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



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Online Meeting for the Implementation of  
the Sub-regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan  
between Cyprus, Greece and Israel

SCP CGI/Ad Hoc Meeting.2/2  
Date: 12 March 2026

Online, 10 February 2026

**REPORT**

**2<sup>nd</sup> AD HOC MEETING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SUB-REGIONAL MARINE  
OIL POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN BETWEEN CYPRUS, GREECE AND ISRAEL**

**ONLINE, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Ad Hoc Meeting for the implementation of the Sub-regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel was convened **online on 10 February 2026**, hereinafter referred to as “the Meeting”, pursuant to the Implementation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the State of Israel (hereinafter “the Agreement”) on the Sub-regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan (hereinafter “the Plan”), signed in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 8 May 2018.
2. The principal objectives of the Meeting were to:
  - .1 coordinate the preparatory activities required for the Joint Oil Spill Response Exercise scheduled for November 2026 (**CYPEX 2026**)
  - .2 agree on the arrangements for convening the **next in-person meeting** of the Contracting Parties (CPs).
3. REMPEC assisted the work of the Meeting, including the preparation of annotations to the proposed provisional agenda.

## **AGENDA ITEM 1      OPENING OF THE MEETING**

1. The Meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Mr. Stavros Ioannides (Cyprus) at 1000 hrs CET.
2. Mr. Ioannides welcomed and greeted the participants of Greece and Israel and expressed appreciation to REMPEC for its support in organizing the Meeting. He outlined the objectives of the Meeting and introduced the core topic, namely the organization of CYPEX 2026. The list of participants of the Meeting is contained in Annex 1.
3. Mr. Ivan Sammut (REMPEC) welcomed the representatives of the three CPs, expressed appreciation for the work undertaken to date by the former Programme Officer (OPRC) Mr. Malek Smaoui, now retired, and introduced the new Programme Officer, Ms. Elisa Giangrasso, who joined REMPEC in January 2026.
4. Ms. Giangrasso (REMPEC) greeted the participants and commended the work done in the framework of the SCP and expressed her willingness to work closely with the CPs towards the continued success of the initiative.
5. The Chairperson and the Representatives of Greece and Israel, respectively Lieutenant Konstantinos Mitropias (H.C.G., MEPD) and Mr. Federic Arzoine (MEPD, Director) introduced their respective delegations and extended their greetings to all the participants.
6. The Chairperson informed the Meeting that CYPEX 2026 will be held on 10-12 Novembre 2026, as part of the Multinational Exercise NEMESIS. He outlined the following preliminary schedule:
  - 10 November: preparatory activities such as briefings, team coordination, notification and reporting procedures (e.g. POLREP) and communication tests.
  - 11 November: operational execution of CYPEX 2026
  - 12 November: back up day and debriefing

7. Mr Sammut took the opportunity to highlight two key considerations:
  - a) as the CYPEX originally scheduled for 2024 had been postponed, he proposed for the consideration of the CPs to resume the preparatory work already done in preparation of CYPEX 2024, e.g. the tabletop exercise on communication
  - b) he underlined the importance of the debriefing phase, noting that lessons learned, challenges identified, and areas for improvement would be essential inputs for REMPEC's continued support to the CPs.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2**      **RULES OF PROCEDURE AND DOCUMENTATION**

### **2.1**      **Rules of Procedure**

8. The Chairperson recalled the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of National Operational Authorities (NOAs), as set out in Annex 10 of the Plan, which would apply to the deliberations of the Meeting.
9. A discussion ensued on the title of the meetings, as to whether all meetings should be referred to NOA meetings. REMPEC drew the attention of the Meeting that in accordance with Annex 10 of the Plan, NOA Meetings were to be held, at least annually, to address policy matters, whereas Ad Hoc Meetings focus on technical and preparatory aspects.
10. It was agreed by all CPs that the present Meeting will be an Ad Hoc Meeting.

