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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.2/7  
Date: 03 February 2017

Valletta, Malta, 13 December 2016

Original: English

Agenda Item 7

**REPORT 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, 13 December 2016**



## **Introduction**

1. The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) convened the Second 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 13 December 2016 in Valletta, Malta. 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, which was proposed in May 2016 by REMPEC and subsequently agreed upon by the representatives of the three countries concerned.

2. The invitation to attend the Meeting was sent 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 and extended to the Prevention Focal or their representatives of the three countries, as well as to the Consultant engaged by REMPEC to support the Centre in the preparation of SCP.

3. Two representatives of Cyprus and one representative of Greece and Israel respectively 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 09.00 hours on Tuesday, 13 December 2016 by Mr Gabino Gonzalez, the Head of Office of REMPEC.

5. It was agreed that Mr Gonzalez, or in his absence Mr Malek Smaoui, Programme Officer (OPRC) at REMPEC, would chair the Meeting and that REMPEC would act as its Secretariat.

6. In his opening statement Mr Gonzalez welcomed the participants and recalled that following this Second Sub-regional Meeting and prior to the completion of the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel (hereinafter referred to as the SCP or the Plan) and of the Agreement on its implementation, only another Meeting of the Competent National Authorities was originally planned to be held in Cyprus in July 2017. Consequently he invited the representatives of the three countries concerned to strictly follow the timetable which was proposed by REMPEC and agreed upon by all parties, with a view to accomplishing all envisaged goals as planned by the autumn of 2017.

7. The representative of Greece, Cdr. HCG Stylianos Markoulakis, stated that he was instructed by the competent Greek national authorities to inform the Meeting that "due to internal reasons Greece was not in the position to consent in the completion of the Sub-Regional Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel", and that "if and whenever the internal reasons cease to exist, the issue will be reconsidered".

8. He also indicated that he will only attend the Meeting but for the same reasons would not be in position to take part in discussions and make any official comments on behalf of his national authorities concerning the proposed draft documents that were distributed prior to the Meeting.

9. The Meeting took note of the statement by the representative of Greece and expressed the hope that such internal reasons would soon cease to exist and that Greece would be able to resume its active participation in the preparation of the SCP and the Agreement.

10. The representative of Israel commented that in the Ministerial Meeting held in Jerusalem a week prior to the present Meeting the Greek Minister confirmed that Greece was in favour of continuing the work on the preparation of the SCP, however at a slower pace.

11. The Meeting discussed possible consequences of the current position of Greece and agreed to proceed with the process of the preparation of the SCP in accordance with the agreed timetable, and encouraged Greece to inform REMPEC and the other two Parties at its earliest convenience

when it would be able to continue contributing to the development of the Plan and to other related planned activities.

12. Mr Gonzalez informed the Meeting that, 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, which would serve as a basis for the discussion.

13. The Chairman subsequently introduced the agenda proposed in document REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.2/1/Rev.1, and annotated in document REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.2/1/1. The Meeting approved the agenda as proposed by the Chairman and reproduced in **Annex III** to the present Report, and agreed to follow the timetable which was annexed to the Annotated Provisional Agenda and which is reproduced in **Annex IV** to the present Report.

**Agenda Item 2**                      **Presentation of the first draft Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel**

14. Following the invitation by the Chairman the Consultant informed the Meeting that after the First Sub-regional Meeting held in Barcelona, Spain on 9 November 2016, the representative of Cyprus provided REMPEC with certain additional background information concerning the Cypriot national preparedness and response system, and that the duly filled in Questionnaire distributed by REMPEC in October 2016 was received from Israel immediately after the Meeting. The information provided by all three parties prior to, during and after the Meeting in Barcelona was taken into consideration when the First Draft SCP and the draft Agreement on its implementation were prepared.

