



**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**



Second Preparatory 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/PM.2/9
Date: 30 November 2021

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

Piraeus, Greece, 7th October 2021



Introduction

1. The second Preparatory 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 the 7th October 2021 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 objectives of the Meeting were:
 - .1 to inform on the status of the ratification of the Agreement;
 - .2 to work, where relevant, on the implementation of the Plan, prior to the entry into force of the Agreement and the Plan
 - .3 to highlight the changes of the first meeting on the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of National Operational Authorities for the implementation of the Sub-regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel (Rules of Procedure); and
 - .4 to discuss questions related to the implementation of the Plan, the organization of training courses and/or exercises, and other relevant matters.
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 Thursday 7 October 2021 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.
6. The representative of REMPEC, Mr. Malek Smaoui addressed the Meeting outlining the nature and the objectives of the Meeting. He recalled the agreed proposal at the third Meeting of the Competent National Authorities for the Preparation of the Plan, held in Nicosia, Cyprus 11-12 July 2017, to continue implementing Plan prior to the formal entry into force of the Agreement and the Plan (paragraph 52 of the report of the meeting REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.3/10). Mr. Malek Smaoui thanked MEPD for the organization of the Meeting and the dissemination of related documents.
7. The Heads of the Cypriot, Israeli and Greek delegations, respectively, introduced the members of their delegations and made comment about the Meeting objectives and suggestions to contribute to their achievement..
8. The Meeting took note that the 2nd Preparatory Meeting could not take place the past two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation. Though Chapter 2.5 of the Plan does not provide flexibility with regard to the frequency of Meetings, the three delegations commented that it would be appropriate to reconsider the matter in the near future.

Agenda Item 2. Organization of the Meeting.

2.1 Rules of Procedure

9. 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

10. The Meeting agreed that Captain H.C.G. Stylianos Markoulakis from MEPD, would chair the Meeting, and Lieutenant Commander H.C.G. Konstantinos Mangidas would act as Vice-Chairperson.

11. 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

12. The working language of the Meeting was English.

Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the Agenda.

13. The Chairperson proposed that the agenda in document SCP CGI/PM.2/3/1/rev.1 and annotated in document SCP CGI/PM.2/3/2, be adopted by the Meeting and to agree on the timetable, as proposed in document SCPCGI/PM.2/3/2, to carry out its work.

14. 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. Status of ratification and implementation of the Implementation Agreement on the Plan

15. The Chairperson invited the delegations to inform the Meeting about the status of ratification by their respective countries of the Agreement.

16. The Israel Party informed that the Agreement has already been ratified upon being signed by the Minister of Environmental Protection of the State of Israel. The Cypriot Party informed the Meeting that the Agreement was ratified with the Law 4(III)/2001 (O.G. N. 4273/26-04-2021) of the Republic of Cyprus. The Greek Party informed that the respective ratification Law is under-way for being adopted by the Greek Parliament. Upon the publication of the ratification Law, Cyprus as the Depository of the Agreement and REMPEC will be notified accordingly pursuant to Articles 5, 6 and 8 of the Agreement respectively.

17. **The Meeting took note** of this information.

Agenda Item 5. Review and update of the Annexes to the Plan.

18. The Chairperson introduced the Chapter 6.6 "Revision of the Plan" for amending or altering the text of the Plan including its Annexes. He recalled that the responsibility for revising the Plan and its Annexes is of the **competent national Governmental Authorities**, except those indicated in the first paragraph of the Chapter 6.6 namely:

- Annex 1: Directory of competent national authorities, contact points, emergency response centres, national on-scene commanders and other relevant addresses.
- Annex 2: Communications with REMPEC.
- Annex 3: National contingency plans (or relevant parts thereof).
- Annex 4: Directory of response personnel and inventory of response equipment, products and other means which each party might offer as assistance in case of the activation of the plan.
- Annex 5: Communications system.

19. The Chairperson recalled the Paragraph 6.6 (9) of the Plan stating that the updating of information concerning their respective country, contained in Annexes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively, is the responsibility of **the competent national Operational Authority** of each Party, who shall immediately circulate any such update(s) to the other Parties and to REMPEC. Such updates shall not require approval or ratification by the Parties in accordance with their relevant national procedures.

20. As regard to the review and update of the Annexes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, the chairperson recalled the Paragraph 6.6 (1) of the Plan listing the type of update by Annex:

- a) updating the information concerning names, titles and contact details (including postal addresses, telephone, fax and telex numbers, radio channels and frequencies, working hours) appearing in Annexes 1, 2 and 5;
- b) updating the information on the NCPs appearing in Annex 3; and

c) updating the information on response resources appearing in Annex 4.

