



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT



DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND
MARINE RESEARCH
NICOSIA 1416

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



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

SCP CGI/NOA.5/8
Date: 26 January 2025

Online, 10 December 2025

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

ONLINE, 10th of December 2025

INTRODUCTION

1. The fifth Meeting of the National Operational Authorities (NOAs) responsible for the implementation of the Sub-regional marine oil pollution contingency plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel (the Meeting), was convened on line on the 10th of December 2025, within the framework of 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 (the Agreement) on the Sub-regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan, (the Plan), signed at Nicosia, Cyprus on the 8th May 2018.

2. The principal objectives of the Meeting were to:

1. affirm the commitment of NOAs to timely update of Annexes 1 to 5, including the approach for their dissemination and their integration with the original version of the Plan
2. kick start the procedures for the preparation for a joint exercise in Cyprus to be scheduled for 2026, capitalising on the background work and preparatory arrangements made for CypEx 2024 which was postponed in the summer of 2024
3. discuss questions related to the implementation of the Plan, the organization of training courses and/or exercises, and other relevant matters.

3. The meeting was hosted by the Cyprus Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) and was attended by delegations from Cyprus, Greece, Israel and by a representative of REMPEC. The complete list of participants is given in **Annex I** to the present Report.

AGENDA ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Stavros Ioannides of DFMR at 09.30 hours on behalf of Cyprus, the host country.

Mr. Stavros Ioannides, welcomed and greeted the participants of Greece and Israel and thanked Mr. Malek Smaoui, the representative of REMPEC, for his valuable support and assistance in organizing the meeting, as well as his tireless work and contribution to all previous meetings. He then outlined the objectives of the Meeting. He emphasized the importance of relaunching the joint spill exercise in compliance with the statutory requirements of SCP CGI and previous NOAs commitments.

5. Mr. Malek Smaoui, Programme Officer (OPRC) -REMPEC - greeted the representatives of CGI, highlighted REMPEC's commitment to continue its support and contribution and took the opportunity to express his joy during his treasured time spent at REMPEC highlighting also the pleasure in working with all representatives of CGI during his tenure

6. The Heads of the Greek and Israeli delegations, respectively, introduced members of their delegations and made comments on the Meeting objectives and suggestions to contribute to their achievement.

7. Mr Fred Arzoiné, Director of MEPD – State of Israel, conveyed Israel's gratitude to the Government of Cyprus for reconvening the annual meetings following two complex years and the postponement of the previous exercise. Furthermore, he extended his thanks to REMPEC for its support and to our colleagues from Greece for their participation. It is our hope, he said,

that we can resume our program of activities from where we left off and initiate a joint trilateral exercise, supported by REMPEC, in 2026.

8. Captain Stylianos Markoulakis, H.C.G. - Hellenic Republic, thanked Cyprus for organizing this annual meeting and REMPEC for its constant support during the drafting and the implementation of the SCP CGI. Moreover, he highlighted the importance of the joint exercise for strengthening the cooperation of the three countries in the framework of the SCP CGI.

AGENDA ITEM 2 ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Rules of Procedure

9. The representative of REMPEC recalled that the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of NOAs referred to in Chapter 2.5 (2) of the Plan, reported in its Annex 10, and revised and appearing in the annex III of the report of the first Preparatory Meeting (Cyprus December 2018), document SCP CGI/PM.1/10, will apply to the deliberations of this Meeting.

2.2 Election of Officers

10. The Meeting agreed that Mr. Stavros Ioannides from DFMR – Republic of Cyprus, shall act as Chairperson according to Chapter 2.5 (5) of the Plan, and the Rule 3.4 of the Rules of procedure and he will also perform 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 Provisional Agenda, as set out in SCP CGI/NOA.5/3, be adopted.

13. **The Meeting adopted** the agenda reproduced in **Annex II** to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 4 REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE ANNEXES TO THE PLAN

14. The Chairperson recalled that the responsibility for revising Annexes indicated in the first paragraph of the Chapter 6.6 of the Plan, lies with the **Competent National Operational Authorities** and REMPEC, 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.

15. The chairperson recalled that according to the Paragraph 6.6 (9) of the Plan **the Competent National Operational Authority** of each Party, shall circulate any such update(s) to the other Parties and to REMPEC by February, each year. Such updates shall not require approval or ratification by the Parties in accordance with their relevant national procedures.

16. 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.

AGENDA ITEM 5 REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF A PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES 2022-2023

17. The Chairperson reiterated that the main objective of the meeting is to pick up the conversation on our first joint oil spill exercise and move closer to making it happen, capitalising on the background work and the preparatory arrangements made for CypEx 2024.

18. He drew the CPs attention to the previous agreements and/ or arrangements; that the exercise is the culmination of a process initiated following the Second Meeting of the (NOAs) in October 2021, aimed at enhancing communication, cooperation, and coordination among the respective oil spill response authorities. This process, supported by REMPEC, advanced through three NOA meetings (Croatia, May 2023; online, November 2023; Athens, Greece, April 2024, a site visit to Larnaca, Cyprus, June 2024, and a table-top exercise Athens, Greece, April 2024.

19. He highlighted the hard work produced by each CP in the designing and planning process for CypEx2024 that became the framework for the edition of REMPEC's new "Guidelines for the Development of Joint Spill Response Exercises within the Framework of the Sub-regional Contingency Plans", approved on the Sixteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) Sliema, Malta, 13-15 May 2025. It is with immense pride, the Chairman continued, that he can share that the work done by all CPs has not only been recognized, but became the blueprint for joint oil spill response exercises to be adopted for all countries of the Mediterranean region. This is the opportunity for CPs of CGI SCP, to also become the pioneers of conducting the first of its kind joint oil spill exercise under the new Guidelines.

20. He proposed that the exercise be carried out next year in 2026, in Cyprus, during the month of November, as part of the Multinational Exercise NEMESIS, and invited the National delegations for their comments.

21. Mr. Fred Arzoine, Director of MEPD – State of Israel, welcomed the proposal to maintain the planned framework for the exercise, subject to the required adaptations. Israel, he said, regards the 'Nemesis' exercise as an excellent proposal to serve as a platform for a marine pollution response exercise.

22. Captain Stylianos Markoulakis, H.C.G. – Hellenic Republic, agreed with the proposal to conduct the joint exercise in 2026 as part of the Exercise NEMESIS in Cyprus, recalling that a lot of preparatory work has already been done during the past meetings of the three countries' National Operational Authorities with the coordination of REMPEC.

23. The representatives agreed and carried on with affirming the objectives of the Joint Spill Response Exercise, to be named CypEx 2026, as follows:

- test the interoperability of notification processes and communication systems currently implemented by the three Contracting Parties (CPs) to ensure swift and effective communication between them;
- assess the capability of the three CPs to maintain situational awareness by sharing operational information and identifying potential threats to environmental and social sensitivities, using existing regional procedures and protocols; -
- test the ability of the three CPs to activate and implement their National Contingency Plans and then the Sub-regional Contingency Plan (SCP CGI); and
- develop a guidance document on organizing Joint Spill Response Exercises, capitalising on the CypEx 2024 process, which will be intended to benefit other Sub-Regional Contingency Plans in the Mediterranean for future use.

24. **The meeting**

- **welcomed** the endorsed the proposal
- **agreed** to discuss on further details for the next preparatory meeting, most likely in Athens, in June 2026,

AGENDA ITEM 6 **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

26. The delegations took the opportunity to express their shared gratitude to Mr. Malek whos' tenure at REMPEC will be ended soon, signifying his invaluable contribution to the work being delivered within the framework of the partnership between Cyprus, Greece and Israel.

AGENDA ITEM 7 **DATE, PLACE AND DURATION OF THE NEXT MEETING**

27. **The Meeting decided to hold the** next meeting of the CPs Online on the 10th of February, 2026. The agenda of the Meeting will focus on working on time schedule of preparatory activities towards the exercise to be held in 2026, including the arrangements for setting up the next meeting of CPs in person, most likely in Athens, in June 2026.

AGENDA ITEM 8 **SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE MEETING**

28. **The Meeting instructed** the Secretariat, to proceed with the preparation, dissemination of the Meeting's Report, taking into consideration all concluding remarks made under the present Agenda in accordance with the Rule 24 of the Rule of procedure.

AGENDA ITEM 9 **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

29. The Meeting was closed by the Chairperson on the 10th of December 2025, at 11.00.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Title	Name (First and Last Name)	Company and Job Title	Country
Mr	Stavros Ioannides	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	Cyprus
Captain H.C.G.	STYLIANOS MARKOULAKIS	DIRECTOR OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION DIRECTORATE OF HELLENIC COAST GUARD	Greece
Mr	Malek Smaoui	REMPEC - Programme Officer (OPRC) - Organiser of the Workshop and Meeting	Malta
Mr	Fred Arzoiné	Director of MEPD, MoEP	Israel
Ms	<i>Dani Levi Nizri</i>	Deputy Director of MEPD, MoEP	Israel
Mr	Adam Schalimtzek	Director of the International Relations Division, MoEP	Israel
Ms	Tahel Yashfe	International Relations Division, MoEP	Israel

ANNEX II

AGENDA OF THE MEETING

1. Opening of the Meeting

The National Operational Authority of Cyprus as hosting Country will open the Meeting at 09.30 CET.

2. Organization of the Meeting

The Rules of Procedure referred to in Chapter 2.5(2) of the Plan, and reproduced in Annex 10, as revised by the First Preparatory Meeting, will apply to the deliberations of the Meeting

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda provided and annotated in document SCP CGI/NOA.5/3

4. Review and update of the Annexes to the Plan

Discussion on the update of Annexes 1 to 5, including the approach for their dissemination and their integration with the original version of the Plan

- *Annex 1: Directory of competent national authorities, contact points, emergency response centers, 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.*

5. Review and adoption of a program of activities 2026-2027

Discussion the future activities related to the Plan and the modalities for funding their implementation, with particular emphasis on the relaunch of the CypEx 2024 Exercise

6. Other business

7. Date, place, and the duration of the next Meeting

The Meeting will be invited to:

- *decide on the date, place, duration of the next – 6th Meeting of the NOA- and its agenda*
- *determine whether it will be convened as an Ordinary Meeting (Rule 5) or an Ad Hoc Meeting (Rule 6)*
- *Confirm its Host Country*

8. Summary records of the Meeting

The report of the Meeting will be prepared and issued, by the NOA of Cyprus, as document SCP CGI/NOA.5/8 of the present Meeting.

9. Closure of the Meeting

The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairperson on Wednesday at 10.30 (UTC+2)