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

**CENTRE REGIONAL MEDITERRANEEN POUR L'INTERVENTION
D'URGENCE CONTRE LA POLLUTION MARINE ACCIDENTELLE (REMPEC)**

**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN
PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE**



7th Meeting of Focal Points of the
Regional Marine Pollution Emergency
Response Centre for the Mediterranean
Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.26/9/1
17 March 2005

Original: English

Malta, 25-28 April 2005

Agenda Item 9

**PREPARATION OF A REGIONAL STRATEGY
ON PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS**

Note by REMPEC

1. After the adoption of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol in 2002, it became evident that a new strategy for the implementation of the new Protocol was necessary to achieve the goals that the Contracting Parties had in mind when the decision to revise the 1976 Emergency Protocol was taken.
2. The process of preparation of a Regional Strategy for prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships was initiated in 2002, prior to the last Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points. The draft proposed Regional Strategy, prepared by the Consultant engaged by REMPEC to carry out the evaluation of the Centre, was originally presented (REMPEC/WG.21/9) to the 6th Meeting of Focal Points that was held in Malta, 12-15 February 2003. The Meeting agreed to make only general comments on the proposed document and requested the Secretariat to redistribute it to the Focal Points together with the comments made by the delegations in the Meeting. The Meeting also agreed to convene an Experts Meeting in order to finalize the proposed Strategy (REMPEC/WG.21/12). In March 2003, REMPEC distributed to the Contracting Parties, for their consideration and comments, the draft Strategy that was originally presented to the 6th Meeting of Focal Points, together with the comments made by the delegations in that Meeting.
3. The preparation of the Regional Strategy for prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships was discussed at the 13th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Catania, Italy, 11-14 November 2003). The Contracting Parties decided to support the preparation of the Strategy with a view of its adoption by their 14th Meeting in 2005 and requested REMPEC to continue the process of its preparation (UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.15/11). The Meeting also adopted the Catania Declaration which explicitly mandates the Secretariat to prepare the Regional Strategy, identifies a number of priority issues that the Strategy should address, and provides guidance on its preparation.
4. On the basis of comments received from the Contracting Parties and the priority issues identified in the Catania Declaration, and also taking into consideration new developments at the global and regional levels, as well as within the European Union, the Centre prepared the Revised Second Draft Regional Strategy, which was disseminated in May 2004 to its Focal Points, IMO, UNEP/MAP and other partners.

5. With a view to preparing the Third Draft Regional Strategy and in accordance with the decision of the 13th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, REMPEC convened in Castelgandolfo (Rome), Italy, between 8 and 10 July 2004, the First Meeting of National Experts on the Regional Strategy for prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships. The representatives of 20 Contracting Parties, MEDU and IMO attended the Meeting.

6. After a thorough discussion in the Working Groups, the Meeting adopted the Third Draft Regional Strategy on prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships, which addressed twenty one specific objectives to be achieved by the year 2015. The Meeting also agreed on the procedure for continuation and completion of the preparation of the Regional Strategy.

7. REMPEC finalized the Report (REMPEC/WG.23/7) containing the consolidated text of the Third Draft Regional Strategy and distributed it, in October 2004, to the Contracting Parties and to other relevant international governmental and non-governmental organizations for consideration and further comments.

8. In February 2005, REMPEC consolidated the comments received from its Focal Points and other parties, and circulated these to all Contracting Parties, IMO and UNEP/MAP for consideration at the Second Meeting of National Experts on the Regional Strategy for prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships.

9. The Second Meeting of National Experts on the Regional Strategy was convened in Malta, 21-23 April 2005 in conformity with the request of the First Meeting of National Experts and its decision to make the final revision of the draft Regional Strategy "at the time of the 7th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points". The Meeting was organized with a view to preparing and agreeing upon the final Draft of the Regional Strategy on prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships.

10. In addition, pursuant to the request of the First Meeting of National Experts, in the beginning of 2005, REMPEC engaged a consultant to carry out an assessment of the cost of implementation of the proposed Regional Strategy. The appointment of the consultant was made possible thanks to the additional funds provided specifically for this purpose by UNEP.

11. The final Draft of the Regional Strategy on prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships, as agreed upon by the Second Meeting of National Experts, is being submitted for consideration and endorsement to the present Meeting (REMPEC/WG.26/9/2).

The Meeting of Focal Points is invited:

- (i) to consider and endorse the final Draft of the Regional Strategy on prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships; and
- (ii) to request the Secretariat to submit it to the next Meeting of MAP Focal Points, prior to being presented to the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption.