and the team of three consultants in charge of assisting the national authorities in the field of Marine International Legislation, the prevention of pollution from ships as well as the development of a national system for the preparedness for and response to marine pollution including the development of a draft national contingency plan.

During this meeting, a draft of the Montenegrin national oil spill contingency plan was presented by the team of consultants and discussed with the Montenegrin authorities.

Most of the Montenegrin authorities involved in the development of the national contingency plan also attended to the training course.

ORGANISATION OF THE TRAINING COURSE

The training course was based on a level 3 IMO-OPRC model training course. It was aimed at personnel at managerial level implicated in oil spill response preparedness and response. It was particularly focused on the management issues such as defining the best-suited strategies to respond to an oil spill incident, dealing with high level issues such as liaising with government officials, the media, international organizations and assistance, etc. as well as understanding the compensation regime applicable for marine oil spills.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport of the Republic of Montenegro, and in particular the Maritime Safety Department, were in charge of the organisation of the training course on the Montenegro side:

- Selection and invitation of participants
- Conference room with the necessary audio-visual equipment and translation services
- Provision of interpretation services
- Secretariat assistance
- Catering

The person in charge from the Maritime Safety Department was:

- Ms. Anka RAJKOVIĆ, Advisor for the implementation of International Regulations, Maritime Safety Department

REMPEC was in charge of the preparation of the program of the course, of the selection of the lecturers and of the coordination of the training course. Lecturers from REMPEC were:

Ms. Lilia Khodjet El Khil, Programme Officer (Marine Environment Protection)

Mr. Gabino Gonzalez, Programme Officer (OPRC)

OTRA was in charge of proposing a program to REMPEC and providing the material for the course. OTRA was contracted by the Maritime Safety Department of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport of the Republic of Montenegro for the course, in the framework of the “Development of National Capacities of Serbia and Montenegro for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships” programme. The contract included DSA, travel expenses and the expenses for the provision of written material for the trainees. Lecturers from OTRA were:

Mr. Jean-Yves Huet, Managing director

Mr. Lindsay Page-Jones, Technical advisor

The table top exercise was prepared jointly by REMPEC and OTRA.

The Course was conducted in English; however, since some of the participants were not proficient in English, the interpretation from English into Serbian and vice-versa was provided throughout the Course. The Maritime Safety Department selected and paid the interpreters.

A number of documents were handed to the participants (printouts of all the presentations, IPIECA Action against Oil Pollution publication, IPIECA Reports on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response, the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean sea, CD-Rom with an electronic version of the presentation and additional documentation and software useful for oil spill response preparedness and response).

TRAINING COURSE

There were some changes compared to the original program. See Appendix 1 for the reviewed program of the course held in Bar.

On the 20th of November 2006, the representatives of the REMPEC and the lecturers from OTRA visited the conference room and checked the training printouts that were received earlier in the day.

The audio, projector and computer equipment were tested and the room prepared for the opening ceremony and the training course.

The Course was inaugurated during the opening session at 9h00 on the 21st of November 2006.

- The director of the Maritime Safety Department of Montenegro welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of such training, particularly when Montenegro is in the process of developing their own national oil spill contingency plan and response capabilities.
- Mr. G. Gonzalez, REMPEC, welcomed the participants on behalf of REMPEC, IMO and UNEP (See speech in Appendix 4).
- Mr. Dragan Simović, Vice President, Municipality of Bar also welcomed the participants in Bar for this training course.

A total of 25 participants (from Maritime Safety Department, Harbour Master Office of Bar and Kotor, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and transport, Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Protection, Police, Army, Civil Protection, Rescue Division of various coastal municipalities, etc.) attended this course. The list of participants is given in Appendix 2.

The participants were chosen to represent the various institutions which would be involved in case of an oil spill in the Montenegrin waters.

Participants (particularly the one involved in the development of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan) expressed their interest and asked various questions after the presentations, about contingency planning, the organisation of the different contingency plans from local to national level, the responsibilities inside a national incident management system and the strategic study for the development of the contingency plan .

On the third and last day of the course (23/11/06), a tabletop exercise was organized. The duration of the exercise was over 3 hours and its objective was to offer an opportunity to the participants to implement the theoretical knowledge presented to them during the course, particularly the oil spill planning process and the organization of an oil spill response operation.

