



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

First 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.1/8
Date: 18 November 2016

Barcelona, Spain, 9 November 2016

Original: English

Agenda Item 8

REPORT OF
THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITIES FOR
THE PREPARATION OF
THE SUB-REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN BETWEEN
CYPRUS, GREECE AND ISRAEL

Barcelona, Spain, 9 November 2016

Introduction

1. The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) convened the First Sub-regional Meeting of the Competent National Authorities for the Preparation of the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel, hereinafter referred to as the Meeting, on 9 November 2016 in Barcelona, Spain. The Meeting was convened in accordance with the work plan for the development of the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel, hereinafter referred to as SCP, submitted by REMPEC on 5 May 2016 and accepted by the three countries.

2. The invitation to attend the Meeting was extended to the Centre's OPRC Focal Points of Cyprus, Greece and Israel respectively and in particular to their officers nominated as contact points for the preparation of the SCP. The Consultant engaged by REMPEC to support the Centre in the preparation of SCP was also invited to participate in the Meeting.

3. Two representatives of each of the three countries concerned attended the Meeting, as well as two representatives of REMPEC and the Consultant. The complete list of the participants is given in **Annex I** to the present Report.

Agenda Item 1 Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda

4. The Meeting was opened at 14.00 hours on Wednesday, 9 November 2016 by Mr Malek Smaoui, Programme Officer (OPRC) at REMPEC, on behalf of the Head of Office of REMPEC. It was agreed that Mr. Smaoui would chair the Meeting and that REMPEC would act as the Secretariat of the Meeting.

5. In his opening statement Mr Smaoui welcomed the participants and recalled that this was the First Sub-regional Meeting aimed at the development of the SCP and that another two Meetings were planned to be held before the completion of the SCP and the Agreement on its implementation.

6. The Chairman then recalled the following main objectives of the Meeting: (i) to present the project for the development of the SCP, (ii) to review and discuss the National Contingency Plans (NCPs) of Cyprus, Greece and Israel respectively and in particular the parts of NCPs which were considered relevant for the preparation of the SCP, (iii) to introduce the concept for the development of the SCP and to present the preliminary proposal of its contents, and (iv) to agree upon the date, place and agenda of the Second Sub-regional Meeting for the preparation of the Plan.

7. With a view to facilitating the work of the Meeting REMPEC prepared and distributed to the participants documents listed in **Annex II** to the present Report.

8. Following the invitation by the Chairman, the Meeting adopted the agenda proposed in document REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1/1 reproduced in **Annex III** and annotated in REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1/1/1. The Meeting also agreed to follow the timetable annexed to the Annotated Provisional Agenda. The timetable observed by the Meeting is reproduced in **Annex IV** to the present Report.

Agenda Item 2 Overview of the project for the development of the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel

9. Mr Smaoui, on behalf of REMPEC, outlined the origins of the project for the preparation of the SCP and of the Agreement on its implementation, the envisaged activities leading to the preparation and completion of these documents, and the timetable foreseen for the main activities planned as part of the development of the Plan, as follows:

10. He recalled that the Ministers responsible for environment of Cyprus, Greece and Israel respectively met in Jerusalem in April 2016 and signed the "Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection". The Declaration identified *inter alia* the protection of marine and coastal environment and "in particular preparedness 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.

11. Following the initiative of the Centre’s National Focal Point of Cyprus in May 2016, the competent national authorities of all three countries concerned requested REMPEC to assist them in formulating and implementing a joint sub-regional marine pollution contingency plan.

12. In accordance with its mandate to assist the Contracting Parties in developing and implementing sub-regional agreements (Article 17 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol), and in consultation with United Nations Environment Programme/ Mediterranean Action Plan UNEP/MAP, REMPEC confirmed its support for the development and adoption of a joint Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel.

13. The Centre reached an agreement with the three countries concerned that the short-term phase consisting on the establishment of an effective and operational sub-regional preparedness and response system for these three countries, would be followed by a mid-term and long-term phases aimed at implementing the SCP. The goal of the mid-term phase was to reinforce the capacities and strengthen cooperation arrangements between the Parties to the Plan through organizing specifically designed technical workshops and training courses. The long term phase would focus on testing the Plan through a series of communication, table top and full scale exercises.

14. The first, short-term phase was envisaged to be completed by October 2017, and the latter two phases during the 2018/2019 period.

15. In October 2016, REMPEC engaged the Consultant to assist the Centre in completing the short-term phase of developing the SCP. The selected Consultant, Mr Darko Domovic, was advised to draw on the Centre’s previous experience in developing comparable Sub-regional Contingency Plans, and in particular on the one for Cyprus, Egypt and Israel formulated under the Centre’s guidance in the 1990’s, but also the two Plans developed in the early 2000’s for the south-western Mediterranean and the Adriatic sub-regions respectively. REMPEC also advised the Consultant to take into consideration similar joint contingency plans developed within and outside the Mediterranean.

16. Prior to the present Meeting REMPEC disseminated to Cyprus, Greece and Israel a Questionnaire aimed at collecting basic information required for the development of the Plan.

17. The Consultant was required to submit to REMPEC the first draft SCP and the Agreement by 25 November 2016 and, following another Sub-regional Meeting, the second draft SCP by 3 February 2017. It was emphasised that in order to observe this timetable it was essential that all three countries provide the Consultant with the required information within the deadlines indicated by REMPEC, and that only a strict adherence to the proposed timetable by all those concerned could ensure that all planned tasks are completed as planned.

18. The timetable for various tasks, as prepared by REMPEC, is attached in **Annex V**.

19. Mr Smaoui finished his presentation by expressing the hope of REMPEC that the present project would strengthen the cooperation between Cyprus, Greece and Israel in the field of preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution, thus contributing to increasing the level of preparedness for efficiently responding to serious oil spills in the south-eastern part of the Mediterranean.

The Meeting took note of the presentation of the Centre’s representative and agreed to observe the work plan and the timetable as outlined.

Agenda Item 3 **Review of the national systems for preparedness and response of Cyprus, Greece and Israel**

20. The Chairman invited the representatives of Cyprus, Greece and Israel to present their respective national systems for preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution, and in particular their NCPs.

21. No written documents were submitted under this agenda item.

Cyprus

22. The representative of Cyprus, Mr Marinos Ioannou, informed the Meeting that approval of the 2014 version of the National Contingency Plan of Cyprus, which has been outlined by the Consultant in the Appendix to the document CGI SCP/WG.1/4, was currently under consideration. He pointed out that in spite of not being approved as yet, the spill response arrangements described in this version of the NCP would apply if Cyprus was affected by an oil spill incident.

23. Mr Ioannou reported that the NCP covered only response to spills of oil and oil like substances which occur in the coastal waters of Cyprus and territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus, which are under Government jurisdiction. It could be extended to apply to spills beyond the territorial waters in the Cyprus Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) when a pollution incident at high seas posed an imminent risk of extension of the pollution to the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus.

24. The capacity of spill response resources under the Government control was estimated to be sufficient for dealing with spills of approximately 100 tonnes of oil; however the arrangements were in place for calling out international assistance from the European Union, or from other third parties through REMPEC.

25. Mr Ioannou observed that, according to the NCP, the National Authority responsible for oil pollution control, response and implementation of the NCP was the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, and that the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) within the same Ministry was the Responsible Department in charge of managing and implementing the NCP and for requesting international assistance in case of major marine pollution incidents. However, DFMR requests international assistance from Oil Spill Response Services of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) through the Department of Merchant Shipping (DMS) within the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works.

26. According to the Cypriot NCP the responsibility for response, oil recovery and clean up of oil pollution from offshore activities within Cyprus EEZ primarily lies with the operators of offshore installations who are obliged to have arrangements in place for dealing with any Tier 3 oil spill incident.

27. The NCP indicates containment and mechanical recovery of oil as the preferred strategy of oil pollution combating at sea, while the use of dispersants is considered only when spill containment and recovery are not possible.

28. Mr Ioannou also informed the Meeting that the Questionnaire disseminated by REMPEC on 27 October 2016 was duly filled in and returned to the Centre and the Consultant respectively three days prior to the Meeting.

Greece

29. The representative of Greece, Cdr. (HCG) Antonios Doumanis confirmed that the current version of the Greek NCP was the one approved by the Presidential Decree No. 11 of 23 December 2001, as published in the Official Gazette of the Hellenic Republic No. 6, dated 21 January 2002.

30. Cdr. (HCG) Doumanis explained that the Presidential Decree was an integral part of the NCP and that legal acts listed in the beginning of the Decree formed the legal basis for the adoption of the NCP, which explains why these were not repeated later on in the text.

31. He informed the Meeting that the name of the competent national authority responsible for the preparation and monitoring of the implementation of the NCP was the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, whose responsibilities corresponded to those of the Ministry quoted in the NCP, i.e. the Ministry of Merchant Marine, as it was known at the time of acceptance of the NCP in December 2001. He further explained that the Marine Environment Protection Directorate (MEPD) of the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG) was the department within the Ministry having a direct responsibility for marine pollution preparedness and response.

32. Cdr. (HCG) Doumanis explained that the NCP applied in the sea area corresponding to the Athens Flight Information Region (FIR) System which coincided with the Hellenic Search and Rescue Region (HSRR), and to the coasts of continental and insular Greece.

33. He also clarified that the MEPD manages a central data bank with all relevant information contained as Appendices in various Local Contingency Plans (LCPs) subordinate to the NCP, and that these data were regularly updated on a yearly basis. The preparation of LCPs based on the Form of LCP included in the NCP, was the responsibility of relevant Port Authorities, and these were approved by the HCG (MEPD). Oil handling and offshore facilities, as well as ports, have a duty to prepare their respective Facilities Contingency Plans (FCPs) and Port Contingency Plans (PCPs), which are subordinate to the LCPs.

34. The Greek strategy of oil spill response considers the use of "Chemical Oil Dispersants" only when containment and recovery of floating oil are not possible, and only after taking into consideration general environmental conditions and relevant standing circulars issued by MEPD. Dispersants can be used only in "exceptional circumstances" and their use has to be authorized by the On-Scene Commander.

35. Cdr. (HCG) Doumanis concluded by informing the Meeting that at present MEPD was conducting extensive consultations with various relevant Government departments concerning the questions put forward in the REMPEC's Questionnaire of 27 October, and that it would be duly returned to the Centre as soon as these consultations were concluded.

Israel

36. The representative of Israel, Mr Nir Levinski, outlined the Israeli NCP and confirmed that Version 1.5 07/07 of July 2007, as approved by the Government Decision of 5 June 2008 is currently in force. The NCP was often referred to as TALMAT, which was the Hebrew acronym of its title.

37. The NCP covers oil pollution incidents which might occur within Israel's territorial waters (12 miles) and on its coastline, in the Mediterranean Sea and in the Gulf of Eilat, incidents occurring outside the territorial waters which might pose a threat to Israel's coastline and/or to marine installations and/or resources, which are at risk of harm from pollution, and to incidents occurring outside Israel's territorial waters, to which Israel is committed in view of a request for assistance in dealing with them pursuant to the International Conventions, to which the State is a signatory.

38. He explained that the Israeli national preparedness and response system was based on Tiered response principle similar to the systems of the other two countries, and pointed out that the various Tiers were defined under "Definitions" in the very beginning of the Plan.

39. The responsibility for dealing with marine pollution incidents rests with the Ministry of Environmental Protection as the competent Governmental National Authority in charge of response to marine oil pollution, while the command of the NCP is shared between the Marine Environment Protection Division (MEPD) of The Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Administration of Shipping and Ports (ASP) of the Ministry of Transport and Road Safety, depending on the nature of the intervention. Namely, when a marine pollution incident involves SAR operations, salvage, etc. the Head of ASP is in command and the Head of MEPD acts as his deputy and advisor, and when the response to the incident becomes essentially an "environmental" issue their roles are reversed.

40. Mr Levinski stressed that the NCP envisaged the use of dispersants as the preferred method of dealing with oil spills in the Mediterranean Sea. However he indicated that their use was subject to certain limitations addressed in Appendix 9-D to the Plan, and that the use of dispersants always needed to be approved by MEPD.

41. Following the request by the Consultant Mr Levinski replied that he would endeavour to translate the relevant Appendix 9-D into English and send it to the Consultant. In addition he explained that the use of dispersants was not allowed in the areas in which the sea depth was less than 20 metres and whose distance from a natural resort was less than 1 Nm.

42. Mr Levinski also informed the Meeting that the reply to the Questionnaire received from REMPEC on 27 October 2016 would be sent immediately after the Meeting.

43. The Meeting took note of the of the information provided by the representatives of Cyprus, Greece and Israel respectively, and agreed with the suggestion of the Chairman to further discuss as necessary the issues addressed in their presentations after hearing the presentation of the Consultant under the next Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 4 **Conceptual approach and draft contents of the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel**

44. The Chairman invited Mr Darko Domovic, the Consultant engaged by REMPEC to support the preparation of the SCP, to introduce the document REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1/4 and to outline the current status of sub-regional and regional contingency planning, with an emphasis on the situation in the Mediterranean region; the best practices related to the sub-regional contingency planning; the previous work carried out by REMPEC in this field; the summary analysis of the key points of the NCPs of the three countries concerned that were important for the preparation of the future SCP; and to present a draft outline of the future SCP and its Annexes.

45. The Consultant presented a summary of the document REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1/4 which was distributed to the participants prior to the Meeting.

46. He informed the Meeting of the international contingency plans currently existing in the Mediterranean region, as well as of those that exist in other parts of Europe and in other regional seas worldwide. The Consultant indicated when these Plans were prepared and when they entered into force, which countries they covered and what were the similarities among them. He also emphasized general objectives of all such Plans.

47. The Consultant further outlined the two decades of REMPEC's experience in the field of international contingency planning and emphasized the fact that the "Sub-regional Contingency Plan for Preparedness and Response to Major Marine Pollution Incidents in the Mediterranean", signed in 1995 by the Cyprus, Egypt and Israel, served since its adoption as a model for similar international CPs worldwide.

48. He introduced the 3rd and 4th editions of IMO Manual on Oil Pollution, Section II: Contingency Planning and explained that the information contained in these manuals actually reflected the best practices in this field, taking into consideration that the contributions from various States and regions were incorporate in them. He suggested that the SCP should be developed following as much as possible the recommendations made in particular in the latest 4th edition of the IMO Manual.

49. The Consultant presented his findings based on an analysis of certain key issues that are addressed in the NCPs of Cyprus, Greece and Israel respectively. As a conclusion he emphasized that the way, the scope, the coverage, the responsibilities, the response organization and the concept of response are addressed in the three NCPs indicated a high degree of compatibility, thus facilitating the preparation of the SCP. He pointed out that the same applied also to defining the roles of National On-Scene Commanders/Co-ordinator (NOSC)/ Supreme On-Scene Commanders/Co-ordinator (SOSC), national response strategies, national strategies on the use of dispersants, the way how these NCPs addressed the duties and responsibilities of oil handling and offshore facilities, and the provisions concerning international cooperation. Finally he noted that all three NCPs envisaged the use of POLREP format for the exchange of information during an oil spill emergency.

50. In the final part of his presentation the Consultant outlined the contents of the future SCP emphasizing that it was based on the "Sample outline for an international oil spill cooperation plan" which appeared in the Appendix 4 of the 4th edition of IMO Manual on Oil Pollution, Section II: Contingency Planning. The Consultant also suggested some additional elements which the future SCP might include, based on the experience of the previous work carried out by REMPEC.

51. With a view to facilitating the development of the future SCP and its implementation in case of emergency the Consultant encouraged the representatives of Cyprus, Greece and Israel to endeavour to properly implement the existing international and regional mechanisms for international cooperation and to work jointly within these frameworks. He also encouraged those States which as yet did not do so to consider acceding to the Intervention 69 Convention, its 73 Protocol, the OPRC 90 Convention, and the 1994 Offshore Protocol to the Barcelona Convention.

52. The Consultant invited the representatives of the three countries concerned to consider his proposal and to make their own suggestions on the contents on his presentation.

53. The Meeting had no comments on the first part of the presentation (international CPs, the experience of REMPEC and the best practices), and agreed in principle with the Consultants analysis of the NCPs and with the proposed contents of the future SCP. However the representatives of Cyprus, Greece and Israel suggested that the Consultant should provide them after the Meeting with

a copy of his presentation with a view to enabling them to study it in more detail and to submitting their possible comments in writing to REMPEC and to the Consultant, after returning to their offices.

54. The Chairman requested the Consultant to send the text of his presentation to REMPEC immediately after the Meeting for onward transmission to the competent national authorities of the three countries concerned. The text of the Consultant's presentation is reproduced in **Annex VI** to the present Report.

The Meeting took note of the information provided by the Consultant and **decided** that the representatives of Cyprus, Greece and Israel would examine and amend as necessary the analysis of the NCPs and the proposal of the contents of the SCP, and submit their possible comments and suggestions to REMPEC and to the Consultant.

Agenda Item 5 **Date, place and agenda of the next meeting**

55. The Chairman informed the Meeting that the Second Sub-regional Meeting of the Competent National Authorities for the Preparation of the SCP will be convened in Malta on 13 December 2016, i.e. a day before the start of the Regional Workshop on Cooperation Arrangements in the Field of Preparedness and Response to Oil and HNS Spills (MEDEXPOL 2016), which has been scheduled for 14-15 December 2016. He explained that this date was chosen so that the competent national authorities could nominate the same participants for both meetings.

56. The Chairman emphasized that prior to that meeting i.e. by the end of November the Consultant had to submit to REMPEC, for onward transmission to the competent national authorities of Cyprus, Greece and Israel, the first Draft SCP and related Annexes, as well as the first Draft Agreement on the implementation of the SCP. Bearing in mind a very short time frame for the completion of these tasks the Chairman invited all parties concerned to provide their inputs to REMPEC and directly to the Consultant at their earliest convenience, and to strictly observe all deadlines set by the Centre.

57. The Consultant proposed the preliminary draft Agenda for the Second Sub-regional Meeting as reproduced in **Annex VII**.

58. **The Meeting** thanked the Secretariat and **agreed** with the date and place of the next meeting as proposed by the representative of REMPEC and with the preliminary draft Agenda as proposed by the Consultant.

Agenda Item 6 **Other business**

59. Considering the constructive dialogue between Prevention and OPRC Focal Points present in the Meeting, the representatives of the three countries concerned expressed their view that it would be desirable that each country was represented in the Second Sub-regional Meeting for the Preparation of the SCP by two (2) delegates and requested REMPEC to consider the possibility of covering the costs of participation in the Meeting (travel, DSA) for two participants from each country.

60. The Chairman confirmed that he would convey this request to the Head of Office of REMPEC and that the three countries would be informed accordingly through the related invitation letter.

Agenda Item 7 **Synthesis by the Chairman**

61. The Chairman summarised the main points of the presentations made under Agenda Items 2–5 and of the discussions that followed. He pointed out that the fact that all three countries have their NCPs, which are well elaborated and in major part compatible, would certainly make the preparation of the SCP easier. He expressed his hope that the discussions at the Second Sub-regional Meeting, once the first Draft SCP has been prepared and distributed, would be fruitful and contribute to the preparation of a "tailor made" second Draft Plan. He concluded by inviting all those concerned to observe the deadlines set by REMPEC for the completion of various phases of the project.

62. The Chairman requested the Consultant to prepare the Report of the Meeting in accordance with the Terms of Reference of his Contract.

63. The Chairman stated that although the deadline for the submission of the Report of the Meeting was 25 November 2016, he was sure that it would be finalized and circulated to the participants well ahead of that date.

Agenda Item 8 **Closure of the Meeting**

64. The Chairman, Mr Malek Smaoui, thanked all participants for their active participation and declared the Meeting closed at 18.05 hours on Wednesday, 9 November 2016

ANNEX I

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
CONTRACTING PARTIES**

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ANNEX II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1	Provisional agenda
REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1/1	Annotated provisional agenda and draft timetable
REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1/4	Report on the existing Sub-Regional Contingency Plans, an analysis of best practices related to sub-regional contingency planning, National Contingency Plans of Cyprus, Greece and Israel, and a draft Outline of the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel,
REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1/8	Report of the Meeting

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1 INF.1	List of documents
REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1 J/1	Provisional list of participants
REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1 INF.2	List of participants
REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1 INF.3	Questionnaire
REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1 INF.4	National Contingency Plan of Cyprus
REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1 INF.5	National Contingency Plan of Greece
REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1 INF.6	National Contingency Plan of Israel

NOTE: The versions of the National Contingency Plans of Cyprus, Greece and Israel respectively which appear in the List of Documents (as WG.1 INF.4, WG.1 INF.5 and WG.1 INF.6) were those that are available at REMPEC and which the Consultant used to prepare the document REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1/4.

ANNEX III

AGENDA

- 1 Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda
- 2 Overview of the project for the development of the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel
- 3 Review of the national systems for preparedness and response of Cyprus, Greece and Israel
- 4 Conceptual approach and draft contents of the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel
- 5 Date, place and agenda of the next meeting
- 6 Other business
- 7 Synthesis of the Meeting
- 8 Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX IV

TIMETABLE

Wednesday, 9 November 2016

13.30 – 14.00	<i>Registration of the Participants</i>	
14.00 – 14.10	Agenda Item 1	Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda
14.10 – 14.30	Agenda Item 2	Overview of the project for the development of the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel
14.30 – 16.00	Agenda Item 3	Review of the national systems for preparedness and response of Cyprus, Greece and Israel
16.00 – 17.30	Agenda Item 4	Conceptual approach and draft contents of the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel
17.30 – 17.45	Agenda Item 5	Date, place and Agenda of the next Meeting
17.45 – 17.50	Agenda Item 6	Other business
17.50 – 18.00	Agenda Item 7	Synthesis of the Meeting
18.00	Agenda Item 8	Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX V

**THE DEADLINES SET BY REMPEC FOR COMPLETION OF ACTIVITIES
RELATED TO THE PREPARATION
OF THE SUBREGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN
BETWEEN CYPRUS, GREECE AND ISRAEL (SCP)**

25 November 2016	Submission to REMPEC by the Consultant of the first Draft SCP and the first Draft Agreement on its implementation
13 December 2016	Second Sub-regional Meeting of competent National Authorities for the preparation of the SCP, Malta
2 January 2017	Submission to REMPEC by the Consultant of the Report of the Second Sub-regional Meeting
3 February 2017	Submission to REMPEC by the Consultant of the second Draft SCP including Annexes and the second Draft Agreement, as well as a proposed list of technical assistance/training requirements aimed at ensuring an efficient implementation of the SCP
Early July 2017	Third Sub-regional Meeting of competent National Authorities for the preparation of the SCP, Cyprus
14 July 2017	Submission to REMPEC by the Consultant of the Report of the Third Sub-regional Meeting
7 October 2017	Submission to REMPEC by the Consultant of the final Draft SCP including Annexes and the final Draft Agreement

ANNEX VI

**CONCEPTUAL APPROACH AND DRAFT CONTENTS OF
THE SUB-REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN
BETWEEN CYPRUS, GREECE AND ISRAEL**

CONTENTS

- EXISTING SUB-REGIONAL (and REGIONAL) CONTINGENCY PLANS (SCPs)
 - AN ANALYSIS OF BEST PRACTICES RELATED TO SUB-REGIONAL CONTINGENCY PLANNING
 - NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLANS OF CYPRUS, GREECE AND ISRAEL
 - DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE SUB-REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN BETWEEN CYPRUS, GREECE AND ISRAEL
-

EXISTING SCPs (RCPs)

Mediterranean:

- RAMOGEPOL Plan (France, Italy, Monaco; 1993/2005)
 - Sub-regional Contingency Plan for Preparedness and Response to Major Marine Pollution Incidents in the Mediterranean (Cyprus, Egypt, Israel; 1995)
 - LION PLAN/PLAN LEON (France, Spain; 2001)
 - Sub-regional Contingency Plan for Preparedness for and Response to Accidental Marine Pollution in the south-western area of the Mediterranean (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia; 2005)
 - Sub-regional Contingency Plan for Prevention of, Preparedness for and Response to Major Marine Pollution Incidents in the Adriatic Sea (Croatia, Italy, Slovenia; 2005)
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EXISTING SCPs (RCPs)

Other regions in Europe:

- MANCHEPLAN (England, France; 1978/2013)
 - BISCAYE Plan (France, Spain; 1999)
 - Agreement Estonia and Finland (1993/2009)
 - Operational Agreement Poland and Germany (2001)
 - Agreement Latvia and Lithuania (2001)
 - SWEESTLAT (Sub-regional plan for Estonia, Latvia and Sweden; 2006)
 - SWEDENGER (Joint Swedish-Danish-German Response Plan; 2002)
 - Joint Finnish - Russian Contingency Plan for combating pollution of the Baltic Sea (2013)
 - ...
-

EXISTING SCPs (RCPs)

Other regions in the world:

- SRCP (Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, La Reunion, Comoros; 2003)
 - NOWPAP MoU (2004) and RCP (China, Japan, Russia, South Korea; 2008)
 - Canada–US Joint Inland CP (2009)
 - Mexico-United States Joint C&E Plan (2009)
 - ROPME RCP (8 countries in the Persian Gulf; 2010)
 - WIO RCP (9 WIO countries; Draft 2010) and the Agreement (2011)
 - Caribbean Island OPR&CP (25 Caribbean island States; 2012)
-

EXISTING SCPs (RCPs)

Other regions in the world (cont.):

- Canadian CG – USCG CP (2013)
 - PACPLAN - Pacific Islands RMSCP (26 Pacific island countries, territories and “SPREP Metropolitan Members”; 2013)
 - Caribbean Regional Response Team – RCP (USA and 3 territories/countries in the Caribbean region; 2014/2016)
 - PRC-CA OPRC Plan (7 Central American countries; 2015)
 - SACEP – RCP for South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka; 2016)
 - ...
-

OBJECTIVE OF A RCP/SCP

In general, the objective of all regional/sub-regional contingency plans and/or agreements on mutual assistance and cooperation in response to oil spills is:

to organize a prompt and effective response to spills affecting or likely to affect the area of interest of one or more of the countries concerned, and to facilitate the co-operation among them in the field of oil pollution preparedness and response.

REMPEC EXPERIENCE

- Assistance to various Med. countries in developing sub-regional systems for preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution and in the preparation of relevant CPs and Agreements - since 1993
 - Assistance in developing RCPs and Agreements, and transfer of knowledge to groups of countries in other regional sea areas worldwide
 - Permanent cooperation in this field with IMO, UNEP, the WB and various other international organizations
-

REMPEC EXPERIENCE

- The structure, the contents and the text of the Sub-regional Contingency Plan for Preparedness and Response to Major Marine Pollution Incidents in the Mediterranean (between Cyprus, Egypt and Israel) has been used since its adoption in 1995 as a model for developing similar sub-regional or regional Plans worldwide
-

BEST PRACTICES

- 1995 IMO Manual on Oil Pollution, Section II: Contingency Planning (3rd edition)
- Information which Government should provide when developing an international CP:
 - Identification of the competent national authority and national operational contact point responsible for oil spill related matters;
 - Description of the national oil spill response organization and, if available, the national contingency plan;
 - Types of spill response resources, if these exist, and the proper way to request them in case of need;
 - Identification of available logistic support facilities within the country;
 - Identification of storage for recovered oil and disposal methods for collected oily material.
-

BEST PRACTICES

- 2016 IMO Manual on Oil Pollution, Section II: Contingency Planning (4th edition)
- Reiterates the same requirements and emphasizes the need for the international CP to remain SIMPLE and EASY to operate.
 - Generally addresses the same topics as the 3rd edition.
 - Addresses additional issues deserving particular attention during the preparation of an international CP:
 - Scope of cooperation between participating governments;
 - Definition of geographical area(s) and division of responsibilities;
 - Reporting, alerting and communications procedures;
 - Logistics, administration and funding;
 - Review and update of an international contingency plan.
-

BEST PRACTICES

The analysis of the existing international CPs shows that:

- The contents of most of these Plans corresponds to the recommendation put forward in the 3rd edition of the IMO Manual on Oil Pollution, Section II: Contingency Planning.
 - Some Plans contain additional data (on e.g. spill response techniques, int. conventions, ...) which makes them too bulky – these often resemble spill response manuals or textbooks;
 - Some international CPs include provisions concerning SAR procedures, vessel traffic management or surveillance of the maritime traffic, with the aim to prevent maritime incidents which could cause marine pollution. These provisions are usually included by countries which already have bi- or multilateral agreements covering such specific issues.
-

BEST PRACTICES

Development of an international CP should therefore take into account:

- the recommendations included in the most recent version(s) of the IMO Manual on Oil Pollution, Section II: Cont. Planning;
 - that an international CPs should be as concise and simple to implement as possible, without containing too many additional, albeit relevant, information – A CONTINGENCY PLAN IS NOT A SPILL RESPONSE MANUAL;
 - that an international CP may address relevant additional issues (e.g. SAR, vessel traffic management, surveillance of maritime traffic) ONLY if the countries concerned already have in place agreements covering these issues;
 - that an international CP can only work if based on the provisions of the existing NCPs of the countries concerned.
-

NATIONAL CPs - CYPRUS

REMPEC provided the Consultant with the 2014 version of the NCP, and all further notes refer to it.

- The first draft NCP was prepared with the assistance of REMPEC in 1983. The NCP was revised in 1992, 1994/5, 1997, 2001 and in 2005, and entirely redrafted in 2014;
- The NCP has been implemented in a number of small(er) size spills, although it remains unclear whether any of the above mentioned versions of the NCP was officially endorsed and, if in the affirmative, by whom;
- All arrangements for preparedness of and response to oil spills appear to be in place, and will be followed in case of a major marine pollution incident, (apparently) regardless of the status of the approval/adoption of the NCP.

NATIONAL CPs – CYPRUS

The NCP of Cyprus is divided into 3 sections and a number of subsections:

- Section 1 (Introduction) – 8 subsections;
- Section 2 (National System of Oil Spill Preparedness) – 9 subsections and a number of sub-subsections/paragraphs;
- Section 3 (The National System of Oil Spill Response) – 22 subsections.

The NCP also contains 9 Appendices (which were not available at REMPEC).

NATIONAL CPs - GREECE

The English translation of the Greek NCP which was available at REMPEC was the 2006 translation of the 2001 version of the NCP, and these notes refer to it:

- The NCP was adopted by the Presidential Decree No. 11 on 23 December 2001;
- It was published in the Official Gazette No.6 of 21 January 2002;
- It was translated into English language on 19 January 2006 by the Translation Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- The NCP repeatedly refers to the “Ministry of Mercantile Marine” however it is understood that its responsibilities have been subsequently transferred to the present Ministry of Shipping and Island Policy.

NATIONAL CPs - GREECE

The Greek NCP is divided into 5 sections (without an introductory one) and a number of subsections:

- Section 1 (General requirements for contingency planning) – 9 subsections;
- Section 2 (Organizational interaction between FCP, PCP and LCP) – 5 subsections;
- Section 3 (National system for preparedness and response to oil pollution incidents) – 22 subsections and a number of sub-subsections;
- Section 4 (System of international reporting of emergencies) – no subsections
- Section 5 (Recovery of costs for pollution combating activities) – 5 subsections.

NATIONAL CPs - GREECE

- The Greek NCP does not have an introductory section (so e.g. its aims, purpose and scope are addressed in Section 3).
- The NCP also includes a model “Form of the Local Contingency Plan” which has 3 Sections:
 - Content of the Form of Local Contingency Plan
 - Local Contingency Plan
 - Chart.
- The NCP does not have any Annexes – it is understood that these are included in various LCPs.

NATIONAL CPs - ISRAEL

These notes prepared by the consultant refer to the 2007 version of the NCP, which was available at REMPEC:

- The Israeli NCP was prepared in July 2007;
 - The NCP was approved by the Government Decision on 5 June 2008;
 - The acronym of the Plan in Hebrew is TALMAT and it is often referred to under this name;
 - The version of the Plan made available to the Consultant is version 1.5 07/07.
-

NATIONAL CPs - ISRAEL

The NCP of Israel is divided into 8 sections which contain a number of subsections, and it also includes an Appendices File (not available):

- Section 1 (General) – 9 subsections;
- Section 2 (Method) – 7 subsections;
- Section 3 (Reporting System) – 2 subsections
- Section 4 (Public Relations) – 4 subsections
- Section 5 (Keeping Records) – 3 subsections
- Section 6 (Funding and Moneys) – 3 subsections
- Section 7 (Coordination with other programs) – 4 subsections
- Section 8 (Prior Readiness) – 3 subsections

NATIONAL CPs - SUMMARY

The most important features of the three NCPs:

Convention or Protocol	CYP	GRE	ISR
Defines the SCOPE of the Plan			
Defines COVERAGE of the Plan			
Defines RESPONSIBILITIES			
Describes RESPONSE ORGANIZATION			
Stipulates the use of TIERED RESPONSE concept			
Defines the roles of NOSC/SOSC			0
Identifies NATIONAL RESPONSE STRATEGY			0
Identifies NATIONAL STRATEGY on DISPERSANTS			0
Addresses OIL HANDLING and OFFSHORE facilities			0
Addresses INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION			
Requires the use of POLREP (for international reporting)			

THE MOST RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Convention or Protocol	CYP	GRE	ISR
OPRC 1990			
OPRC-HNS 2000			
INTERVENTION 69			
INTERVENTION PROTOCOL 1973			
SALVAGE 1989			
CLC 92			
FUND 92			
BUNKERS 2001			
HNS PROTOCOL 2010			
Barcelona Convention			
Prevention and Emergency Protocol			
Offshore Protocol 1994			

PROPOSED CONTENTS OF CGI SCP

1. INTRODUCTION
2. POLICY AND RESPONSIBILITIES
3. RESPONSE ELEMENTS AND PLANNING
4. RESPONSE OPERATIONS
5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
6. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS
7. PUBLIC INFORMATION/PROTOCOL

ANNEXES

PROPOSED CONTENTS OF CGI SCP

ANNEX 1	National directory of points of contact and response personnel
ANNEX 2	Map indicating geographical coverage and areas of responsibility of participating States (<i>could be attached if all participating countries so agree</i>)
ANNEX 3	Map showing possible sources of oil spills and environmentally sensitive areas
ANNEX 4	Communications plan
ANNEX 5	Equipment inventories and listing of specialist personnel
ANNEX 6	National Contingency Plans (or their relevant parts)
	6.1 Republic of Cyprus
	6.2 Hellenic Republic
	6.3 State of Israel

PROPOSED CONTENTS OF CGI SCP

The three countries concerned might also consider adding some supplementary Annexes which would simplify the use of the CGI SCP in case of emergency:

ANNEX 7	<i>POLREP Pollution Reporting System</i>
ANNEX 8	<i>Standard format for requesting assistance</i>
ANNEX 9	<i>Claims manual</i>

...

PROPOSED CONTENTS OF CGI SCP

1. INTRODUCTION
 - 1.1 Background: a brief description of the area where the Plan may be implemented, the risks of marine pollution in this area, the reasons, origins of the initiative and rationale for its preparation, the legal basis for its implementation.
 - 1.2 Purpose and objectives: creating a mechanism for mutual assistance and international cooperation, increasing the response capacity of individual States, organizing prompt and effective response, defining in advance the conditions and administrative modalities.
 - 1.3 Scope and geographic coverage
 - 1.4 Definitions and abbreviations
-

PROPOSED CONTENTS OF CGI SCP

2. POLICY AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- 2.1 Exchange of information: re competent national authorities, national contact points, (NOSCs), inventories of equipment and products, directories of experts, ...
- 2.2 Designation of national authorities and points of contact: procedures for designating

- competent national authorities for the implementation and administration of the Plan, and of the national points of contact for receiving reports.
- 2.3 Assumption of lead role: general principles guiding the assumption of the lead role etc. (** the Consultant believes that in the draft 4th edition of the IMO Manual this item, which is also included in Section 3, was erroneously inserted in Section 2, instead of a description of "Joint Policy",*)
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PROPOSED CONTENTS OF CGI SCP

2. POLICY AND RESPONSIBILITIES [...cont.]

- 2.4 Response planning: the principles guiding the planning and conducting response operations in case of the activation of the CGI SCP, likely sources of pollution, sensitive areas, means of spill response in each country, national policy on the use of dispersants, etc.
- 2.5 Joint training and exercises: the principle of conducting joint training courses and exercises/drills, objectives, principles guiding the organization of and hosting joint training courses and exercises; the concept of combining training and exercises.
-

PROPOSED CONTENTS OF CGI SCP

3. RESPONSE ELEMENTS AND PLANNING

- 3.1 Assumption of lead role: detailed instructions on the assumption of the lead role by the National authority of the country affected by a spill, transfer of the lead role ...
- 3.2 National On-Scene Commander (NOSC) / Supreme On-Scene Commander (SOSC): description of the roles of NOSC/SOSC, nomination of NOSC, assumption of the role of the SOSC, duties and responsibilities of NOSC ...
- 3.3 Emergency Response Centres / Joint Emergency Response Centre: the principle of setting up an Emergency Response Centre (ERC), assuming the role of JERC by an ERC and transfer of this role ...
- 3.4 Support teams: setting up a Support team for assisting NOSC, defining its premises, the role of a Support team ..
-

PROPOSED CONTENTS OF CGI SCP

3. RESPONSE ELEMENTS AND PLANNING

- 3.5 Command structure: description of the command structure, of operational command, operational control and tactical command, liaison between the Parties ...
- 3.6 Communications arrangements: description of the communications network for exchange of information re the implementation of the GCI SCP, definition of operational communications, definition of the official language for communications concerning the GCI SCP ...
- 3.7 Response planning: principles of conducting response operations, responsibility for deciding on response strategy for each particular pollution incident ...
- 3.8 Response strategy: general strategy of joint response operations, sequence of actions to be taken, ...
-