21. The Chairperson invited the delegates of each country to inform the Meeting about any changes that need to be made to Annexes 1 and 2-5 and to expose for discussion, under this Agenda item, their point of view about the delivery of the updated Annexes according to the Rules of Procedure, aiming at ensuring their availability and accessibility at any time and circumstance as mentioned in the Chapter 2.3 “Exchange of Information” paragraph (1) of the Plan.

22. **The Meeting requested REMPEC** to create a dedicated section in REMPEC’s website, where the Plan with its updated Annexes and all the relevant documents of the Meetings for the implementation of the Plan will be uploaded. This section will be password protected and accessible only by the three Parties to the Agreement, with the aim at ensuring that the Parties have at any time and circumstance access to the updated information, pursuant to Chapter 2.3 “Exchange of Information” of the Plan.

23. **The Meeting decided** any updates/changes to Annexes 1 to 5 to be made annually following the procedure agreed on the First Preparatory Meeting in Nicosia (6th December 2018) and set out in this Meeting’s Report (SCP CGI/PM.1/10). On January/February every year, the Cypriot Party will request all Parties to send their updates concerning Annexes 1 to 5 for further editing. The Cypriot Party will then send the updated Annexes to REMPEC in order them to be uploaded in REMPEC’s website as referred to in the above Paragraph 22.

24. **The Meeting agreed** to go through the Annexes 1 to 5 in order to pinpoint any changes needed in view to the Annexes’ next update on January/February 2022. The information included in these Annexes will be updated as referred to in the above Paragraph 23.

25. **Regarding Annex 1, the Meeting decided** to delete the second column [DAY(S) OF THE WEEK] of the Table concerning the Non-Working Days for the Parties, in order not to need update every year.

26. **Regarding Annex 2**, the representative of REMPEC reminded the Meeting that information regarding Communications with REMPEC (contact details, working hours and official holidays) is annually disseminated to the Parties to the Barcelona Convention with a specific REMPEC’s Circular Letter.

27. **As regards to the update of Annex 3** “National Contingency Plans”, the representative of REMPEC suggested to the delegations to reproduce, where appropriate in this Annex, the relevant parts of their respective NCP which were provided in the document, REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1/4, of the first Meeting of the Competent National Authorities for the preparation of Plan, held in Barcelona, Spain, 9 November 2016, together with the additional information provided by the respective representatives of the three Parties which were reported in paragraphs 22-42 of the report of the Meeting, REMPEC/CGI SCP/WG.1/8. The Cypriot Party informed the Meeting that the respective NCP is available on the Ministry’s website. **The Meeting agreed** that the relevant parts of the respective NCPs could be reproduced in the dedicated section of REMPEC’s website as referred to in the above Paragraph 22.

28. **Regarding Annex 4, the Meeting decided** a new fourth column to be added in LIST 2 (LIST OF EQUIPMENT WHICH MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR ASSISTANCE...) in order that basic information/specifications of the equipment (e.g. type and dimensions of booms, type of skimmers, brand name of dispersants etc..) to be available to the other Parties. Furthermore, additional information/specifications could be made available in the dedicated section of REMPEC’s website as referred to in the above Paragraph 22.

29. **Regarding Annex 5, the Meeting decided** to add in the Table 5 (VIDEOCONFERENCING EQUIPMENT) information about platforms for web conferencing (Zoom, Webex, Microsoft Teams e.t.c).

30. The Chairperson requested the Meeting to introduce and discuss any proposal of amendment to the Plan and its other Annexes. With reference to the Chapter 6 (6.2 and 6.5) of the Plan, and with reference to the suggestion made by REMPEC representative to review the Annex 9 of the Plan “Claims Manual” during the First Preparatory Meeting, REMPEC provided the latest new edition published by the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds). **The Meeting agreed** to hyperlink Annex 9 to the latest edition of the IOPC Funds “Claims Manual” in IOPC Funds’ website.

Agenda Item 6 **Review and adoption of a program of activities 2022-2023**

31. The Chairperson provided a summary of findings of the First Preparatory Meeting related to the “Mid-term activities” in the document SCP CGI/PM.1/7, as a supporting document to the Parties when planning future activities aiming at supporting the implementation of the Plan.

32. The Chairperson then referred to the Sub-regional Workshop on “Dispersants, their operational use and effectiveness monitoring”, organised by REMPEC, with the contribution the Marine Environment Protection Directorate, Hellenic Coast Guard, during two days before this Meeting and financed by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF). He informed that this event was the second to be organised within the framework of the Plan and in accordance with the programme “Mid-term activities”.

