



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF MARITIME AFFAIRS AND INSULAR POLICY
HELLENIC COAST GUARD
MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION DIRECTORATE

SUB-REGIONAL MARINE OIL POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN BETWEEN
CYPRUS, GREECE AND ISRAEL



Sixth Meeting of the National Operational Authorities responsible for the
implementation of the Sub-regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan
between Cyprus, Greece and Israel

SCP CGI/NOA.6/3
Date: 26 August 2026

REPORT
OF THE SIXTH MEETING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
SUB-REGIONAL MARINE OIL POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN
BETWEEN CYPRUS, GREECE AND ISRAEL

Piraeus, Greece, 16th - 17th June 2026



Introduction

1. The Sixth Meeting for the implementation of the Sub-regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel (the Meeting) was convened in Piraeus, Greece on 16th - 17th June 2026 within the framework of the "Implementation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, and the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the State of Israel" (the Agreement) on the Sub-regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan (the Plan), signed at Nicosia, Cyprus on the 8th May 2018.
2. The Meeting was hosted by the Marine Environment Protection Directorate (MEPD), Hellenic Coast Guard/Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy, Hellenic Republic, and was held at the Hellenic Coast Guard's Headquarters in Piraeus.
3. The principal objective of the Meeting was the preparation of the joint exercise in Cyprus, named CypEx 2026, to be carried out in November 2026, as part of the Multinational Exercise NEMESIS.
4. The Meeting was attended by delegations from Cyprus, Greece, Israel and by the representative of REMPEC. The complete list of participants is given in **Annex I** to the present Report of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting.

5. The Meeting opened at 09.30 hours on Tuesday 16th June 2026 at the Hellenic Coast Guard Premises, Piraeus, by the Head of the Greek delegation, Captain H.C.G. Stylianos Markoulakis from MEPD, who welcomed the participants. He noted that the main purpose of the meeting was the preparation of the upcoming exercise CypEx 2026 based on the preparatory work already done for the CypEx 2024 which was postponed. Mr. Markoulakis expressed his appreciation to REMPEC for its continuous support over the years for drafting the SCP CGI and its relevant Implementation Agreement and for the organization of CypEx 2026 as well. He also thanked Mr. Stefanos Skarvelis from Greenbow Maritime Ltd, who had been assigned by REMPEC for the organization of CypEx 2024, for his participation in the Meeting in order to review the material developed for CypEx 2024 as the basis of CypEx 2026.
6. The representative of REMPEC, Ms. Elisa Giangrasso (REMPEC) thanked MEPD for the organization of the Meeting and emphasized the importance of the face-to-face meeting as a significant step in the preparation of the forthcoming exercise. She also stressed that the organization and successful execution of CypEx 2026 will constitute an important milestone in regional cooperation for marine pollution preparedness and response in the Mediterranean Sea.
7. The Heads of the Cypriot, Israeli and Greek delegations, respectively, introduced the members of their delegations and made comment about the importance of CypEx 2026 for the cooperation of the three countries in the framework of the CSP CGI..

Agenda Item 2. Organization of the Meeting.

2.1 Rules of Procedure

8. The Meeting decided that the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of National Operational Authorities referred to in Chapter 2.5 (2) of the Plan, and reported in its Annex 10, as revised by the First Preparatory Meeting, and appearing in its Annex III of its Report (SCP CGI/PM.1/10) would apply to its deliberations.

2.2 Election of Officers

9. The Meeting agreed that Captain H.C.G. Stylianos Markoulakis from MEPD, would chair the Meeting, and Commander H.C.G. Panagiotis MARidakis would act as Vice-Chairperson.
10. According to Chapter 2.5 (5) of the Plan, and the Rule 3.4 of the Rules of Procedure, the staff of MEPD, Operational Authority of the host country, performed the secretarial duties for the Meeting.

2.3 Working Languages

11. The working language of the Meeting was English.

Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the Agenda.

12. The Chairperson proposed that the agenda in document SCP CGI/NOA.6/1 be adopted by the Meeting and to agree on the timetable, as proposed in document SCPCGI/NOA.6/2, to carry out its work.
13. The Meeting agreed on the agenda and the timetable as proposed by the Chairperson. The agenda is given in **Annex II** to the present Report.

Agenda Item 4. Review of the scenario, modalities and technical arrangements of CypEx 2026

14. The Meeting recalled that extensive preparatory work had been undertaken by the Contracting Parties (CPs) in preparation for CYPEX 2024, which was subsequently postponed. It was agreed that the planning framework, operational arrangements, and exercise documentation developed for CYPEX 2024 would serve as the basis for CYPEX 2026.

15. Mr. Skarvelis highlighted the value of the preparatory work done in 2024 and stressed the need to start review and update the existing materials and documents, including the timetable, scenario, and exercise matrix.