15. The Consultant recalled that in accordance with the instructions from REMPEC these draft documents were prepared on the basis of the work carried out by the Centre in the past, primarily when developing the similar Sub-regional Contingency Plans for the South-eastern Mediterranean (between Cyprus, Egypt and Israel), the South-western Mediterranean (between Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) and the Adriatic (between Croatia, Italy and Slovenia), but also taking into consideration other Sub-regional and Regional Contingency Plans that were prepared and/or adopted in the recent years in the Mediterranean, Europe and worldwide. He pointed out that the work carried out by IMO on the preparation of the new edition of the "IMO Manual on Oil Pollution, Section II: Contingency Planning" was also taken into consideration while preparing the First Draft SCP, as well as the work carried out by REMPEC on the development of the "Draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents", which would be discussed during the MEDEXPOL 2016 Regional Workshop immediately after the present Meeting on 14 and 15 December 2016. He recalled that the First Draft SCP was reproduced and distributed in document REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.2/2.

16. The Consultant suggested and the Meeting agreed to consider and discuss the First Draft SCP article by article, and invited the representatives of the countries concerned to make their comments on each article as they deem necessary.

17. He presented the Table of Contents of the SCP indicating those parts of the Plan which did not exist in the similar plans that were used as the model for the present draft SCP and/or those parts which were completely redrafted. This refers in particular to Chapter 1 (Introduction), parts of Chapter 4 (Response operations), Article 5.3, parts of Chapter 6 (Administration and logistics, and specifically Articles 6.4 and 6.6) and Chapter 7 (Public information). The Consultant reassured the Meeting that all articles in the First Draft SCP were thoroughly reviewed and as necessary updated, modified and adapted to the requirements of the Parties to the future SCP between Cyprus, Greece and Israel.

18. The Meeting proceeded by examining and commenting on the text of the First Draft SCP presented by the Consultant, article by article.

19. **The Meeting took note** of various comments made by the representatives of Cyprus and Israel and subsequent discussions, and **instructed REMPEC and the Consultant** to observe the following main points when revising the text of the First Draft SCP and preparing the Second Draft SCP:

**Article 1.1:** further elaborate the rules on financing joint response operations, if possible taking into consideration the conclusions and recommendations of MEDEXPOL 2016.

**Article 1.2** (Definitions): revise the definition of “oils” to include heavy oils and refined products. Include the “condensates” resulting from the treatment of natural gas among “oils” regardless of the fact that these are not considered as “persistent oils”.

**Articles 2.1-2.4:** replace the wording “emergency” and “case of emergency” with “pollution incident” and modify the text accordingly.

**Articles 2.5-2.6:** insert the wording indicating that joint training and joint exercises can be combined with the Meetings of National Operational Authorities (cf. wording in Annex 10 regarding the same issue).

**Article 4.3:** add “other countries outside the Mediterranean” to the list of “other parties”.

**Article 5.4:** leave it as it is.

**Article 6.2:** check the policy of IOPC Funds regarding the possibility that the country which has requested assistance can be reimbursed directly by IOPC Funds regardless of the claim of the requesting Party, and if the affirmative modify the text accordingly. Compare with the results, conclusions and recommendations of MEDEXPOL 2016, and take this into consideration when preparing the text of the Second Draft SCP.

Make reference to Article 13 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention, and adjust the text accordingly.

**Annex 1:** the Parties agree to fill in information in Annex 1 and send it to REMPEC.

**Annex 3:** include in the SCP only the relevant parts of National Contingency Plans and not the entire NCPs. The three Parties will complete the tabular summary presentation of their respective NCPs.

**Annex 4:** make reference to MEDGIS-MAR database developed by REMPEC and use the same terms for dissemination of data. Compare with the results, conclusions and recommendations of MEDEXPOL 2016, and take this into consideration when preparing the Second Draft SCP.

Add a list of private contractors / companies offering spill response services to the already included lists. Such a list could also be a separate Annex.

**Annex 5:** REMPEC will disseminate to the National OPRC Focal Points of the Parties to the future SCP the Report concerning “Communication system within the Sub-regional Contingency Plan for Preparedness and Response to major Marine Pollution Incidents in Mediterranean (Cyprus, Egypt, Israel)” which was prepared under the project LIFE TCY96/INT/08 in May 1998. The National Focal Points will further disseminate this Report to their respective national authorities responsible for telecommunications/radio communications for their consideration, revision and updating as necessary, and subsequently inform REMPEC on their comments.