For the purpose of the exercise the participants were divided in two groups, each one acting as a potential national authority in charge of pollution response. The two groups were given the same description of a fictional incident (a collision between a tanker and a fishing boat, resulting in a spillage of few 1000's of tons of crude oil threatening natural sensitive areas and the main port of the region), with all other necessary background information (concerning type of oil, weather forecast, currents, availability of equipment and products, etc.). The initial information was updated at regular intervals with new and additional data. Charts of the region (maritime traffic routes, sensitive areas, economic activities, etc.) were also provided to each group.

The first task for the trainees was to setup an alert and notification procedure, to take immediate actions to respond to the spill and to mobilize an incident management organization with identified responsibilities able to deal with such spill at the required level, i.e. local and national:

- to assess the situation and forecast its development,
- to take necessary response measures,
- to establish contacts with other interested parties, national authorities, international organizations, media, etc.,
- to organize for the provision of international assistance.

The second task consisted in the organisation of the offshore response operations.

The third task was the offshore response operations organisation and the management of the oil spill related issues (information for local communities and public, media management, compensation, etc.).

Lecturers acted as a "control team" and assisted the groups as required.

The participation in the exercise was very active from the two groups. At the end of the morning a spokesperson of each group was asked to present the actions taken by his/ her group for the first task, and at the end of the afternoon for task 2 and 3.

Comments on the exercise:

- The groups managed correctly to take into account the operational issues related to oil spill:
 - correctly estimated the drift of the slick and the need for immediate oil spill response operations,
 - required an aerial evaluation mission,
 - discarded the use of dispersants due to the proximity of sensitive submersed ecosystems,
 - favoured the containment and recovery option and the need for sensitive coastal area identification and protection,
 - identified the need to prepare for shoreline cleanup,
 - also identified the need to setup the required logistics for the waste management.
- Various issues were taken into account by the participants as requested by the exercise (media management, public information, liaison with international compensation funds representatives, e.g. ITOFF, etc.).
- The alert procedure remained in the first time at harbour level: the competent ministries or national authorities were not immediately notified.
- Assistance (international and/ or regional) was only briefly discussed.
- The organisation set up by the groups was not clearly a national level organisation which could allow to manage such incident (request international assistance, have sufficient funds available, etc.). However, the time for the exercise was limited.

At the end of the Course, Ms Anka Rajkovic (MSD Montenegro) with Ms Khodjet El Khil and Mr Gonzalez (REMPEC), presented participants with Certificates of Attendance, which were prepared and numbered by REMPEC. A list of certificates delivered is given in Appendix 3.

The Course was closed on the 23rd November 1999 at 14h30. The director of the Maritime Safety Department of Montenegro presented a closing address on behalf of the host country. Mr. Gonzalez thanked the national authorities and the participants on behalf of REMPEC.

TRAINING EVALUATION

An evaluation form was distributed to the trainees. A summary of the main answers and comments made by the participants are shown in the table below.

1 Did the course meet your expectations?	Beyond: 45%	More / less on par: 55%
2 Generally speaking, how did you judge the content and quality of the lectures / presentations?	Very good: 90%	Good: 10%
3 Did you acquire new knowledge during this course?	Very much: 83%	Some: 11%
4 Will this new knowledge help you in your current work?	Very much: 55%	Enough: 45%
Other comments?	<p>More information is requested on the neighbouring countries which could assist and on the financial management of such crisis.</p> <p>One participant insisted on the "new views" that the course gave him.</p>	
5 Do you think that the duration of the lectures / presentations was adequate?	About right: 66%	Too long: 33%
6 Did you have enough time for questions?	Yes: 95%	No: 5%
7 In your opinion, are there any other topic/ issues that the course should have covered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Oil Spill Contingency Plans • International assistance and legal framework • Provisions of oil spill response equipment (through assistance) • And practical work (asked by 6 participants) 	
8 Do you think it was useful to meet other persons from National Ministries, Offices, etc.?	Yes: 62%	No: 38%
9 Which lectures / presentations did you find the most interesting?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples, pictures, exercise • Incident management and oil spill response strategies • Behaviour and fate of oil • Introduction to REMPEC • Shoreline cleanup (quoted by 3 participants) • Contingency planning and international convention (quoted by 3 participants) • Technical solutions (quoted by 6 participants) • All of the presentations (quoted by 4 participants) 	
10 Which lectures / presentations did you find the least interesting?	None	
11 Generally speaking are you satisfied with the course?	Very satisfied: 83%	Satisfied: 17%
12 Other comments	<p>Some participants asked for more information and methodology on legal framework and oil spill contingency planning.</p> <p>Several participants noted that the course was excellent and they were very satisfied and looking forward to the next course.</p> <p>One participant asked for the organisation of a full size exercise at sea.</p>	

Note: this summary was made from 18 evaluation forms which were handed back to us.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This National Training Course on accidental marine pollution preparedness and response, IMO-OPRC Level III is aimed at incident managers on a local and national level. The participants were selected from the different ministries, national authorities and port and maritime authorities, covering a large part of the competent bodies that would be involved if a spill should occur in Montenegro.