PROPOSED CONTENTS OF CGI SCP

4. RESPONSE OPERATIONS

- 4.1 Response phases: definition of possible response phases: prior to the activation of the SCP and after the activation of the SCP, description of procedures for each phase ...
- 4.2 Spill surveillance and forecasting: principles of spill surveillance, identification of means, requirements for spill forecasting, identification of forecasting models and data.
- 4.3 Requests for assistance: principle that each Party may request assistance from another

- one, types of assistance which under SCP, form of request, responsibilities and duties of the Party which receives such request ...
- 4.4 Joint response operations: definition of JROs, command over the JRO, coordination of JRO, liaison between Parties during JRO, requirements for conducting JRO ...
-

PROPOSED CONTENTS OF CGI SCP

4. RESPONSE OPERATIONS

- 4.5 Use of non-mechanical response methods: the principle that each Party decides on the use of non-mechanical response methods, methods that could be used in case under the Plan, informing other parties on nat. policy for use of these methods; principles of use of dispersants ...
- 4.6 Requests for additional assistance: definition of rules concerning requests for additional assistance.
- 4.7 Termination of joint response operations and deactivation: the principles guiding the termination of JRO and deactivation of the CGI SCP; informing other Parties; duties and responsibilities of the Party who requested assistance.
-

PROPOSED CONTENTS OF CGI SCP

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 5.1 Communication system(s): definition of the role of the communication system, its scope and its elements.
- 5.2 Initial warning system: the principle of early notification of other Parties of incidents likely to cause the activation of the CGI SCP, type of information to be included in the initial alert message, format to be used for initial warning, identification of national contact points for initial warnings.
- 5.3 Pollution reports (POLREP): definition of the POLREP format for the exchange of messages concerning the pollution incidents, description/explanation of the use of the reporting system.
-

PROPOSED CONTENTS OF CGI SCP

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 5.4 Post incident reports: establishing the requirement to prepare a post incident report following the termination of spill response operations, definition of elements of such reports, identification of recipients of post incident reports.
- 5.5 *Reports to and communication with REMPEC: (should the representatives of the three countries wish to include a specific paragraph defining their communications with REMPEC in case of the activation of the SCP and their reporting obligations as regards REMPEC, such a paragraph would define the type of information to be sent to REMPEC, stipulate the obligation to maintain contact with REMPEC throughout the joint response operations, and identify the means of contacting the Centre).*
-

PROPOSED CONTENTS OF CGI SCP

6. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- 6.1 Logistics: responsibilities for logistic support to the JRO, types of logistics which requesting country has to provide, arrangements for assisting personnel, for vessels and aircraft while in ports/airports of the requesting Party.
- 6.2 Funding: guidelines on financing mutual assistance, principles of financing mutual assistance and JROs, responsibilities of the country requesting assistance and the country rendering assistance, preparation of invoices for the costs of assistance, reimbursement of such costs.

- 6.3 Customs, immigration and over-flight procedures: principles concerning movement of response personnel, equipment, vessels and aircraft, facilitation of immigration and customs formalities, over-flight and navigation procedures during JROs ...
-

PROPOSED CONTENTS OF CGI SCP

6. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- 6.4 Health and safety: insurance of assisting personnel, responsibilities of the requesting Party regarding medical care and repatriation of injured personnel, covering costs of medical assistance/care, liability for injury and damage.
- 6.5 Documentation of clean-up costs: setting the principles of proper documentation of response activities and related costs, defining minimum requirements for record keeping.
- 6.6 Revisions of the Plan: frequency of revisions, responsibility for revision, exchange of information relevant for the revision of the SCP, periodic updating of directories (of e.g. nat. authorities, contact points, ...) and inventories (of equipment, products, vessels, aircraft, ...).
-

PROPOSED CONTENTS OF CGI SCP

7. PUBLIC INFORMATION/PROTOCOL

- 7.1 Public information office: rules for providing information to the public, scope of work of the public Info. Office, relations with the command structure, agreed forms of communications with the public.
- 7.2 Press releases / press conferences: frequency of issuing press releases, clearance of the information by SOCS, topics to be covered by a press release, guidelines for its preparation, means of distribution, frequency of press conferences, potential participants, subjects to be addressed, guidelines for press conference preparation.
- 7.3 Protocol: procedures to be followed when addressing press and public, during a press conference, conducting a conference, one-on-one interviews during the crisis.
-

... AND SOME RECOMMENDATIONS

The three countries concerned might wish to consider the following recommendations which would facilitate both the development and the subsequent implementation of the CGI SCP:

- Implement properly the existing international and regional mechanisms for cooperation;
- Work jointly within these frameworks;
- Resist the temptation to invent new "principles" in the field of mutual assistance;
- Accede to the Intervention 69 Convention and 73 Protocol;
- Accede to the OPRC 90 Convention;
- Accede to the 1994 Offshore Protocol to the Barcelona Convention.

ANNEX VII

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA
OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITIES FOR THE
PREPARATION OF THE SUB-REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN
BETWEEN CYPRUS, GREECE AND ISRAEL**

Valletta, Malta, Tuesday, 13 December 2016

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Agenda Item 1 | Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda |
| Agenda Item 2 | Adoption of the "Rules of Procedure" for the Sub-regional Meetings |
| Agenda Item 3 | Presentation of the first draft Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel |
| Agenda Item 4 | Presentation of the first draft Agreement between Cyprus, Greece and Israel on the implementation of the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan |
| Agenda Item 5 | Date, place and Agenda of the next Meeting |
| Agenda Item 6 | Other business |
| Agenda Item 7 | Synthesis by the Chairman |
| Agenda Item 8 | Closure of the Meeting |