33. The representative of REMPEC presented a short overview on the initiation, the preparation, the delivery, the evaluation and closing remarks of the Workshop and informed that REMPEC will disseminate its Report to the three countries once finalised.

34. National delegations were invited to present the activities which took place in their respective countries since the First Preparatory Meeting for the Implementation of the Plan, Larnaca, Cyprus 6 December 2018, as well as the development of their respective national preparedness and response systems, within a national, sub-regional and regional perspective.

35. The Chairperson invited the delegations to present any such proposals that they might have prepared focusing on the document SCP CGI/PM.1/7 “Mid-term activities” and to agree on the topic of next joint training activity.

36. The representative of REMPEC highlighted that the Centre was in a position to support only one sub-regional activity per biennium in the framework of the Plan.

37. The Meeting went through the proposed Mid-term activities listed on the SCP CGI/PM.1/7 “Mid-term activities”.

38. **The Meeting agreed** to hold a Sub-regional Workshop on “Oiled Shoreline Assessment (SCAT Assessment)” combined with the next Meeting of the Operational Authorities in 2022, pursuant to Chapters 2.5 and 2.6. of the Plan.

39. **The Meeting requested REMPEC** to support and finance the Sub-regional Workshop referred to in the above Paragraph 38, within the framework of the Plan and in accordance with the programme “Mid-term activities”.

40. **The Meeting agreed** that conducting a joint spill response exercise was of high priority, in order to achieve a satisfactory level of communication, cooperation and coordination among the operational personnel of the three Parties.

41. **The Meeting agreed** to endeavour to conduct a joint response exercise in 2023 with the participation of personnel and means of the three Parties.

42. **The Meeting requested REMPEC** to finance the engagement of a consultant with the task to prepare the scenario of the exercise, assist in its organisation and to draft observations/recommendations/lessons learned after the exercise.

43. **The Meeting agreed** Cyprus to host the joint response exercise on October 2023, provided that REMPEC will appoint, depending on the availability of resources, a consultant as referred in the above Paragraph 42. Further details could be considered during the next Meeting of the Operational Authorities in 2022.

Agenda Item 7 **Other business.**

44. **The Meeting was invited to** consider any other issue put forward by national delegations.

45. The Cypriot delegation delivered a presentation regarding the Syria Oil Spill during late August 2021.

46. The Israel delegation informed the Meeting about Israel's proposal for a side event to take place during COP 22 (Antalya, Turkey, December 2021) with subject “Oil Spill on Eastern Mediterranean in 2021”, which will include presentations from Parties to the Barcelona Convention about oil spill incidents happened in the region during 2021.

47. **The Meeting took note** of the above information.

48. The representative of REMPEC requested the three Parties' permission for REMPEC to make the Implementation Agreement and the Plan available on REMPEC's website. **The three Parties agreed and**

informed the representative of REMPEC that the Implementation Agreement and the Plan, without its Annexes, could be available on REMPEC's website

Agenda Item 8 **Date, place and duration of the next Meeting**

49. The Secretariat recalled the Rules of Procedure related to the organization of the next Meeting and the Chapter 2.6.4 of the Plan on the possible combination of the joint training activities and/or joint exercises with Meeting of the Operational Authorities as done for this Meeting which is organized back-to-back to the Workshop referred to in the above paragraphs 33-34 and invited the Meeting to decide on the date, place, duration and agenda of the next Meeting.

50. **The Meeting decided** that Israel will host the Meeting, back-to-back with the Sub-regional Workshop referred to in the above Paragraph 39, with tentative dates 20-22 September 2022. Greece can assist Israel for the next Meeting, if needed, and REMPEC will assist in the preparation of documents.

Agenda Item 9 **Summary records of the Meeting**

51. 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.

52. **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 10 **Closure of the Meeting.**

53. The Meeting closed by the Chairperson on Thursday, 7 October 2021, at 16.00.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organization of the Meeting
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Status of ratification and implementation of the Implementation Agreement on the Plan
5. Review and update of the Annexes to the Plan
6. Review and adoption of a program of activities 2022-2023
7. Other business
8. Date, place and the duration of the next Meeting
9. Summary records of the Meeting.
10. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

SCP CGI/PM.2/3/1/rev1
SCP CGI/PM.2/3/2
SCP/CGI/PM.2/3/3

Provisional agenda
Annotated agenda
Draft timetable

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

SCP/CGI/PM.1/7

Mid-Term Activities within the Framework of the
Sub-regional marine oil pollution contingency plan
between Cyprus, Greece And Israel during 2018 –
2019 Biennium or at a later stage (Long-Term)

INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Information to Participants

Date – Venue – Registration – Documentation –
Accommodation – DSA – Travel – Visa – Contact
Persons