Not all participants were familiar with the oil spill response and preparedness issues; however, the audience was interested and involved during all the presentations. The selection of the participants was consistent with the aim of such course: it was very interesting to have in the audience representatives from the various Montenegrin competent bodies (particularly during the exercises).

The translation from English to Serbian-Montenegrin by the two interpreters seemed efficient and allowed the lecturers to present the different topics at a normal pace. It was helpful for the two interpreters to be able to familiarize themselves with the technical vocabulary by reading the printouts of the presentations that were sent to them a few days before the beginning of the course.

From the questions, feedback and the results of the exercise, it appears that the information was well understood by the trainees, suited to their needs and was used correctly during the exercise.

The questions following the presentations and the results of the exercise highlighted that:

- Even if the issues related to oil spill response options (mainly offshore) had been well understood, **additional training is required on specific issues related to oil spill planning, response and management**, i.e. :
 - setting up and management of oil spill response operations,
 - contingency planning and sensitivity mapping,
 - offshore response operations – including dispersants and definition of a national policy for their use,
 - shoreline cleanup organisation and techniques,
 - waste management (storage, transportation and treatment of oily wastes),
 - compensation of oil spill (from tankers),
 - crisis management, etc.
- All the participants are aware that there is a risk, and that **the national oil spill plan needs to be developed and implemented**, to provide the national regulations and guidelines to ensure that all oil spill contingency plans are integrated, i.e. consistent with the national policy in order to preserve the national interests.

- There is a need for an assistance to Montenegro during the different steps for the development of oil spill contingency plans at local and national level in order to:
 - **Identify a national competent authority for the development and implementation** of the national oil spill contingency plan
 - **Ensure the existence of a legal framework:**
 - **Consistent with the international conventions** ratified by Montenegro (Montenegro has ratified the Barcelona Convention - Emergency Protocol 1976, and is in the process of ratifying the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, OPRC Convention 1990 and the Barcelona Convention - Prevention and Emergency Protocol 2002).
 - **Ratify the required conventions for compensation** (CLC 92 and Fund 92) and adjust its legal framework to implement these conventions.
 - **Develop a national oil spill contingency plan based on a strategy document** identifying :
 - The risks that the plan will address (at national level, at provincial level, et port level, etc.) and the sensitive areas
 - The response strategies and the required equipment
 - A suited organisation to manage such operations and a suited national framework to develop a national and local plans:
 - a contingency plan at national level to coordinate all plans
 - What contingency plans and responsibilities at local/ provincial levels (particularly for onshore response operations)?
 - What contingency plans and responsibilities in the harbours for harbour and offshore response?
 - **Implement the plan after it is officially accepted by the Montenegro authorities**, i.e. develop an Action Plan for the implementation of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan, detailing:
 - The actions needed to implement the plan, including a program for the training and exercising of the plan, needs for oil spill response equipment, development of the infrastructure needed to support the national oil spill response capabilities (national response centre, storage location for the equipment, communications centre, etc.)
 - A costing and planning for the implementation of all the required actions.
 - **Train the personnel, acquire the required resources** and test the contingency plan (during exercises) to ensure it is operational

Appendices

Appendix 1: Reviewed program for the training course

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APPENDIX 1: REVIEWED PROGRAM FOR THE TRAINING COURSE

DAY 1

08.30	Registration of participants
09.00	Opening ceremony - Course introduction Presentation of the objectives of the course, of the lecturers and all course participants. Finalization of course timetable.
09.30	Introduction to REMPEC
10.00	Video: The oil spill – ITOPF and IMO
10.30	Coffee break
10.45	Sources and causes of oil spills Based on international statistics, and illustrated with examples of oil spill incidents, the sources and causes of oil spills will be outlined.
11.30	The possible effects of oil on the environment and socio-economic activities The effect that oil may have on the environment and socio-economic activities will be examined, introducing the concept of Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA).
12.00	Lunch break
13.30	The Tiered Response concept The internationally recognized standard for oil spill response preparedness.
13.45	The behaviour and fate of spilled oil An in-depth analysis of the ‘weathering’ process and the impact it has on strategy choice. A demonstration of software available to assist with the prediction of how oils may behave in a variety of marine environments.
14.30	Legal framework for the international cooperation. The OPRC convention, the OPRC-HNS protocol, the Barcelona Convention and the Prevention-Emergency Protocol
15.00	Coffee break
15.15	Sensitivity mapping This session details the benefits of developing sensitivity maps.
15.45	Media relations Oil spills can be the focus for national and international media attention. This session describes how to positively manage the expectations of the media and the public.
16.30	End of day

DAY 2

09.00	Contingency planning and Incident management A contingency plan is a vital tool to assist response teams to effectively deal with an incident. This session first details the key elements of a typical contingency plan. We then examine the main steps in the response to an oil spill incident focussing on the need for effective management, introducing some practical methods for decision making and command & control, and response termination, based on the Incident Command System – ICS (Command, Control, Communications & Information).
09.45	Overview of Oil Spill Response strategies A discussion on the range of response techniques strategies available. The successes and limitations of each strategy will be examined as well as the considerations for strategy choice: Monitor and Evaluate, Dispersants, Mechanical Containment and Recovery, Protection of Sensitive Resources, Shoreline Clean-up, and Waste Management.
10.30	Coffee break
	RESPONSE AT SEA
10.45	Monitor and evaluate: Aerial surveillance Aerial surveillance is an essential tool for rapidly assessing an oil spill. Based on illustrations of past incidents, this session will outline the practical aspects of aerial surveillance (recognizing oil at sea, assessing the type and volume of oil and the movements of oil slicks).
11.15	The use of dispersants A discussion on the principles and the effects of the use of chemicals to disperse oil into the water column. The various application methods will also be described.
12.00	Lunch Break
	SHORELINE PROTECTION AND CLEAN-UP
13.30	The deployment of containment, recovery and protection systems An explanation of the various techniques for the containment of marine oil spills and the protection of sensitive resources, the systems used and the importance of selecting the most appropriate equipment.
14.00	Shoreline clean-up management and techniques We examine the main steps in the management of clean-up operations focussing on the need for a coordinated approach from initial assessment through to termination, with an in-depth look at the principle methods for shoreline clean up, the options for varying degrees of clean-up and the effect various techniques may have on the environment.
14.30	Staff and public safety management This session identifies the various hazards faced by oil spill responders and the public and describes the key elements of an incident specific safety plan.
15.00	Coffee break
15.15	Waste management : transfer, storage and disposal The importance for on-site waste segregation is explained along with the options for temporary storage and final disposal.
16.00	Case Study: Lebanese Oil Spill
16.30	End of day

DAY 3

09.00	Liability, compensation and cost recovery A presentation of the international conventions: Civil Liability Convention – Fund Convention will be done, followed by a discussion on the practical aspects of admissibility of claims, and claims processing.
	TABLE-TOP EXERCISE
10.00	A comprehensive table-top exercise that allows participants to put into practice all that they have learnt during the course. The exercise will be held in three parts and will include all the elements expected in the preparation for and response to a major oil spill incident. Presentation, organization into syndicates
10.30	Coffee break
10.45	Table-top exercise – Oil spill contingency planning.
12.00	Lunch break
13.30	Table-top exercise – Response to an incident scenario
15.00	Coffee break
15.15	Debriefing of exercise
16.00	Presentation of certificates Closure of Training Course
16.30	End of day

APPENDIX 2: PLANNED LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Title	Name	Position	Organization	Address	Telephone (telephone, fax, mobile telephone)	E - mail
Capt	Rakočević Krsto	Director	Maritime safety department	Maršala Tita br.8 85000 Bar Montenegro	+381/(0)85 313 241 +381/(0)85 313 274 +381/(0)69 042 179	ups.direktor@cg.yu
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Ms	Rajković Anka	Advisor for monitoring and implementation of international regulations	Maritime safety department	Maršala Tita br.8 85000 Bar Montenegro	+381(0)85 303 353 +381(0)85 303 353 +381(0)69 406 512	msd.intreg@cg.yu anarajkovic@yahoo.com
Capt	Petrović Milan	Deputy general manager	Maritime safety department	Maršala Tita br.8 85000 Bar Montenegro	+381(0)82 660 090 +381(0)82 671 251 +381(0)69 333 252	Ups.inspekt@cg.yu
Ch.Ing.	Jurišić Goran	Navigation safety Inspector	Harbor Master Office - Bar	Obala 13 jul 85000 Bar Montenegro	+381/(0)85 312 733 +381/(0)85 302 060 +381/(0)69 035 423	mingo@cg.uy
Capt	Fuštić Mirko	Navigation safety Inspector	Harbor Master Office - Bar	Obala 13 jul 85000 Bar Montenegro	+381/(0)85 317 900 +381/(0)85 317 900 +381/(0)69 028 081	mirkofustic@cg.yu