**Annex 6:** in the Second Draft SCP the texts of ITOPF Technical Paper No.1 and Cedre Operational Guide on aerial surveillance will be added to the current Annex 6.

**Annex 8:** the Second Draft SCP will take into consideration the results, conclusions and recommendations of MEDEXPOL 2016 concerning standard format for requesting assistance, and adjust the present draft Annex 8 accordingly.

**Annex 10:** by the beginning of February 2017 the National OPRC Focal Points or their nominated representatives will send to REMPEC their comments concerning the proposed Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of National Operational Authorities, which the Consultant will take into consideration when preparing the Second Draft SCP.

20. The **Meeting** further **instructed REMPEC and the Consultant** to focus, when preparing the Second Draft SCP, primarily to the text of the SCP and only then to the Annexes to the SCP.

**Agenda Item 3**                    **Presentation of the First draft Agreement to implement the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel**

21. Following the invitation by the Chairman the Consultant introduced document REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.2/3, containing the proposed text of the First Draft Agreement on the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel.

22. The Meeting did not make any specific comments concerning the draft text of the Agreement however it thoroughly discussed the possible procedures for signing the Agreement, its ratification and/or approval and the possible Depositary of instruments of ratification or approval.

23. The Chairman informed the Meeting that the intention of REMPEC was to have the Agreement ready for signature at the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 20), scheduled to be held in December 2017 in Albania.

24. After checking with his Ministry, the representative of Israel informed the Meeting that as regards his country only the signature and approval of the Ministry of Environment was required provided that the Agreement is signed within the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention.

25. The **Meeting decided** that National OPRC Focal Points/nominated representatives would check with their respective Ministries and Ministries of Foreign Affairs the precise requirements regarding the signing, ratification or approval of the future Agreement on the SCP, and inform REMPEC accordingly. The Consultant shall subsequently modify the text of the Second Draft Agreement so that it reflects these requirements.

26. Regarding the issue of the Depositary of instruments of ratification or approval of the Agreement the **Meeting agreed** that REMPEC should check the appropriate procedure with the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and inform the three Parties concerned accordingly, and request the Consultant to adjust the text of the Draft Agreement as necessary.

**Agenda Item 4**                    **Date, place and agenda of the next meeting of the Competent National Authorities for the Preparation of the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel**

27. The Chairman informed the Meeting that the Third Sub-regional Meeting of the Competent National Authorities for the Preparation of the SCP was scheduled to be held in Cyprus in the beginning of July 2017. He explained that at this stage it was not possible to give more precise information on the exact dates and place of the Third Sub-regional Meeting, and indicated that as soon as such information becomes available REMPEC would inform the three Parties concerned accordingly. In particular, the Chairman pointed out that organizing the Third Sub-regional Meeting would largely depend on the confirmation by Greece that it intended to continue its participation in the process of the development of the SCP.

28. In view of the statement made by the representative of Greece at the start of the present Meeting, the Chairman expressed his sincere hope that Greece will soon resolve the "internal reasons" mentioned by its representative and that within the first half of 2017, and prior to the planned Third Sub-regional Meeting, Greece will be able to again fully participate in the development of the SCP.

29. The Chairman invited Greece to inform REMPEC on its position regarding the development and the future of the SCP at its earliest convenience and if possible prior to the next Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points which has been scheduled for May 2017 in Malta.

30. The Consultant proposed a preliminary tentative agenda for the Third Sub-regional Meeting, which is reproduced in **Annex V** to the present Report.

31. **The Meeting** thanked the Secretariat, **agreed in principle** with the tentative Agenda proposed by the Consultant and **instructed REMPEC** to amend it as necessary after consultations with all Parties concerned, taking into consideration the developments during the first half of 2017.