16. Mr. Stavros Ioannides confirmed that CYPEX 2026 will be held from 10 –12 November 2026 according to the following schedule:

- 10 November: Preparatory activities, including briefings, team coordination etc.
- 11 November: Operational execution of CYPEX 2026 and debriefing.
- 12 November: Backup day in case of adverse weather conditions.

17. The Cyprus delegation informed the Meeting that taking into consideration that CypEx 2026 is part of the Exercise NEMESIS, the onsite operations of the antipollution means will have to be concluded within about half an hour.

18. The delegations alongside with Mr Skarvelis reviewed the exercise scenario, timeline, and matrix. During the discussion, concerns were raised regarding the number of scenario events taking into consideration the time available for operational activities and presentations.

19. Following a detailed review, the Meeting agreed that:

- a) Scenario Steps 1–18 relate to the activation of the Cyprus National Contingency Plan. Mr. Skarvelis noted that these steps would assist the Cyprus JRCC in organizing the event.
- b) The operational phase of the exercise will focus primarily on the coordination of Scenario Steps 19–24 (11:40 –12:15), which reflect the activation and the mobilization of assets in the framework of the implementation of the SCP-CGI.
- c) Certain matrix elements, including Wildlife Protection, Waste Management, and Salvage Operations will not be performed but will remain in scenario.
- d) Scenario steps regarding the notification of the stakeholders, the exchange of information and the procedure for the activation of the SCP CGI will be conducted during the Table Top exercise to take place prior of CypEx 2026.

20. The Meeting agreed the scenario and the scenario timetable to be revised accordingly.

Agenda Item 5. Review of each stakeholder's participation (operational assets, personnel, responsibilities) in CypEx 2026

21. The Cyprus delegation informed the Meeting that Cyprus possesses a substantial quantity of oil spill response equipment and maintains cooperation agreements with private contractors capable of deploying and operating such equipment. Apart from the antipollution equipment that will be deployed (skimmers, booms, absorbents etc), two new built specialized antipollution vessels (one of 25m and two of 9m) will participate in the exercise.

22. The representative of Israel informed the Meeting about the availability of an Israeli aircraft to support the dispersant spraying operation and indicated that a second aircraft could be made available for surveillance and monitoring, if required. An Israeli oceanographic vessel will also conduct dispersants spraying. The exact flight area and operational time period for aircraft deployment and the communication channels with Cyprus' JRCC have to be defined.

23. The Greek delegation informed the Meeting that a Hellenic Coast Guard's (H.C.G.) aircraft will participate for surveillance and monitoring of the pollution incident. Moreover the shipment of antipollution equipment (booms, skimmers) could be considered. However this depends on the availability of proper transport means at the time period of the exercise.

24. The Cyprus delegation mentioned that a minimum of three representatives from both Israel and Greece would be required to attend in Cyprus. Moreover all communications with operational assets during the exercise will be coordinated through the Cyprus Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC). Liaison officers from the Contracting Parties stationed at the JRCC may communicate with operational assets either through JRCC VHF systems or via personal mobile telephones.

25. The Cyprus delegation further informed the Meeting that a pre-exercise deployment and testing of national oil spill response equipment would be conducted during the week preceding CYPEX 2026. This activity will cover the initial response actions foreseen under the Cyprus National Marine Pollution Contingency Plan and will verify the readiness of personnel, equipment, and procedures before the operational phase of the exercise.

26. All participants, particularly Ms. Elisa Giangrasso (REMPEC), emphasized the importance of the debriefing phase. Lessons learned, challenges identified, and areas for improvement will provide valuable input for both REMPEC and the Contracting Parties.

Agenda Item 6 **Support of REMPEC and participation of EMSA in the CypEx 2026.**

27. The Meeting took note that according to relevant previous communication with EMSA, EMSA is awaiting the outcome of the Meeting in order to finally define its participation in CypEx 2026.

28. Mr. Skarvelis suggested that the possibility of requesting anti-pollution response equipment from EMSA's Equipment Assistance Service (EAS) could be considered in order to test the transportation, logistics and deployment processes under operational conditions.

29. Moreover it was proposed that apart from the mobilization of EMSA's Stand-by Oil Spill Response Vessel "ALEXANDRIA", a request could be submitted to EMSA for providing optical imagery through the CleanSeaNet Service.

30. The delegation of Cyprus agreed with these suggestions. In addition, representative of Cyprus presented the state-of-the-art equipment that EMSA provides to the Member States in the framework of its Equipment Assistance Service. It was highlighted that the mobilization of this equipment would provide valuable experience in identifying potential logistical and operational challenges for EMSA, associated with the transportation of international assistance especially in insular Member States such as Cyprus.

31. The representative of REMPEC commented that REMPEC's support depends on the available budget. Taking into consideration the limited financial resources, following the request of the three involved Contracting Parties, REMPEC is considering of appointing an external consultant with the task to evaluate and draft observations/recommendations/lessons learned after the exercise CypEx 2026.

