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

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Second Meeting of the Competent National Authorities for the  
Preparation of the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan  
between Cyprus, Greece and Israel

REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.2/3  
Date: 05 December 2016

Valletta, Malta, 13 December 2016

Original: English

Agenda Item 3

**DOCUMENT OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT  
ON THE SUB-REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN  
BETWEEN  
CYPRUS, GREECE AND ISRAEL**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**SUMMARY**

**Executive Summary:** This Document provides the first Draft Agreement on the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel, and its annexes as prepared by the Consultant.

**Action to be taken:** Paragraph 3

**Related document:** REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.2/1/1 and REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.2/2

**Background**

1. The Consultant engaged by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) prepared the first Draft of the Agreement on the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel, and its annexes as prepared by the Consultant.

2. The first Draft Agreement is presented in the Appendix to the present document.

**Action requested by the Meeting**

3. The Meeting will be invited to examine, discuss, amend as necessary and take note of the first draft Agreement on the CGI SCP and to provide guidelines for the preparation of the second draft Agreement.

**APPENDIX**

**[DRAFT]**

**AGREEMENT  
ON THE SUB-REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION CONTINGENCY  
PLAN  
BETWEEN  
CYPRUS, GREECE AND ISRAEL**

**December 2016**



**[DRAFT]**  
**AGREEMENT**  
**ON THE SUB-REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN**  
**BETWEEN**  
**CYPRUS, GREECE AND ISRAEL**

*The Government of the Republic of Cyprus,*

*The Government of the Hellenic Republic, and*

*The Government of the State of Israel,*

**Being** Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, adopted in 1976 and amended and renamed in 1995 (hereinafter referred to as the Barcelona Convention), and to its Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in case of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, adopted in 2002 and replacing the related Protocol of 1976 (hereinafter referred to as the Prevention and Emergency Protocol);

**Taking note** of the “Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection” signed on 6 April 2016 by their respective Ministers responsible for environment, which identifies in particular preparedness for and response to major marine pollution incidents in the Mediterranean, resulting from ships, offshore hydrocarbon (oil and gas) exploration and exploitation activities and hydrocarbon pipelines as the first priority area in which the three countries intend to advance their cooperation;

**Recognizing** that the Mediterranean in general, and its eastern part in particular, being a major route for transporting oil and the area of ever more intensive offshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation activities and development of pipelines, are exposed to increasingly high risk of marine oil pollution, thus necessitating constant efforts in organizing and preparing response to marine pollution incidents at national, sub-regional and regional levels;

**Considering** that bilateral and multilateral sub-regional agreements, specifying in advance operational arrangements, administrative and logistic requirements and financial conditions for cooperation in cases of emergency, are necessary for a prompt and efficient response to marine pollution incidents at sub-regional level;

**Noting** that the existence of national capabilities for responding to marine pollution incidents, including national contingency plans, pollution response equipment and trained personnel, is an indispensable prerequisite for the efficient regional cooperation and mutual assistance;

**Being aware** that in the event of an oil pollution incident, prompt and effective action is essential in order to minimise the damage which may result from such an incident;

**Bearing in mind** Article 9 of the Barcelona Convention and Article 4(1) of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol which *inter alia* stipulates that "Parties shall endeavour to maintain and promote, either individually or through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, contingency plans and other means of preventing and combating pollution incidents";

**Bearing also in mind** Article 17 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol concerning bilateral or multilateral sub-regional agreements for preparedness for and response to pollution incidents;

**Acknowledging** the positive role that Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (hereinafter referred to as REMPEC) in its capacity of the Regional Centre as defined in Article 1 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol plays in promoting regional and sub-regional cooperation in preparedness for and response to marine pollution incidents in the Mediterranean region;

**HAVE AGREED** as follows:

1. To adopt, within the framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Prevention and Emergency Protocol, a **SUB-REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN BETWEEN CYPRUS, GREECE AND ISRAEL** (hereinafter referred to as "the Plan", a copy of which is attached to this Agreement) as a mechanism for mutual assistance and cooperation in responding to *[for preparedness for and response to]* major marine pollution incidents affecting or likely to affect their respective territorial sea, coasts and related interests;

2. To use their best endeavours to render assistance to any Party to this Agreement which might request assistance in case of emergency, bearing in mind that nothing in the Plan precludes the right of a Party, whose territorial sea or related interests are likely to be affected, to request assistance from other States or Organizations;

3. To designate the following authorities as their respective national authorities responsible for the implementation of the Plan, its amendment and revision, as well as for ensuring compatibility of the Plan with their respective National Contingency Plans:

for the Republic of Cyprus:	Department .....
	Ministry of .....

for the Hellenic Republic:	Department .....
	Ministry of .....

for the State of Israel:	Department .....
	Ministry of .....

4. That other Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Prevention and Emergency Protocol, in the sub-region, may join this Agreement subject to the consent of the Parties to the Agreement;

5. That the Agreement and the Plan will enter into force thirty days after REMPEC has been notified by all three Parties of their approval or ratification of this Agreement, made in accordance with their national legislations.

**DONE AT** ..... on this ..... day of ..... 2017 in the English language.

For the Government  
of the Republic of  
Cyprus

For the Government  
of the Hellenic Republic

For the Government  
of the State of  
Israel

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