Capt	Usanović Zoran	Navigation safety Inspector	Harbor Master Office - Kotor	Njegoševa bb 85330 Kotor Montenegro	+381/(0)82 304 012 +381/(0)82 304 013 +381/(0)69 345 201	/
Ch.ing.	Ljesar Gojko	Navigation safety Inspector	Harbor Master Office - Kotor	Njegoševa bb 85330 Kotor Montenegro	+381/(0)82 304 012 +381/(0)82 304 013 +381/(0)69 691 671	kapetan@cg.yu
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Mr	Hađžiabidić Zoran	Officer for environmental issues	Bijela Adriatic Shipyard	Brodogradilište Bijela bb 85343 Bijela Montenegro	+381/(0)88 671 857 +381/(0)88 671 108 +381/(0)67 253 908	asy_safety@cg.yu
Mr	Bošković Mato	Nautical tourism engineer	Costal Zone Management Agency	Popa Jola Zeca bb 85310 Budva Montenegro	+381/(0)86 452 709 +381/(0)86 452 685 +381/(0)67 505 610	jpmdcg@cg.yu

Mr	Lasica Zoran	Commander maritime police	Police Department	Bulevar Sv. Petra Cetinjskog 6 81000 Podgorica Montenegro	+381/(0)81 247 689 +381/(0)81 247 689 +381/(0)67 284 567	zlasica@cg.yu
Mrs	Šuković Danijela	Deputy Director	Eco – toxicological Research Center	Put Radovana Ivanocića br. 2 81000 Podgorica Montenegro	+381/(0)81 658 091 +381/(0)81 658 091 +381/(0)69 053 020	sukovic.r@cg.yu
Capt	Nikitović Zoran	General Manager	“Hemosan”	Stara Raskrsnica bb 85000 Bar Montenegro	+381/(0)85 346 232 +381/(0)85 346 233 +381/(0)67 314 218	hemosan@cg.yu
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Ms	Knežević Jelena	Advisor MAP Focal Point	Ministry of Tourism and environmental protection	Rimski Trg 81000 Podgorica Montenegro	+381/(0)81 482 313 +381/(0)81 234 131 +381/(0)67 255 604	jelenak@mn.yu
Ms	Zarubica Vesna	Advisor	Ministry of Tourism and environmental protection	Rimski Trg 81000 Podgorica Montenegro	+381/(0)81 658 127 +381/(0)81 658 127 +381/(0)69 080 792	/
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Mrs	Pera Pavilca Dragišić	Head of the civil protection	Defense Department – Municipality of Bar	Buler Revolucije br 3 85000 Bar Montenegro	+381/(0)85 311 096 +381/(0)85 314 961 +381/(0)69 684 210	ppdczbar@cg.yu
Mr	Čupić Dragan	Rescue worker	Rescue Division – Municipality of Budva	Jadranski put bb 85310 Budva Montenegro	+381/(0)86 454 969 / +381/(0)67 838 440	/
Mr	Mndić Maksim	Rescue worker	Rescue Division – Municipality of Kotor	Njegoševa, Rakite 2/1 85 330 Kotor	+381/(0)82 323 653 +381/(0)82 323 653 +381/(0)69 343 872	maksko@cg.yu
Mr	Ćirović Zlatko	Division Assistant	Rescue Division – Municipality of Herceg Novi	B.Perišić 85 340 Herceg Novi	+381/(0)88 348 014 +381/(0)88 348 014 +381/(0)69 497 356	/
Mr	Subotić Risto	Head of rescue division	Rescue Division – Municipality of Tivat	Pakovo bb 85 320 Tivat Montenegro	+381/(0)82 671 318 +381/(0)82 671 387 +381/(0)67 342 841	/
Mr	Mehmeti Saubih	Head of rescue division	Rescue Division – Municipality of Ulcinj	ul. 28.Decembar 85 360 Ulcinj Montenegro	+381/(0)85 401 292 +381/(0)85 401 293 +381/(0)85 425 303 +381/(0)69 084 085	saubih@cg.yu

APPENDIX 3: LIST OF CERTIFICATE DELIVERED

2534	Krsto RAKOČEVIĆ
2535	Predrag RATKOVIĆ
2536	Anka RAJKOVIĆ
2537	Milan PETROVIĆ
2538	Goran JURIŠIĆ
2539	Mirko FUŠTIĆ
2540	Zoran USANOVIĆ
2541	Gojko LJESAR
2542	Snežana DURKOVIĆ
2543	Deda ĐELOVIĆ
2544	Zoran HAĐŽIABIDIĆ
2545	Mato BOŠKOVIĆ
2546	Zoran LASICA
2547	Danijela ŠUKOVIĆ
2548	Zoran NIKITOVIĆ
2549	Nebojša LUKOVIĆ
2550	Jelena KNEŽEVIC
2551	Vesna ZARUBICA
2552	Ana RASPOPOVIĆ
2553	Pera PAVILCA-DRAGIŠIĆ
2554	Dragan ČUPIĆ
2555	Maksim MNDIĆ
2556	Zlatko ĆIROVIĆ
2557	Risto SUBOTIĆ
2558	Suabih MEHMETI

APPENDIX 4: OPENING SPEECH BY REMPEC REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Mayor of Bar, Mr. RATKOVIC, Ladies and Gentlemen, as programme officer on OPRC and on behalf of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), I would like to thanks the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport for organizing the National Training Course on Preparedness for and Response to Marine Pollution for Government Administrators and Senior Managers in collaboration with REMPEC.

The efforts and the willingness of the Government of Montenegro in providing its country with the tools; the legislative and institutional arrangements to prevent pollution from ship and to prepare the relevant authorities for response to marine pollution from ships have been clearly demonstrated in the last months.

I would like to recall that in June 2005 the Ministry for the Environment and Physical Planning of the Government of the Republic of Montenegro requested assistance from the Coordination Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan. This request was made in the context of the ongoing process of ratification by Serbia and Montenegro of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols.

As far as ship-generated pollution is concerned, the request was passed on to REMPEC. As a result, a programme of activities was developed by REMPEC, entitled “Development of National Capacities of Serbia and Montenegro for prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships”.

Following its approval, a Memorandum of Understanding for its implementation was signed on 27 December 2005 between REMPEC and the Government of the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro. The said MOU was signed on behalf of the Government by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport.

The objective of the programme of activities is to provide the country with the necessary assistance to build up its national capacities and enable it to participate in the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative. This initiative should have as a result the extension of the sub-regional contingency plan for prevention of, preparedness for and response to major marine pollution incidents in the Adriatic to the entire Adriatic-Ionian region.

The programme of activities for Montenegro is divided in four phases, following a necessary logical order for the implementation of the activities:

- A first phase to enhance legal and institutional framework;
- A second phase to set up a national system for preparedness for and response to pollution from ships;
- A third phase to set up a national system for prevention of pollution from ships; and
- And a forth phase to increase the level of knowledge of personnel.

As we are all aware, on 21st May 2006, the political and legal status of the country changed by means of a referendum, when the citizens of the Republic of Montenegro voted in favour of the independence of the country from the State Union.

Based on the results of the referendum, the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro declared Montenegro as an independent state in its session held on 3rd June 2006.

These changes were considered in the framework of the current project as an opportunity to provide the assistance needed to the Republic of Montenegro, which is now in the process of building its capacities, and ensure that its maritime administration will be technically competent to fulfil efficiently its duties. A first result of this assistance is that the Republic of Montenegro became a member of IMO on 10 October 2006.

Furthermore, a meeting was organized yesterday between the relevant authorities and REMPEC to review the work prepared by the experts engaged to support the implementation of the activities, namely Mrs. Margita Mastrovic, Admiral (ICG) Roberto Patrino and Capt. Fernando Pardo. Constructive discussions came out and next steps to be undertaken to reach the objectives of the programme were agreed upon.

In the framework of this programme of activities and in order to enhance the capacities of Montenegro with respect to preparedness and response, taking also into consideration that a National Contingency Plan is currently under development the National Training Course on Preparedness and Response to Marine Pollution for Government Administrators and Senior Managers was organized by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport with the assistance of REMPEC.

I hope you will find this training course of interest and helpful and wish you a successful session.

Thank you for your attention.

APPENDIX 5: PHOTOS

The training course was held at the Luka Bar main office.



Participants to the training course.



Participants during the presentations.



Participants were divided in 2 groups for the table top exercise