Agenda Item 7 **Observers from other Mediterranean Countries and stakeholders..**

32. The delegations from Israel and Greece informed the Meeting that most probably high-level officials from Israel and Greece respectively will attend the exercise as observers. However, for the time being is not possible to nominate these representatives.

33. The Cyprus delegation commented that relevant invitations to Israel and Greece will be disseminated in due time through the official channels.

34. Furthermore, the participants pinpointed the complexity of the participation of observers from other countries, taking into consideration necessary logistical arrangements and security issues as well.

Agenda Item 8 **Conduct of a Tabletop exercise before CypEx 2026.**

35. The Cyprus representatives proposed that the **Tabletop Exercise (TTX)** be conducted online on **22 September 2026 at 10:00 (Malta time)**.

36. All participants agreed with the proposed date and time. Ms. Elisa Giangrasso (REMPEC) informed that REMPEC is currently preparing editable pdf POLREP forms. If these forms are ready in time for the Tabletop Exercise, the Contracting Parties might consider using them on a trial basis, to test their functionality and gather feedback.

37. The Cyprus delegation informed the Meeting that in view of the Tabletop Exercise as well as the CYPEX 2026, personnel from Cyprus will participate in a series of workshops during the second week of September.

Agenda Item 9 **Next steps for the preparation of CypEx 2026.**

38. **After discussions the Meeting agreed** on the following steps for the preparation of CypEx 2026:

- a) End of July: Israel and Greece to notify Cyprus about their assets that are going to participate in the Exercise. Finalization of the scenario and the scenario timetable.
- b) Mid September: A Meeting in Cyprus' JRCC is taking place about the preparation of NEMESIS Exercise. Representatives from Israel and Greece will be invited to participate either in person or remotely.
- c) 22nd September: Tabletop Exercise
- d) Mid October: Israel and Greece to nominate their personnel to participate in CypEx 2026 and observers as well.
- e) 10-11-12 November: CypEx 2026.

39. Additionally, following the 2nd Ad Hoc Meeting for the Preparation of CypEX 2026 which took place in February 2026, the Meeting agreed on having another remote Meeting for the preparation of CypEx 2026 (namely 3rd Ad Hoc Meeting for the preparation of CypEx 2026) after the conclusion of the Tabletop Exercise on 22nd September.

Agenda Item 10 **Other business**

40. The representatives of three countries recalling the Chapters 2.5 and 2.6 of the Plan on the possible combination of joint training activities with the Meetings of the Operational National Authorities, proposed REMPEC to finance such training activities as back-to-back Workshops to next Meetings of the NOA, at least on a two-year basis.

41. Ms. Elisa Giangrasso (REMPEC) welcomed this proposal mentioning that REMPEC always does its best to support this kind of initiatives. However funding of such activities depends mostly on the available budget allocated to REMPEC by the Contracting Parties, therefore this possibility has to be further examined.

Agenda Item 11 **Date, place and duration of the next Meeting**

42. Taking into consideration Chapter 2.5 of the Plan regarding the consecutively hosting of the NOA Meetings by the three countries, the Israel delegation proposed the next Meeting in 2027 to take place in Israel, The Meeting could be combined back-to-back with a Workshop focusing on the response methods used by the Authorities of USA in case of a major pollution incident.

43. **The Meeting welcomed this initiative and agreed** Israel to host the next Meeting, tentatively within autumn 2027.

Agenda Item 12

Summary records of the Meeting

44. The Secretariat drafted a summary record of the Meeting recording for each agenda item main points of discussion, conclusions, decisions and recommendations, in accordance with the Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure as referred in the above Paragraph 10.

45. **The three Parties and REMPEC were invited** to comment and agree upon these records and to instruct the Secretariat, proceed with the preparation, dissemination of the final version of the Meeting's Report, taking into consideration all concluding remarks made under the present Agenda in accordance with the Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure.

Agenda Item 13

Closure of the Meeting.

46. The Meeting closed by the Chairperson on Wednesday 17th June 2026, at 16.00.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Participant	Organization	Contracting Party	Email
Ms. Elisa Giangrasso	REMPEC		egiangrasso@rempec.org
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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organization of the Meeting
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of the scenario, modalities and technical arrangements of CypEx 2026
5. Review of each stakeholder's participation (operational assets, personnel, responsibilities) in CypEx 2026
6. Support of REMPEC and participation of EMSA in the CypEx 2026.
7. Observers from other Mediterranean Countries and stakeholders.
8. Conduct of a Tabletop exercise before CypEx 2026.
9. Next steps for the preparation of CypEx 2026
10. Other business
11. Date, place and the duration of the next Meeting
12. Summary records of the Meeting.
13. Closure of the Meeting