### **2.2**      **Working Languages**

11. The working language of the Meeting was English.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3**      **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

12. The Chairperson proposed that the Provisional Agenda, as set out in SCP CGI/Ad Hoc Meeting.2/1 be adopted.
13. **The Meeting adopted** the agenda reproduced in **Annex II** to the present report.
14. The Chairperson also proposed that the Report of the Fifth Meeting of the National Operational Authorities in charge of the implementation of the sub-regional marine oil pollution contingency plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel, held on 10 December 2025, online, hereinafter referred to as the "5<sup>th</sup> NOA Meeting", as contained in document SCP CGI/NOA.5/8 be adopted.
15. The Meeting adopted the Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> NOA Meeting, as contained in document SCP CGI/NOA.5/8.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4      PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES FOR CYPEX 2026**

16. Mr. Sammut recalled that substantial preparatory work had already been undertaken by the CPs, during the 2022-2023 and 2024-2025 biennia, in preparation to CYPEX 2024. This included the development of the Guidelines for Joint Spill Response Exercises (2025), that were eventually adopted by the Focal Points Meeting of REMPEC (May 2025). REMPEC highlighted the importance of capitalizing on the work previously carried out in preparation for CYPEX 2024.

17. The Chairperson agreed on the importance of the preparatory work undertaken for CYPEX 2024, which resulted in the development of the Guidelines for Joint Spill Response Exercises (2025) and has stressed the need to build on this work and to ensure that the final phase of the exercise, now advanced as CYPEX 2026, is implemented with the continued assistance of external consultants, particularly during the final design, preparatory, debriefing and assessment stages.

18. REMPEC also informed the Meeting that, due to financial constraints and the limited secured budget under MTF for this activity, REMPEC has limited funds available for its implementation. Nevertheless, REMPEC remains committed to continue providing technical assistance to the CPs and will explore the possibility of appointing a consultant, subject to available resources and agreement by the CPs. REMPEC highlighted that under the current circumstances, it will not be possible for REMPEC to sponsor the representatives of the CPs to the Meetings and to CYPEX 2026.

19. Mr. Arzoine (Israel) acknowledged the value of the preparatory work already completed and expressed openness to re-using the existing materials and documents. It was also suggested that the forthcoming June 2026 Meeting serve as an opportunity to hold technical discussions and a Tabel Top Exercise.

20. Lt. Mitropias (Greece) confirmed the H.C.G. willingness to host the next in-person NOA Meeting at its premises in Piraeus, preferably during the second week of June 2026.

21. The Chairperson underlined the importance of involving an external consultant as a third party, to provide impartial evaluation of the Exercise, support briefing and debriefing activities, and assist in identifying gaps and improvement areas.

22. Taking into account the limited financial resources available to REMPEC for this activity, the Chairperson acknowledged that the costs of the meetings would be covered by the CPs, while expressing hope for possible support by REMPEC for the implementation of the Exercise itself.

23. Mr. Arzoine (Israel) proposed that, if funding for an external consultant were unavailable, REMPEC could potentially assume the third-party assessing role during CYPEX 2026.

24. REMPEC confirmed that this aligns with the intended approach, hopefully with the support, albeit very limited, of an external consultant, subject to the available funds.

25. The Chairperson also referred to the involvement of EMSA and confirmed that a review of the previous preparatory work for CYPEX 2024 would be conducted ahead of the June meeting.

26. Lt. Mitropias (Greece) proposed initiating an exchange of emails to define the aim and objectives of the June meeting in advance.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5**      **INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS AND OBSERVERS**

27. REMPEC recalled that in preparation for CYPEX 2024 other stakeholders or observers, including EMSA, were involved and requested the CPs to confirm whether EMSA and other stakeholders would be involved starting from the meeting scheduled in June, noting the importance to ensure clarity and visibility regarding assets and responsibilities.

28. Mr. Arzoiné (Israel) welcomed the involvement of EMSA and the possible participation of observers from the Mediterranean Countries.

29. Lt. Mitropias (Greece) reserved the HCG position on this item pending consultation with the Director.

30. The Chairperson emphasized the need to clearly define the target group of observers, indicating that Mediterranean Countries would be appropriate participants, and confirmed the intention to involve EMSA already since the June meeting. Upon discussion, the Chairperson instructed REMPEC to approach EMSA, once the aims and objectives of the June meeting are agreed upon. In addition, he asked REMPEC to provide secretariat-type support, including the drafting of the minutes of the Meeting.

31. Mr Sammut clarified that, according to Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure to the Plan, the staff of the NOA of the host country shall perform the secretarial duties for the meetings. Nevertheless, REMPEC agreed to prepare draft minutes for the present Ad Hoc Meeting and to approach EMSA once greater clarity regarding the agenda and expected outcomes of the June meeting was agreed by the CPs.

32. In view of the June meeting, all participants agreed to conduct an initial coordination consultation by the end of February.

33. Mr. Arzoiné (Israel) drew attention to the issue of the operational assets to be mobilised for the Exercise, proposing that a defined timeline be agreed for the relevant decisions, so as to facilitate effective preparation and alignment ahead of the June meeting.

34. The Chairperson invited the colleagues of the CPs to express their views on whether the operational assets to be deployed during CYPEX 2026 would/should correspond to those listed in Annex IV. In this regard, the Chairperson underscored the importance of ensuring that the assets exercised mirror those that would be mobilised in the event of a real incident. The Chairperson further noted that, should any CP envisage the deployment of assets not currently included in Annex IV, the relevant updates to Annex IV should be made accordingly.

35. Mr. Arzoiné (Israel) expressed his agreement, noting that referring to the assets listed in Annex IV would help ensure coherence and consistency between the SCP and CYPEX 2026 operational arrangements.

36. The Chairperson provided a comprehensive wrap-up of the discussion and reviewed the main points on which consensus had been reached among the CPs. In particular, the Meeting agreed on the following:

- a) **Preparatory documentation:** the preparatory work undertaken in the framework of CYPEX 2024 should be utilized as a foundation for CYPEX 2026, with the necessary updates and adjustment;
- b) **June meeting:** an in-person meeting will be convened during the second week of June, in Piraeus (Greece) hosted by the Hellenic Coast Guard, with a view to advancing the

planning process and address technical and logistical aspects of CYPEX 2026 and possibly a Table Top Exercise;

- c) **Preliminary exchanges:** by the end of February, an outline for the June meeting will be prepared and circulated via email, in order to ensure timely consideration of key aspects, including technical issues, scenario development, coordination modalities and identification of operational assets to be deployed;
- d) **Participation of stakeholders and observers:** EMSA will be invited to participate, and observers from Mediterranean Countries may be welcome;
- e) **REMPEC support:** REMPEC's support would be particularly appreciated in terms of expertise and technical assistance.
- f) **Exercise dates:** CYPEX 2026 will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2026 and will be preceded by a preparatory briefing day to ensure coordination among participants on operational activities.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6 SIXTH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL OPERATIONAL AUTHORITIES**

37. The Meeting agreed that the 6th Meeting of the NOAs will be convened in Piraeus, Greece, tentatively in June 2026, in accordance with the discussions held and the preliminary indications provided during the present Meeting.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7 OTHER BUSINESS**

38. REMPEC drew the attention of the Meeting concerning the decision of the 5<sup>th</sup> NOA Meeting, held on 10 December 2025, concerning the following points regarding documentation management on the SCP dedicated page hosted on REMPEC website:

- .1 **Annex III – National Contingency Plans:** it was noted that Annex III had not been updated on the website for years and, consequently clarification was sought whether the version currently available online corresponded the latest official version. The most recent update visible on the website dated back to 2022 and reflected the amendments submitted by Israel at that time. It was therefore suggested that the status of the document be clarified;
- .2 **Uploading of Annual Meeting Reports:** clarification was requested as to whether the Contracting Parties intended to continue publishing the reports of the annual meetings on the website and whether all previous reports that are not currently uploaded on the website, should be uploaded accordingly;
- .3 **Archiving of previous versions of documents:** guidance was requested on whether, once the updated Annexes and documents are uploaded, the previous versions should be removed or retained online.

39. Mr Arzoin (Israel) informed that no amendments to Annex III are expected prior to next year, and expressed the view that maintaining a comprehensive historical record of the process and related documentation was beneficial; however, for practical reasons and to avoid potential confusion, the website should clearly display the latest updated version of the Annexes, as the primary reference for implementation and the previous versions should be removed.

40. The representatives of both Cyprus and Greece confirmed that no amendments to Annex III had been made on their part since 2022 and concurred with Israel regarding the importance of ensuring that the most recent versions are clearly identifiable on the website. REMPEC was instructed to upload the latest updated Annexes and delete the previous versions from the website.

41. With regard to the publication of meeting reports, all CPs agreed that the reports of the meetings should continue to be uploaded and made available on the website.

**AGENDA ITEM 8**      **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

42. The Meeting was closed by the Chairperson on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2026, at 12.00 CET.

## ANNEX I

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Title	Name (First and Last Name)	Organisation	Contracting Party
Mr	Aris CONSTANTINO	Deputy Ministry of Shipping – Marine Surveyor	Cyprus
Mr	Themis EVRIVIADES	Deputy Ministry of Shipping – Senior Marine Surveyor	Cyprus
Mr	Stavros IOANNIDES	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research – Senior Officer	Cyprus
Mr	Antonis PAPPOUS	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research – Marine Engineer	Cyprus
Lt	Konstantinos MITROPIAS	Hellenic Coast Guard - Rapporteur Pollution Incidents Prevention-Response Unit - Marine Environment Protection Directorate	Greece
Mr	Frederic ARZOINE	Marine Environment Protection Division - Director	Israel
Ms	Danit LEVI-NIZRI	Marine Environment Protection Division - Deputy Director	Israel
Mr	Nir LEVINSKI	Marine Environment Protection Division - Marine Inspection and Treatment Manager	Israel
Mr	Adam SCHALIMTZEK	Ministry of Environmental Protection - Head of International Relations Division	Israel
Mr	Tahel YASHFE	Ministry of Environmental Protection - International Relations Division	Israel
Mr	Ivan SAMMUT	REMPEC	
Ms	Elisa GIANGRASSO	REMPEC	

## ANNEX II

### AGENDA OF THE MEETING

#### 1. Opening of the Meeting

The Meeting will be opened at 1000 (GMT +1) on Tuesday 10 February 2026.

#### 2. Agenda Item 2 Organization of the Meeting

##### 2.1 Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure for Meetings of National Operational Authorities contained in Annex 10 of the Plan will apply to the deliberations of this Meeting.

##### 2.2 Working Languages

The working language of the Meeting will be English.

#### 3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda as proposed in document SCP CGI/Online/1 and annotated in the present document, will be proposed by the Chairperson for adoption by the Meeting.

#### 4. Preparatory Activities for CYPEX 2026

REMPEC will be invited to inform the Meeting about the context of the present meeting.

#### 5. The Meeting will be invited to take note of this information and to discuss as deemed appropriate.

The Chairperson will invite the delegates of each CP to intervene on how they envisage the preparation of the Exercise and intermediate preparation phase.

#### 6. Involvement of other Interested Stakeholders and Observers

REMPEC will be invited to provide background, and the Meeting will be invited to discuss the possible involvement of other interested stakeholders and observers.

#### 7. Sixth Meeting of the National Operational Authorities

The Chairperson will provide background to the Meeting and the matter discussed as appropriate.

#### 8. Other business

The Meeting will be invited to consider any other issue put forward by national delegations.

**9. Closure of the Meeting**

The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairperson on Tuesday 10 February 2026 at 1200 (GMT +1).