**Agenda Item 5**            **Other business**

32. There were no issues proposed for discussion under this Agenda Item.

**Agenda Item 6**            **Synthesis of the Meeting by the Chairman**

33. The Chairman summarised the main points of discussions that took place under Agenda Items 1–4, as follows:

- Further progress of the work on development of the SCP and the Agreement will largely depend on the position of Greece;
- REMPEC, which had made significant efforts to ensure necessary funds for the preparation and completion of the SCP between Cyprus, Greece and Israel, and the Agreement on the SCP, hopes that Greece will soon be able to join the process of their development;
- Greece is encouraged to inform REMPEC as soon as possible, and not later than prior to the Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points in May 2017, on its position regarding its participation in the development of the SCP;
- The work on the preparation of the Second Draft SCP and the Second Draft Agreement will proceed as planned;
- The priority in the future work on the SCP will be given to consolidating its text, while the completion of the Annexes to the Plan will be considered as the second priority;
- The Parties to the future SCP are invited to provide REMPEC with all necessary and missing information required for the preparation of the Second Draft SCP and its Annexes and the Second Draft Agreement;

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

**Agenda Item 7**            **Closure of the Meeting**

35. The Chairman, Mr Gabino Gonzalez, thanked all participants for their active participation and declared the Meeting closed at 17.00 hours on Tuesday, 13 December 2016.

**ANNEX I**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
CONTRACTING PARTIES**

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**ANNEX II**

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

**WORKING DOCUMENTS**

REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.2/1	Provisional agenda
REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.2/1/Rev.1	Provisional Agenda
REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.2/1/1	Annotated Provisional Agenda and Draft Timetable
REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.2/2	Document of the first Draft Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel
REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.2/2/Rev.1	Document of the First Draft Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel and its Annexes (Note by the Secretariat)
REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.2/3	Document of the First Draft Agreement on the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plans between Cyprus, Greece and Israel (Note by the Secretariat)
REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.2/7	Report of the Meeting

**INFORMATION DOCUMENTS**

REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.2/INF.1	List of documents
REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.2 J/1	Provisional list of participants
REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.2/INF.2	List of participants

**ANNEX III**

**AGENDA**

- 1 Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda
- 2 Presentation of the first draft Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel
- 3 Presentation of the First draft Agreement to implement the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel
- 4 Date, place and agenda of the next meeting of the Competent National Authorities for the Preparation of the Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel
- 5 Other business
- 6 Synthesis of the Meeting by the Chairman
- 7 Closure of the Meeting

**ANNEX IV**

**TIMETABLE**

**Tuesday, 13 December 2016**

<b>08.30 – 09.00</b>	<b><i>Registration of participants</i></b>	
09.00 – 09.15	Agenda Item 1	Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda
09.15 – 10.30	Agenda Item 2	Presentation of the First draft CGI SCP
<b>10.30 – 11.00</b>	<b><i>Coffee break</i></b>	
11.00 – 12.30	Agenda Item 2	Presentation of the First draft CGI SCP
<b>12.30 – 14.00</b>	<b><i>Lunch break</i></b>	
14.00 – 15.00	Agenda Item 3	Presentation of the First draft Agreement
<b>15.00 – 15.15</b>	<b><i>Coffee break</i></b>	
15.15 – 15.30	Agenda Item 4	Date, place and agenda of the next meeting
15.30 – 15.45	Agenda Item 5	Other business
15.45 – 15.55	Agenda Item 6	Synthesis of the Meeting by the Chairman
<b>15.55 – 16.00</b>	<b>Agenda Item 7</b>	<b>Closure of the Meeting</b>

**ANNEX V**

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

**(tentatively) Cyprus, beginning of July 2017**

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Agenda Item 1  | Opening of the Meeting   |
| Agenda Item 2  | Revision of the Second Draft SCP   |
| Agenda Item 3  | Revision of the draft Annexes to the SCP   |
| Agenda Item 4  | Revision of the Second Draft Agreement on the SCP                                      |
| Agenda Item 5  | Proposal for the mid-term activities related to the implementation of the SCP          |
| Agenda Item 6  | Procedure concerning the signing and approval/ratification of the Agreement on the SCP |
| Agenda Item 7  | Decision on the Depositary of the Agreement  |
| Agenda Item 8  | Timetable of final activities leading to the signing of the Agreement                  |
| Agenda Item 9  | Summary of the Chairman  |
| Agenda Item 10 | Closure of the Meeting   |

